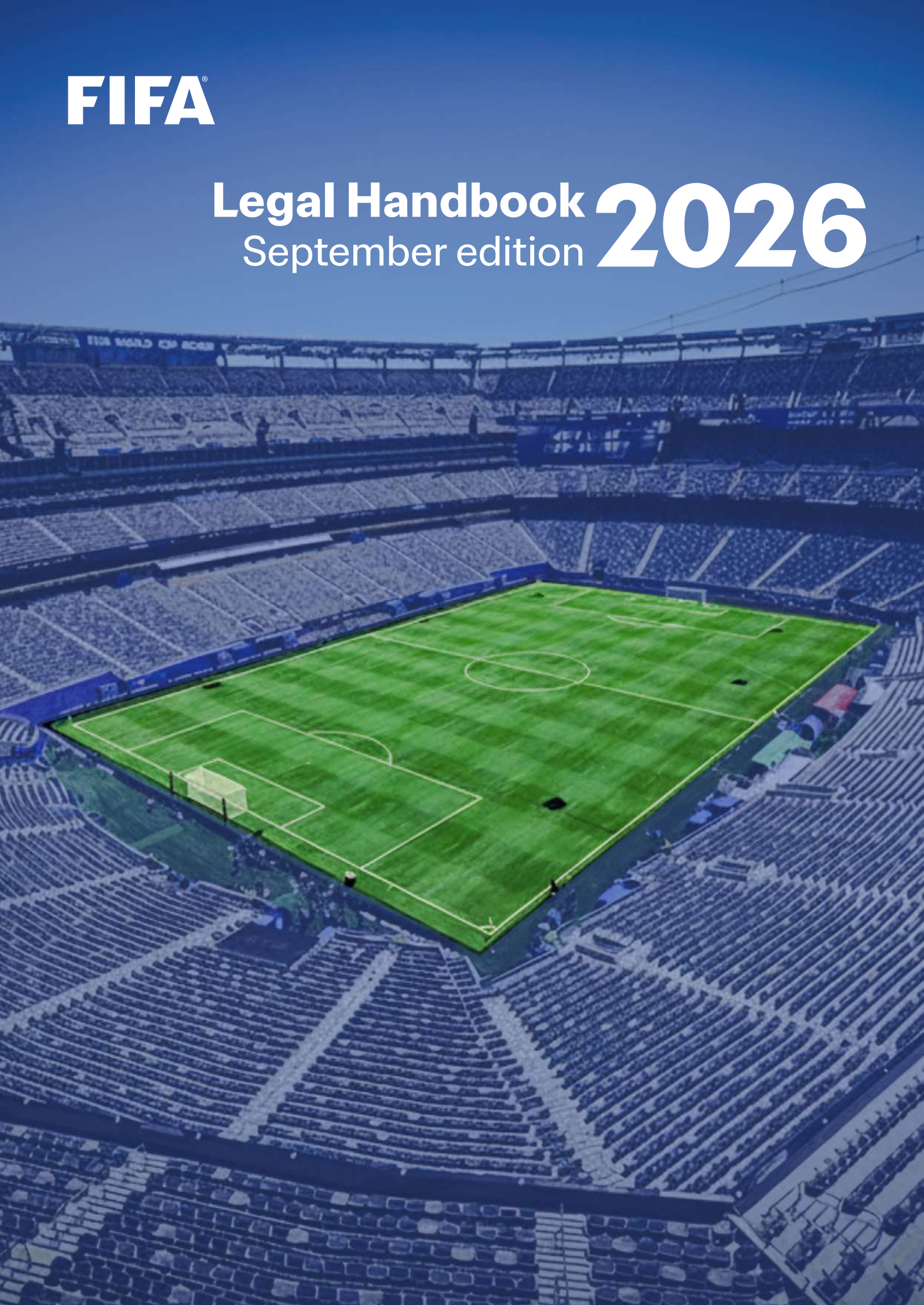
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Legal Handbook 2026

September edition



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DEFINITIONS

The terms given below denote the following:

1. **FIFA:** Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
2. **Association:** a football association recognised as such by FIFA. It is a member of FIFA, unless a different meaning is evident from the context.
3. **League:** an organisation that is subordinate to an association.
4. **British associations:** the four associations in the United Kingdom – The Football Association, The Scottish Football Association, The Football Association of Wales and The Irish Football Association (Northern Ireland).
5. **The IFAB:** The International Football Association Board (IFAB).
6. **Country:** a state recognised as independent by a majority of members of the United Nations.
7. **Confederation:** a group of associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographic region).
8. **Congress:** the supreme and legislative body of FIFA.
9. **Council:** the strategic and oversight body of FIFA.
10. **Bureau of the Council:** the bureau of the Council as defined in article 38 of these Statutes.
11. **Laws of the Game:** the laws of association football issued by The IFAB in accordance with article 7 of these Statutes.
12. **Member association:** an association that has been admitted into membership of FIFA by the Congress.
13. **Official:** any board member (including the members of the Council), committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in FIFA, a confederation, a member association, a league or a club as well as all other persons obliged to comply with the FIFA Statutes (except players, football agents and match agents).

14. **Club:** a member of an association (that is a member association of FIFA) or a member of a league recognised by a member association that enters at least one team in a competition.

15. **Player:** any football player licensed by an association.

16. **Association football:** the game controlled by FIFA and organised by FIFA, the confederations and/or the member associations in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

17. **Official competition:** a competition for representative teams organised by FIFA or any confederation.

18. **Stakeholder:** a person, entity or organisation which is not a member association and/or body of FIFA but has an interest or concern in FIFA's activities, which may affect or be affected by FIFA's actions, objectives and policies, in particular clubs, players, coaches, professional leagues and football fans.

NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice versa.



FIFA STATUTES

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Name and headquarters

1. The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) is an association in accordance with article 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code.

2. FIFA's headquarters and legal domicile shall be determined by a decision passed by the Congress.

2. Objectives

The objectives of FIFA are:

(a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote it globally in the light of its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;

(b) to organise its own international competitions;

(c) to draw up regulations and provisions governing the game of football and related matters and to ensure their enforcement;

(d) to control every type of association football by taking appropriate steps to prevent infringements of the Statutes, regulations or decisions of FIFA or of the Laws of the Game;

(e) to use its efforts to ensure that the game of football is available to and resourced for all who wish to participate, regardless of gender or age;

(f) to promote the development of women's football and the full participation of women at all levels of football governance;

(g) to promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardise the integrity of matches, competitions, players, officials and member associations or give rise to abuse of association football; and

(h) to regulate, develop and promote all other forms of football, such as futsal, beach soccer and football esport competitions.

3. Human rights

FIFA is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.

4. Non-discrimination, equality and neutrality

1. Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.

2. FIFA remains neutral in matters of politics and religion. Exceptions may be made with regard to matters affected by FIFA's statutory objectives.

5. Promoting friendly relations

1. FIFA shall promote friendly relations:
   (a) between and among member associations, confederations, clubs, officials and players; and
   (b) in society for humanitarian objectives.

2. FIFA shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any dispute that may arise between or among member associations, confederations, clubs, officials and players.

6. Players

The Council shall regulate the status of players and the provisions for their transfer, as well as questions relating to these matters, in particular the encouragement of player training by clubs and the protection of representative teams in the form of special regulations from time to time.

7. Laws of the Game

1. Each member association shall play association football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by The IFAB. Only The IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.
2. The members of The IFAB are FIFA and the four British associations.
3. The organisation, duties and responsibilities of The IFAB are governed by the statutes of The IFAB.
4. Each member association shall play futsal in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game, as issued by the Council.
5. Each member association shall play beach soccer in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game, as issued by the Council.

8. Conduct of bodies, officials and others

1. All bodies and officials must observe the Statutes, regulations, decisions and Code of Ethics of FIFA in their activities.
2. Executive bodies of member associations may under exceptional circumstances be removed from office by the Council in consultation with the relevant confederation and replaced by a normalisation committee for a specific period of time, as established in article 3 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes.
3. Every person and organisation involved in the game of football is obliged to observe the Statutes and regulations of FIFA as well as the principles of fair play.

9. Official languages

1. Arabic, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish are the official languages of FIFA. Minutes, official correspondence, regulations, decisions and announcements are published in English, French and Spanish and, when deemed necessary, in Arabic, German, Russian and/or Portuguese. If there is any divergence in the wording, the English text shall be authoritative. Member associations are responsible for translations into the language(s) of their country.
2. At the Congress, qualified interpreters shall translate into the official FIFA languages. Delegates may speak in their mother tongue if they ensure interpretation into one of the official FIFA languages by a qualified interpreter.

II. MEMBERSHIP

10. Admission, suspension and expulsion

The Congress shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a member association solely upon the recommendation of the Council.

11. Admission

1. Any association which is responsible for organising and supervising football in all of its forms in its country may become a member association. Consequently, it is recommended that all member associations involve all relevant stakeholders in football in their own structure. Subject to paragraph 5 below, only one association shall be recognised as a member association in each country.

2. Membership is only permitted if an association is currently a member of a confederation. The Council may issue regulations with regard to the admission process.

3. Any association wishing to become a member association shall apply in writing to the FIFA general secretariat.

4. The association's legally valid statutes shall be enclosed with the application for membership and shall contain the following mandatory provisions:
   (a) always to comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of FIFA and of the relevant confederation;
   (b) to comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
   (c) to recognise the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), as specified in these Statutes.

5. Each of the four British associations shall be recognised as a separate member association of FIFA.

6. This article shall not affect the status of existing member associations.

12. Request and procedure for application

1. The Council shall request the Congress either to admit or not to admit an association. The association may state the reasons for its application to the Congress.

2. The new member association shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted. Its delegates are eligible to vote and be elected with immediate effect.

13. Member associations' rights

1. Member associations have the following rights:
   (a) to take part in the Congress;
   (b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
   (c) to nominate candidates for the FIFA presidency and the Council;
   (d) to participate in and cast their votes at all FIFA elections in accordance with the FIFA Governance Regulations;
   (e) to take part in competitions organised by FIFA;
   (f) to take part in FIFA's assistance and development programmes; and
   (g) to exercise all other rights arising from these Statutes and other regulations.

2. The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and the applicable regulations.

14. Member associations' obligations

1. Member associations have the following obligations:
   (a) to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA bodies at any time as well as the decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) passed on appeal on the basis of article 49 paragraph 1 of the FIFA Statutes;
   (b) to take part in competitions organised by FIFA;
   (c) to pay their membership subscriptions;
   (d) to cause their own members to comply with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA bodies;
   (e) to convene its supreme and legislative body at regular intervals, at least every two years;
   (f) to ratify statutes that are in accordance with the requirements laid down in these Statutes;
   (g) to create a referees' committee that is directly subordinate to the member association;
   (h) to respect the Laws of the Game;
   (i) to manage their affairs independently and ensure that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties in accordance with article 19 of these Statutes;
   (j) to prevent and fight against any kind of discrimination;
   (k) to promote the development of women's football and the full participation of women at all levels; and
   (l) to comply fully with all other duties arising from these Statutes and other regulations.

2. Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any member association may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes.

3. Violations of paragraph 1 (i) may also lead to sanctions, even if the third-party influence was not the fault of the member association concerned. Each member association is responsible towards FIFA for any and all acts of the members of their bodies caused by the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of such members.

15. Member associations' statutes

Member associations' statutes must comply with the principles of good governance, and shall in particular contain, at a minimum, provisions relating to the following matters:

(a) to be neutral in matters of politics and religion;

(b) to prohibit all forms of discrimination;

(c) to be independent and avoid any form of political interference;

(d) to ensure that judicial bodies are independent (separation of powers);

(e) all relevant stakeholders must agree to respect the Laws of the Game, the principles of loyalty, integrity, sportsmanship and fair play as well as the Statutes, regulations and decisions of FIFA and of the respective confederation;

(f) all relevant stakeholders must agree to recognise the jurisdiction and authority of CAS and give priority to arbitration as a means of dispute resolution;

(g) that the member association has the primary responsibility to regulate matters relating to refereeing, the fight against doping, the registration of players, club licensing, the imposition of disciplinary measures, including for ethical misconduct, and measures required to protect the integrity of competitions;

(h) definition of the competences of the decision-making bodies;

(i) to avoid conflicts of interests in decision-making;

(j) legislative bodies must be constituted in accordance with the principles of representative democracy and taking into account the importance of gender equality in football; and

(k) yearly independent audits of accounts.

16. Suspension

1. The Congress may suspend a member association solely at the request of the Council. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Council may, without a vote of the Congress, temporarily suspend with immediate effect a member association that seriously violates its obligations. A suspension approved by the Council shall be in effect until the next Congress, unless the Council has revoked such suspension prior to such Congress.

2. A suspension of a member association by the Congress requires a three-quarter majority of the member associations present and eligible to vote. A suspension of a member association by the Congress or the Council shall be confirmed at the next Congress by a three-quarter majority of the member associations present and eligible to vote. If it is not confirmed, such suspension shall be automatically lifted.

3. A suspended member association may not exercise any of its membership rights. Other member associations may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended member association. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.

4. Member associations which do not participate in at least two of all FIFA competitions over a period of four consecutive years shall be suspended from voting at the Congress until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

17. Expulsion

1. The Congress may expel a member association only at the request of the Council if:
   (a) it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards FIFA; or
   (b) it seriously violates the Statutes, regulations or decisions of FIFA; or
   (c) it loses the status of an association representing association football in its country.

2. The presence of an absolute majority (more than 50%) of the member associations eligible to vote at the Congress is necessary for an expulsion of a member association to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarter majority of the valid votes cast.

18. Resignation

1. A member association may resign from FIFA with effect from the end of a calendar year. Notice of resignation must reach the general secretariat no later than six months before the end of the calendar year and be sent to the general secretariat by registered letter.

2. The resignation is not valid until the member association wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards FIFA and its other member associations.

19. Independence of member associations and their bodies

1. Each member association shall manage its affairs independently and without undue influence from third parties.

2. A member association's bodies shall be either elected or appointed in that association. A member association's statutes shall provide for a democratic procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment.

3. Any member association's bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with the provisions of paragraph 2, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by FIFA.

4. Decisions passed by bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with paragraph 2 shall not be recognised by FIFA.

20. Status of clubs, leagues and other groups of clubs

1. Clubs, leagues or any other groups affiliated to a member association shall be subordinate to and recognised by that member association. The member association's statutes shall define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these groups. The statutes and regulations of these groups shall be approved by the member association.

2. Every member association shall ensure that its affiliated clubs can take all decisions on any matters regarding membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of an affiliated club's corporate structure. In any case, the member association shall ensure that neither a natural nor a legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) exercises control in any manner whatsoever (in particular through a majority shareholding, a majority of voting rights, a majority of seats on the board of directors or any other form of economic dependence or control, etc.) over more than one club whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

III. HONORARY PRESIDENT, HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBER

21. Honorary president, honorary vice-president and honorary member

1. The Congress may bestow the title of honorary president, honorary vice-president or honorary member upon any former member of the Council for meritorious service to football.

2. The Council shall propose these nominations.

3. The honorary president, honorary vice-president or honorary member may take part in the Congress. They may join in the debates but may not vote.

IV. CONFEDERATIONS

22. Confederations

1. Member associations that belong to the same continent have formed the following confederations, which are recognised by FIFA:
   (a) Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol – CONMEBOL
   (b) Asian Football Confederation – AFC
   (c) Union des associations européennes de football – UEFA
   (d) Confédération Africaine de Football – CAF
   (e) Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football – Concacaf
   (f) Oceania Football Confederation – OFC

   Recognition of each confederation by FIFA entails full mutual respect of each other's authority within their respective institutional areas of competence as set forth in these Statutes.

2. FIFA may, in exceptional circumstances, authorise a confederation to grant membership to an association that belongs geographically to another continent and is not affiliated to the confederation on that continent. The opinion of the confederation concerned geographically shall be obtained.

3. Each confederation shall have the following rights and obligations:
   (a) to comply with and enforce compliance with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of FIFA;
   (b) to work closely with FIFA in every domain so as to achieve the objectives stipulated in article 2 and to organise international competitions;
   (c) to propose candidates for the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the standing committees;
   (d) to organise its own interclub competitions, in compliance with the international match calendar;

(e) to organise all of its own international competitions in compliance with the international match calendar;

(f) to ensure that international leagues or any other such groups of clubs or leagues shall not be formed without its consent and the approval of FIFA;

(g) upon the recommendation of FIFA, to grant associations applying for membership the status of a provisional member. This status shall grant associations the right to take part in the confederation's competitions and conferences. Any other rights and obligations of the provisional member shall be regulated by the confederation's statutes and regulations. Provisional members may not take part in FIFA final competitions;

(h) to nurture relations and cooperation with FIFA actively and constructively for the good of the game through consultative meetings and to discuss and resolve any problems relating to the interests of the confederations and FIFA;

(i) to ensure that the representatives appointed to FIFA bodies or elected to the Council carry out their activities on these bodies with mutual respect, solidarity, recognition and fair play, and in accordance with these Statutes and any related regulations issued by FIFA;

(j) to set up committees that work closely together with the corresponding committees at FIFA;

(k) exceptionally to allow, with FIFA's consent, an association from another confederation (or clubs belonging to that association) to participate in a competition that it is organising;

(l) with the mutual cooperation of FIFA, to take any action considered necessary to develop the game of football on the continent concerned, such as arranging development programmes, courses, conferences, etc.;

(m) to set up the bodies necessary to fulfil the duties incumbent upon it; and

(n) to procure the funds necessary to fulfil its duties.

4. The Council may delegate other duties or powers to one or more (or all) confederations by agreement with such confederations or confederation.

5. The confederations' statutes and regulations, as revised from time to time, shall be notified to FIFA.

23. Confederations' statutes

The confederations' statutes must comply with the principles of good governance, and shall in particular contain, at a minimum, provisions relating to the following matters:

(a) to be neutral in matters of politics and religion;

(b) to prohibit all forms of discrimination;

(c) to be independent and avoid any form of political interference;

(d) to ensure that judicial bodies are independent (separation of powers);

(e) all relevant stakeholders must agree to respect the Laws of the Game, the principles of loyalty, integrity, sportsmanship and fair play as well as the Statutes, regulations and decisions of FIFA and of the respective confederation;

(f) all relevant stakeholders must agree to recognise the jurisdiction and authority of CAS and give priority to arbitration as a means of dispute resolution;

(g) regulation of matters relating to refereeing, the fight against doping, club licensing, the imposition of disciplinary measures, including for ethical misconduct, and measures required to protect the integrity of competitions;

(h) definition of the competences of the decision-making bodies;

(i) to avoid conflicts of interests in decision-making;

(j) legislative bodies must be constituted in accordance with the principles of representative democracy and taking into account the importance of gender equality in football; and

(k) yearly independent audits of accounts.

V. ORGANISATION

24. Bodies

1. The Congress is the supreme and legislative body.
2. The Council is the strategic and oversight body.
3. The general secretariat is the executive, operational and administrative body.
4. Standing and ad hoc committees shall advise and assist the Council and the general secretariat in fulfilling their duties. Their composition, function and duties are defined in the FIFA Governance Regulations.
5. The independent committees fulfil their functions in accordance with these Statutes and the applicable FIFA regulations.
6. The Football Tribunal fulfils its function in accordance with these Statutes and the applicable FIFA regulations.
7. The independent auditors perform all audits of FIFA's accounts and financial statements as required by Swiss law.

A. CONGRESS

25. Congress

1. A Congress may be an Ordinary or an Extraordinary Congress. A Congress may be held in person, by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication.

2. The Ordinary Congress shall be held every year. The Council shall fix the place and date. The member associations shall be notified in writing at least four months in advance of the place and date of such Ordinary Congress. The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least one month before the date of the Congress. This convocation shall contain the agenda, the President's report, the financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements, and the auditors' report.

3. The Council may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time.

4. The Council shall convene an Extraordinary Congress if one-fifth of the member associations make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary Congress shall be held within three months of receipt of the request.

5. The member associations shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least two months before the date of an Extraordinary Congress. The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress may not be altered.

26. Vote, delegates, observers

1. Each member association has one vote in the Congress and is represented by a maximum of three delegates. It is recommended that at least one of the delegates be a woman. Only the member associations present are entitled to vote. Attendance by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication shall constitute presence. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted at a Congress held in person. When a Congress is held by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication, voting by correspondence and/or online is permitted.

2. Delegates must belong to the member association that they represent and be appointed by the appropriate body of that member association.

3. Confederation delegates may take part in the Congress as observers without a right to vote.

4. During their term of office, members of the Council may not be appointed as delegates for their association.

5. The President shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with the Standing Orders of the Congress.

27. Candidates for the office of FIFA President, for the Council and for the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee and the judicial bodies

1. Only the member associations may propose candidatures for the office of FIFA President. A candidature for the office of FIFA President shall only be valid if supported by a total of at least five member associations. Member associations must notify the FIFA general secretariat, in writing, of a candidature for the FIFA presidency at least four months before the start of the Congress, together with the declarations of support of at least five member associations. A candidate for the office of FIFA President shall have played an active role in association football (e.g. as a player or an official within FIFA, a confederation or an association, etc.) for two of the last five years before being proposed as a candidate and must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Review Committee in accordance with the FIFA Governance Regulations.

2. The general secretariat shall notify the member associations of the names of proposed candidates for the office of FIFA President at least one month before the date of the Congress.

3. Subject to paragraph 4 below, only member associations may propose candidatures for the Council. The relevant confederation shall be in receipt of the candidatures for the Council proposed by the member associations at least three months before the start of the respective confederation congress on the occasion of which the said election shall take place. The confederations shall notify the FIFA general secretariat, in writing, of all candidatures submitted to them within five days of the expiration of the three-month deadline. The confederations shall furthermore provide FIFA with the evidence of timely submission of the candidatures. Each member association is entitled to submit only one proposal for a member of the Council. If a member association presents proposals for more than one candidate, all of its presented proposals shall be deemed invalid. A member association may only propose candidates affiliated to its confederation.

4. The elections by the member associations of the female candidates for the Council (at least one per confederation) are set out in article 33 paragraph 5 of these Statutes.

5. Council members shall be elected by the member associations on the occasion of their confederation congresses in accordance with the FIFA Governance Regulations. Candidates for the Council must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Review Committee in accordance with the FIFA Governance Regulations. The election of Council members shall be monitored by FIFA.

6. The conditions to be observed during a candidature for the office of President and for positions on the Council are stipulated in the FIFA Governance Regulations.

7. The Council shall submit proposals for the positions of chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of each of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee and the judicial bodies to the Congress. The Council shall determine the number of seats to be assigned to each confederation in the relevant committee. Proposals shall be submitted, in writing, to the general secretariat at least four months before the start of the Congress. The procedure shall be laid down in the FIFA Governance Regulations.

8. Candidates for the positions of chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the judicial bodies must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Review Committee in accordance with the FIFA Governance Regulations.

9. Candidates for the positions of chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee must pass an eligibility check carried out by the investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee in accordance with the FIFA Governance Regulations.

28. Ordinary Congress agenda

1. The Secretary General shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Council and the member associations. Any proposal that a member association wishes to submit to the Congress shall be sent to the general secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least two months before the date of the Congress.

2. The Congress agenda shall include the following mandatory items, as necessary:
   (a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes;
   (b) approval of the agenda;
   (c) an address by the President;
   (d) appointment of five member associations to check the minutes;
   (e) appointment of scrutineers;
   (f) suspension or expulsion of a member association (if applicable);
   (g) approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress;
   (h) activity report (containing the activities since the last Congress);
   (i) report from the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee;
   (j) presentation of the annual audited financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements and the annual report as well as the auditors' reports;
   (k) approval of the annual audited financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements and the annual report;
   (l) approval of the budget;
   (m) admission for membership (if applicable);
   (n) votes on proposals for adopting and amending the Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress (if applicable);
   (o) discussion of proposals duly submitted by the member associations and the Council within the period stipulated under paragraph 1 (if applicable);
   (p) appointment of auditors (if applicable);
   (q) election or dismissal of the President in accordance with these Statutes (if applicable);

(r) election or dismissal of the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the following committees (if applicable) on proposal of the Council:

- Disciplinary Committee;
- Ethics Committee;
- Appeal Committee;
- Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee;

(s) vote on the designation of the host country/countries of the FIFA World Cup™ and FIFA Women's World Cup™ final competitions (if applicable).

3. The agenda of an Ordinary Congress may be altered, provided three quarters of the member associations present at the Congress and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.

29. Adoption of and amendments to the Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress

1. The Congress is responsible for adopting and amending the Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress.

2. Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the general secretariat by a member association or by the Council. A proposal submitted by a member association shall be valid, provided it has been supported in writing by at least two other member associations.

3. For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes to be valid, an absolute majority (more than 50%) of the member associations eligible to vote must be present.

4. A proposal to adopt or amend the Statutes shall be adopted if approved by three quarters of the member associations present and eligible to vote.

5. Any proposal to adopt or amend the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the general secretariat by a member association or by the Council.

6. For any proposal to adopt or amend the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress to be adopted, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is required.

30. Elections, other decisions, requisite majority

1. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

2. Any other decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll, member associations being called in English alphabetical order.

3. For the election of the President, where there is only one candidate, the Congress may decide to elect the President by acclamation. Otherwise, if there are two or fewer candidates, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is necessary. If there are more than two candidates for the election of the President, two thirds of the votes of the member associations present and eligible to vote are necessary in the first ballot. As from the second ballot, whoever obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated until only two candidates are left.

4. Council members shall be elected by the member associations in accordance with article 27 paragraph 5 of these Statutes.

5. Each confederation president shall be a vice-president ex officio of the Council.

6. Each vice-president and each member of the Council shall be required to fulfil the eligibility check conducted by the Review Committee in accordance with the FIFA Governance Regulations.

7. For the election of the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of each of the judicial bodies and of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the free seat(s) shall be elected.

8. The election of the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of each of the judicial bodies and of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee by the Congress may be conducted en bloc. At the request of at least ten member associations, however, a separate vote for a specific candidate shall take place.

9. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient for elections, votes and other decisions to be valid.

10. Further details are stipulated in the Standing Orders of the Congress.

31. Minutes

1. The Secretary General shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the Congress.
2. The minutes of the Congress shall be checked by those member associations designated.

32. Effective dates of decisions

Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect for the member associations 60 days after the close of the Congress, unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

B. COUNCIL

33. Composition, election of the President, the vice-presidents and the members of the Council

1. The Council shall consist of 37 members:
   - 1 President, elected by the Congress,
   - 8 vice-presidents,
   - and 28 other members.

   Upon being elected to office, every member of the Council undertakes, and accepts responsibility, to faithfully, loyally and independently act in the best interests of FIFA and the promotion and development of football at global level.

2. The President shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four years in the year following a FIFA World Cup™. The term of office shall begin after the end of the Congress at which the President was elected. No person may serve as President for more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not). Previous terms served as a vice-president or as a member of the Council shall not be considered in determining the term limits of a President.

3. The members of the Council shall be elected by the member associations on the occasion of the respective confederation congresses for a term of four years. Their terms of office shall begin after the end of the congress at which they were elected. A member of the Council may serve for no more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not).

4. The confederations are allocated the following places on the Council:

(a)	CONMEBOL	vice-president (1)	members (4)
(b)	AFC	vice-president (1)	members (6)
(c)	UEFA	vice-presidents (3)	members (6)
(d)	CAF	vice-president (1)	members (6)
(e)	Concacaf	vice-president (1)	members (4)
(f)	OFC	vice-president (1)	members (2)

5. The members of each confederation must ensure that they elect at least one female member to the Council. In the event that no female candidate is elected by the members of a confederation for the Council, the seat reserved for a female member of such confederation will be deemed forfeited by all members of such confederation and shall remain vacant until the next election of members of the Council.

6. No more than one representative from the same member association may serve on the Council simultaneously.

7. If the President is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing their official function, the longest-serving vice-president shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the President until the next Congress. This Congress shall elect a new President, if necessary. If the longest-serving vice-president is prevented from assuming the powers and responsibilities of the President, the next longest-serving vice-president shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the President.

8. Any vice-president or other member of the Council who is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing their official function shall be replaced by the members of the relevant confederation which elected such vice-president or member for the remaining period of office.

9. The President may invite stakeholder representatives as observers to the Council for agenda items of specific relevance to them. The stakeholder representatives shall be given the right to speak on the specific agenda item, but not the right to vote.

34. Powers of the Council

1. The Council defines FIFA's mission, strategic direction, policies and values, in particular with regard to the organisation and development of football at worldwide level and all related matters.

2. As regards business- or finance-related matters, the Council shall, inter alia:
   - define the standards, policies and procedures applicable to the awarding of commercial contracts by FIFA;
   - define the standards, policies and procedures applicable to football development grants;
   - define the standards, policies and procedures regarding the operational costs of FIFA; and
   - define the standards, policies and procedures regarding all other business- or finance-related matters of FIFA.

The Council delegates the execution and management of business- or finance-related matters to the general secretariat, which operates under the authority and supervision of the President and the Council and is accountable to them.

3. The Council oversees the overall management of FIFA by the general secretariat.

4. The Council approves the budget and the annual audited financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements, prepared by the Finance Committee and the annual report to be submitted to the Congress for approval.

5. The Council appoints the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the standing committees and of the chambers of the Football Tribunal.

6. The Council shall propose to the Congress for election the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Appeal Committee and the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee.

7. The Council may decide to set up ad hoc committees if necessary at any time.

8. The Council shall appoint the three representatives of FIFA who shall attend the general assembly of The IFAB in addition to the FIFA President. Furthermore, the Council is entitled to decide on how the representatives of FIFA shall vote in The IFAB.

9. The Council shall appoint the Secretary General on the proposal of the President. The Secretary General may be dismissed by the Council acting alone.

10. The Council shall decide the place and dates of the final competitions of FIFA tournaments and the number of teams taking part from each confederation. This shall not apply to decisions on the host country/countries of the FIFA World Cup™ and FIFA Women's World Cup™ final competitions, which shall be voted on by the Congress.

11. The Council shall issue regulations generally and, in particular, the FIFA Governance Regulations.

12. The Council shall deal with all matters relating to FIFA that do not fall within the sphere of responsibility of another body, in accordance with these Statutes.

13. The powers and responsibilities of the Council may be specified in greater detail in the FIFA Governance Regulations.

C. PRESIDENT

35. President

1. The President represents FIFA.
2. The President shall aim to foster a positive image of FIFA and to ensure that FIFA's mission, strategic direction, policies and values, as defined by the Council, are protected and implemented, in particular by the general secretariat.
3. The President shall seek to maintain and develop good relations between and among FIFA, the confederations, member associations, political bodies and international organisations.
4. The President chairs the Congress and meetings of the Council. The President shall have no right to vote at the Congress and shall have one ordinary vote on the Council.
5. The powers and responsibilities of the President may be defined in greater detail in the FIFA Governance Regulations.

D. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

36. General secretariat

1. The general secretariat shall perform its tasks under the direction of the Secretary General, in particular, as regards:
   - organisation of competitions and all related matters, in accordance with the decisions and directions of the Council;
   - the negotiation, execution and performance of all commercial contracts, in accordance with the standards, policies and procedures established by the Council;
   - administrative support for the standing committees of FIFA, in particular with regard to the awarding of football development grants;
   - management of the operations and day-to-day business of FIFA, in accordance with the parameters established by the Council and within the budget established by the Finance Committee; and
   - all other administrative matters necessary for the efficient operation and organisation of FIFA, as required and authorised by the Council.
2. The general secretariat is supervised by, and is accountable to, the President and the Council with regard to the discharge of its functions.
3. The powers and responsibilities of the general secretariat may be defined in greater detail in the FIFA Governance Regulations.

37. Secretary General

1. The Secretary General is responsible for the organisation, management and direction of the general secretariat.
2. The Secretary General is appointed and may be dismissed by the Council, in accordance with article 34 paragraph 9 of these Statutes. The Secretary General shall report to the President and the Council.
3. The Secretary General shall be required to fulfil an eligibility check performed by the Review Committee.
4. The powers and responsibilities of the Secretary General may be defined in greater detail in the FIFA Governance Regulations.

E. BUREAU OF THE COUNCIL

38. Bureau of the Council

1. The Bureau of the Council shall deal with all matters within the competence of the Council requiring immediate decision between two meetings of the Council. The Bureau of the Council shall consist of a maximum of seven members. The FIFA President and the six confederation presidents are ex officio members of the Bureau of the Council.

2. The President shall convene meetings of the Bureau of the Council. If a meeting cannot be convened within an appropriate period of time, decisions may be passed through other means of communication. Such decisions shall have immediate legal effect. The President shall notify the Council immediately of the decisions passed by the Bureau of the Council.

3. All decisions taken by the Bureau of the Council shall be ratified by the Council at its next meeting.

4. If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the longest-serving vice-president of the Council available to attend such meeting shall deputise for the President and act as the presiding official of such meeting.

5. The President is entitled to designate a deputy for any member who is unable to attend or has a conflict of interest. The deputy shall belong to the Council and the same confederation as the member who is unable to attend or has a conflict of interest.

F. STANDING COMMITTEES AND EXPERT PANELS

39. Standing committees

1. The standing committees are:

(1) the Finance Committee
(2) the Development Committee
(3) the Men's National Team Competitions Committee
(4) the Women's National Team Competitions Committee
(5) the Men's Club Competitions Committee
(6) the Women's Club Competitions Committee
(7) the Olympic Football Committee
(8) the Youth Boys' Competitions Committee
(9) the Youth Girls' Competitions Committee
(10) the Futsal Committee
(11) the Beach Soccer Committee
(12) the Men's Football Stakeholders Committee
(13) the Women's Football Stakeholders Committee
(14) the Member Associations Committee
(15) the Referees Committee
(16) the Medical Committee
(17) the Men's Players Committee
(18) the Women's Players Committee
(19) the Men's Coaches Committee
(20) the Women's Coaches Committee
(21) the Fans Committee
(22) the Technical Development Committee
(23) the Women's Football Development Committee
(24) the Grassroots and Amateur Football Committee
(25) the Institutional Relations Committee
(26) the Legal Committee
(27) the Stadium and Security Committee
(28) the Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Committee
(29) the Football Social Responsibility Committee
(30) the Football Technology, Innovation and Digital Transformation Committee
(31) the Commercial and Marketing Advisory Committee
(32) the Media and Communications Committee
(33) the Football Esport Committee
(34) the Future of Football Committee
(35) the Laws of the Game Committee

2. The FIFA Governance Regulations shall detail the powers and responsibilities of each standing committee, as well as their composition and structure.

3. The Council may decide to create new committees, on a provisional basis, until their formal inclusion in the above list.

4. The standing committees shall report to the Council. They shall advise and assist the Council in their respective fields of function.

5. Members of the standing committees may at the same time be members of the Council.

6. The chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of each standing committee shall be appointed by the Council on the proposal of the member associations, the FIFA President, the confederations or the FIFA Secretary General. The Council shall ensure appropriate female representation on standing committees. Their terms shall last for four years, beginning upon the respective date of appointment by the Council. Members of the standing committees may be relieved of their duties at any time by the Council.

7. Candidates for the standing committees must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Review Committee.

8. The Council and each committee may, if necessary, set up a bureau and/or sub-committee to settle urgent or specific matters.

40. Expert panels

1. The Council, the FIFA President or the FIFA Secretary General may, if necessary, appoint dedicated expert panels to carry out special technical duties in matters relevant to global football.

2. The members of the expert panels shall be appointed for the period necessary to perform their duties.

3. The composition and structure of each expert panel shall be decided by the Council, the FIFA President or the FIFA Secretary General.

4. The chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of each expert panel shall be appointed by the Council, the FIFA President or the FIFA Secretary General on the proposal of the member associations, the FIFA President, the confederations or the FIFA Secretary General.

5. Candidates for the expert panels must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Review Committee.

6. The FIFA Governance Regulations shall further detail the roles, responsibilities and functioning of the expert panels.

VI. ANNUAL MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS CONFERENCE

41. Annual member associations conference

FIFA shall organise at least once a year, at its own cost, a member associations conference for the presidents of the member associations and/or their top executives, in order to address issues of high relevance for the football world, such as, for instance, football development, integrity, social responsibility, governance, human rights, racism, match-fixing, gender equality, protection of clean athletes and youth, and security.

VII. INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES

42. Institutional independence

The independent committees as well as their individual members shall conduct their activities and perform their duties entirely independently but always in the interests of FIFA and in accordance with the Statutes and regulations of FIFA.

43. Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee

1. The Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall consist of the number of members deemed necessary, all of whom must not belong to any other FIFA body. The committee members shall be knowledgeable and experienced in governance and/or financial and/or legal matters and may not be involved in any decision affecting the operations of FIFA.

2. Candidates for any position on the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee as well as the incumbent members of the committee shall fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the FIFA Governance Regulations and pass an eligibility check carried out by the investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee.

3. The chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall be elected by the Congress. Their terms shall last four years, beginning at the end of the Congress which has elected them. The chairperson, deputy chairperson and other members of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee may only be relieved of their duties by the Congress.

4. The chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee may serve a maximum of three terms (whether consecutive or not).

5. If the chairperson, deputy chairperson or a member of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee resigns or becomes permanently incapacitated with regard to performing their functions during their term of office, the Council shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next Congress, when a replacement shall be elected by the Congress for the remainder of the initial term of office.

6. The Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall report to the Congress.

7. The Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall advise, assist and oversee the Council in monitoring FIFA's financial, governance and compliance matters, and monitor compliance with the FIFA Governance Regulations. It shall supervise the general secretariat.

8. The Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall review the Related-Party Declarations submitted by the members of FIFA committees in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Governance Regulations.

9. The Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting and review the financial statements, the consolidated financial statement and the external auditors' report. The committee shall furthermore monitor FIFA's financial, governance and compliance matters including, in particular, the distribution and flow of development-related funds, and suggest to the appropriate FIFA bodies any action that it deems necessary as a result of such monitoring.

10. The Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall establish the following:
    (a) the Review Committee;
    (b) the Human Rights and Sustainability Sub-Committee; and
    (c) the Compensation Sub-Committee.

11. The Review Committee shall conduct eligibility checks in respect of candidates and incumbent members of the Council (including the President), of the standing committees, of the judicial bodies, of the Football Tribunal and in respect of the Secretary General, and shall also conduct independence reviews in respect of candidates and incumbent members of the judicial bodies and the standing committees who must fulfil the independence criteria in accordance with these Statutes and the FIFA Governance Regulations.

12. The Human Rights and Sustainability Sub-Committee shall in particular advise the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee in their reporting to the Council on matters relating to human rights, safeguarding and child protection, sustainable events and the environment.

13. The Compensation Sub-Committee shall in particular define Compensation Rules and determine the compensation of the FIFA President, the members of the Council and the FIFA Secretary General. The individual compensation of the FIFA President, the members of the Council and the FIFA Secretary General shall be made public.

14. Details of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee's, the Review Committee's, the Human Rights and Sustainability Sub-Committee's and the Compensation Sub-Committee's responsibilities, their composition, their internal cooperation and other procedural matters are stipulated in the FIFA Governance Regulations.

44. Judicial bodies

1. The judicial bodies of FIFA are:
   (a) the Disciplinary Committee;
   (b) the Ethics Committee; and
   (c) the Appeal Committee.

2. The Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and a specific number of other members. Both chambers of the Ethics Committee shall each consist of a chairperson, two deputy chairpersons and a specific number of other members. The composition of the judicial bodies should respect the fair distribution of positions and take account of the member associations. When proposing chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of judicial bodies to the Congress, the Council shall take into account appropriate female representation on the judicial bodies.

3. The judicial bodies are to be composed in such a way that the members, together, have the knowledge, abilities and specialist experience that is necessary for the due completion of their tasks. The chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of the judicial bodies shall be qualified to practise law.

4. The chairperson and deputy chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee and the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of both chambers of the Ethics Committee and of the Appeal Committee shall fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the FIFA Governance Regulations and must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Review Committee.

5. The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the judicial bodies shall be elected by the Congress and shall not be members of any other FIFA body. Their terms shall last four years, beginning at the end of the Congress which has elected them. The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the judicial bodies may only be relieved of their duties by the Congress.

6. The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the judicial bodies may each serve a maximum of three terms (whether consecutive or not).

7. If a chairperson, a deputy chairperson or a member of a judicial body resigns or becomes permanently incapacitated with regard to performing their functions during their term of office, the Council shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next Congress, when a replacement shall be elected by the Congress for the remainder of the initial term of office.

8. The investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee shall conduct the eligibility checks and independence reviews in respect of candidates and incumbent members of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee.

9. The decision-making powers of certain committees remain unaffected.

45. Disciplinary Committee

1. The function of the Disciplinary Committee shall be governed by the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

2. The Disciplinary Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in the FIFA Disciplinary Code on member associations, clubs, officials, players, football agents and match agents.

3. These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and Council with regard to the suspension and expulsion of member associations.

4. The Council shall issue the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

5. The Disciplinary Committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Council.

46. Ethics Committee

1. The function of the Ethics Committee shall be governed by the FIFA Code of Ethics. The Ethics Committee shall be divided into an investigatory chamber and an adjudicatory chamber.

2. The Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in the FIFA Code of Ethics on officials, players, football agents and match agents.

3. The Council shall issue the FIFA Code of Ethics.

4. The Ethics Committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Council.

47. Appeal Committee

1. The function of the Appeal Committee shall be governed by the FIFA Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Code of Ethics.

2. The Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee that are not declared final by these Statutes or the relevant FIFA regulations.

3. Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee shall be irrevocable and binding on all the parties concerned. This provision is subject to appeals lodged with CAS.

VIII. FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL

48. Football Tribunal

1. The Football Tribunal shall pass decisions relating to football-related disputes and regulatory applications. It shall comprise three chambers:
   (a) the Dispute Resolution Chamber;
   (b) the Players' Status Chamber; and
   (c) the Agents Chamber.
2. The functions of the Football Tribunal shall be governed by the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal, as issued by the Council.
3. The Football Tribunal may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the FIFA Disciplinary Code on member associations, clubs, officials, players, football agents and match agents.
4. These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and Council with regard to the suspension and expulsion of member associations.
5. The Football Tribunal may propose amendments to its regulations to the Council.

IX. ARBITRATION

49. Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

1. FIFA recognises the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland) to resolve disputes between FIFA, member associations, confederations, leagues, clubs, players, officials, football agents and match agents.

2. The provisions of the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall apply to the proceedings. CAS shall primarily apply the various regulations of FIFA and, additionally, Swiss law.

3. All awards passed by CAS concerning FIFA decisions may be published by FIFA.

50. Jurisdiction of CAS

1. Appeals against final decisions passed by FIFA and its bodies shall be lodged with CAS within 21 days of receipt of the decision in question.

2. Recourse may only be made to CAS after all other internal channels have been exhausted.

3. CAS, however, does not deal with appeals arising from:
   (a) violations of the Laws of the Game;
   (b) suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months (with the exception of doping decisions);
   (c) decisions of the Football Tribunal concerning the recognition of a national dispute resolution chamber; and
   (d) decisions against which an appeal to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognised under the rules of an association or confederation may be made.

4. The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect. The appropriate FIFA body or, alternatively, CAS may order the appeal to have a suspensive effect.

5. FIFA is entitled to appeal to CAS against any internally final and binding doping-related decision passed in particular by the confederations, member associations or leagues in accordance with the provisions set out in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

6. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is entitled to appeal to CAS against any internally final and binding doping-related decision passed in particular by FIFA, the confederations, member associations or leagues in accordance with the provisions set out in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

51. Obligations relating to dispute resolution

1. The confederations, member associations and leagues shall agree to recognise CAS as an independent judicial authority and to ensure that their members, affiliated players and officials comply with the decisions passed by CAS. The same obligation shall apply to football agents and match agents that are licensed by FIFA.

2. Recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited unless specifically provided for in the FIFA regulations. Recourse to ordinary courts of law for all types of provisional measures is also prohibited.

3. The associations shall insert a clause in their statutes or regulations, stipulating that it is prohibited to take disputes in the association or disputes affecting leagues, members of leagues, clubs, members of clubs, players, officials and other association officials to ordinary courts of law, unless the FIFA regulations or binding legal provisions specifically provide for or stipulate recourse to ordinary courts of law. Instead of recourse to ordinary courts of law, provision shall be made for arbitration. Such disputes shall be taken to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognised under the rules of the association or confederation or to CAS.

   The associations shall also ensure that this stipulation is implemented in the association, if necessary by imposing a binding obligation on its members. The associations shall impose sanctions on any party that fails to respect this obligation and ensure that any appeal against such sanctions shall likewise be strictly submitted to arbitration, and not to ordinary courts of law.

X. SUBMISSION TO DECISIONS OF FIFA

52. Implementation of decisions

1. The confederations, member associations and leagues shall agree to comply fully with any decisions passed by the relevant FIFA bodies which, according to these Statutes, are final and not subject to appeal.
2. They shall take every precaution necessary to ensure that their own members, players and officials comply with these decisions.
3. The same obligation applies to football agents and match agents.

53. Sanctions

Any violation of the foregoing provisions will be punished in compliance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

XI. FINANCE

54. Financial period

1. The financial period of FIFA shall be four years and shall begin on each 1 January in the year following the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™.

2. The revenue and expenditure of FIFA shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. FIFA's major duties in the future shall be guaranteed through the creation of reserves.

3. The Secretary General is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of FIFA with its subsidiaries as at 31 December.

55. Auditors

The auditors shall audit the accounts and annual financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements, approved by the Council and present a report to the Congress in accordance with applicable Swiss civil law. The auditors shall be appointed for a period of three years. Their mandates may be renewed.

56. Membership subscriptions

1. Membership subscriptions are due on 1 January of each year. The annual subscription for new member associations for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the Congress at which they were admitted.

2. The Congress shall fix the amount of the annual subscription every four years on the recommendation of the Council. It shall be the same for every member association and amount to no more than USD 1,000.

57. Settlement

FIFA may debit any member association's account to settle claims.

58. Levies

1. The confederations may demand a levy on international matches played between two "A" representative teams, in accordance with the confederations' statutes and regulations.

2. Member associations may demand their own levy on matches played in their territory, independently of their confederation, in accordance with the member associations' statutes and regulations.

XII. RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

59. Rights in competitions and events

1. FIFA, its member associations and the confederations are the original owners of all of the rights emanating from competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.

2. The Council shall decide how and to what extent these rights are utilised and draw up special regulations to this end. The Council shall decide alone whether these rights shall be utilised exclusively, or jointly with a third party, or entirely through a third party.

60. Authorisation to distribute

1. FIFA, its member associations and the confederations are exclusively responsible for authorising the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of football matches and events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and technical and legal aspects.

2. The Council shall issue special regulations to this end.

XIII. COMPETITIONS

A. FIFA FINAL COMPETITIONS

61. Competition venues

1. The Council shall decide the venue for the final competitions organised by FIFA, with the sole exception of the venue for the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™ and the FIFA Women's World Cup™, which shall be decided by the Congress in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article.

2. The decision on the venue for the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™ and the FIFA Women's World Cup™ aims to achieve the objective of securing the best possible hosting conditions in the host country/countries and shall follow the procedure below:

   (a) Based on specific regulations to be issued by the Council, the FIFA general secretariat shall establish a fair and transparent bidding procedure, inviting all qualified member associations to submit a bid and defining in detail the requirements for the bidding and hosting as well as criteria for selecting the host of the event.

   (b) Based on its best judgement, the FIFA general secretariat shall submit to the Council a public report evaluating the compliance of all bids with the bidding procedure and the requirements for hosting the event, taking into consideration the defined criteria for selecting the host.

   (c) The Council shall review the report and designate, based on its best judgement and in an open ballot, up to three bids to be submitted to the Congress for a final decision. The result of each ballot and the related votes by the members of the Council shall be made public.

   (d) The Congress shall select the host venue from the bids designated by the Council. An absolute majority (more than 50%) of the member associations present and eligible to vote is necessary in the first ballot. If an absolute majority is not reached in the first ballot, then the bid with the lowest number of votes in the first ballot is eliminated. In the second ballot, or if fewer than three bids are presented to the Congress, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient. The result of each ballot and the related votes by the members of the Congress shall be made public.

3. A Congress may not award the hosting rights to more than one FIFA World Cup™ at the same meeting, except if the Council takes a specific decision in this respect.

4. The right to host the event shall not be awarded to members of the same confederation for two consecutive editions of the FIFA World Cup™.

B. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

62. International match calendar

The Council shall compile an international match calendar that shall be binding upon the confederations, member associations and leagues, after conferring with the confederations.

63. International matches and competitions

1. The Council shall be responsible for issuing transparent, objective, non-discriminatory and proportionate regulations for organising international matches and competitions between representative teams and between leagues, club and/or scratch teams. No such match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of FIFA, the relevant confederations and/or the relevant member associations in accordance with the Regulations Governing International Matches.

2. The Council may issue further provisions for such matches and competitions.

3. The Council shall determine any criteria for authorising line-ups that are not covered by the Regulations Governing International Matches.

4. Notwithstanding the authorisation competences as set forth in the Regulations Governing International Matches, FIFA may take the final decision on the authorisation of any international match or competition.

64. Contacts

1. Players and teams affiliated to member associations or provisional members of the confederations may not play matches or make sporting contacts with players or teams that are not affiliated to member associations or provisional members of the confederations without the approval of FIFA.

2. Member associations and their clubs may not play on the territory of another member association without the latter's approval.

65. Authorisation

Associations, leagues or clubs that are affiliated to a member association may only join another member association or take part in competitions on that member association's territory under exceptional circumstances.

In each case, authorisation must be given by both member associations, the respective confederation(s) and by FIFA.

XIV. FINAL PROVISIONS

66. Dissolution

If FIFA is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to the supreme court of the country in which its headquarters are situated. It shall hold these assets in trust as "bonus pater familiae" until FIFA is re-established.

67. Transitory provisions

1. For members of committees elected or appointed before 27 April 2016, the term limits set forth in articles 33, 43 and 44 of these Statutes shall only apply as from the date of completion of their respective mandates.

2. FIFA's headquarters and legal domicile are located in Zurich (Switzerland), until the Congress takes a decision in accordance with article 1 paragraph 2 of these Statutes.

68. Enforcement

These Statutes were adopted at the Congress on 17 May 2024 and come into force sixty (60) days after the close of the said Congress.

17 May 2024

For FIFA

President
Gianni Infantino



Secretary General
Mattias Grafström



REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE STATUTES

I. APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO FIFA

1. Application for admission

The Council may lay down the procedure for admission in special regulations.

2. Confederations

1. The Council shall decide whether the association fulfils the requirements for admission to FIFA based on the confederation's final report.

2. If the requirements have been fulfilled, the next Congress shall decide whether to admit the association or not.

II. NORMALISATION COMMITTEES

3. Normalisation committees

1. The objective of a normalisation committee is to support and assist a member association and to protect its rights and interests.

2. The process for the appointment and implementation of a normalisation committee shall be carried out by the general secretariat in consultation and collaboration with the relevant confederation. This process shall address, in particular, the tasks of the normalisation committee, the duration of the mandate and the criteria for selection and appointment of the members.

3. The tasks of a normalisation committee may vary depending on the member association's specific situation. However, as a general principle, the tasks of a normalisation committee shall include, without limitation:

   (a) running the daily affairs of the member association;.

   (b) determining, together with the FIFA general secretariat, the need to review the statutes and, where necessary, other regulations of the member association to ensure their compliance with the principles and requirements laid down in the FIFA Statutes; and.

   (c) organising and conducting the election of a new executive body for the member association.

4. A normalisation committee shall always be appointed for a specific period of time. The duration of the mandate shall be reasonable and adapted to the member association's specific situation. If the circumstances so require, the mandate of a normalisation committee may be extended by the Council.

5. A normalisation committee shall consist of a proportionate and suitable number of members. Candidates for a normalisation committee must pass the corresponding eligibility checks carried out by the Review Committee in accordance with the FIFA Governance Regulations.

6. The FIFA Council may issue regulations related to the process for the appointment and implementation of a normalisation committee.

III. MATCH AGENTS AND FOOTBALL AGENTS

4. Match agents

1. Match agents may be employed to arrange friendly matches.
2. Match agents shall hold a FIFA licence.
3. The Council shall issue Match Agent Regulations governing the occupation of match agents.

5. Football agents

1. Players, coaches, clubs, leagues and associations are entitled to engage the services of a football agent to provide services in relation to the transfer and/or employment of players and coaches when concluding an employment contract and/or a transfer agreement.
2. Football agents shall hold a FIFA licence.
3. The Council shall issue Football Agent Regulations governing the occupation of football agents.

IV. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FOR REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

6. Principles

1. Any person holding a permanent nationality that is not dependent on residence in a certain country is eligible to play for the representative teams of the association of that country.

2. There is a distinction between holding a nationality and being eligible to obtain a nationality. A player holds a nationality if, through the operation of a national law, they have:
   (a) automatically received a nationality (e.g. from birth) without being required to undertake any further administrative requirements (e.g. abandoning a separate nationality); or
   (b) acquired a nationality by undertaking a naturalisation process.

3. With the exception of the conditions specified in article 10 below, any player who has already participated in a match (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category or any type of football for one association may not play an international match for a representative team of another association.

4. For the purposes of articles 7 to 10 below, the phrase "lived on the territory of the relevant association" shall mean a period of physical presence on the territory of that association. The period shall be for a defined period of time (in years) in accordance with the relevant provision.
   (a) The period of physical presence is not interrupted by:
      (i) short absences abroad for personal reasons;
      (ii) holidays abroad during the football off-season;
      (iii) medical treatment or rehabilitation abroad following injury or illness; or
      (iv) travel abroad as a result of football employment.

(b) The period of physical presence is interrupted (and time requirement resets) where:

(i) a player is transferred to a club affiliated to a different association; or

(ii) a player is absent from a territory for any reason other than those set out in paragraph (a) above.

5. Notwithstanding article 6 paragraph 4 (a), unless exceptional circumstances exist, a player must be physically present on the territory of an association for at least 183 days during a 12-month period to be considered to have "lived on the territory" of that association for that year.

6. For the purposes of articles 7 to 10 below, the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal shall govern any requests for eligibility or change of association.

7. Nationality entitling players to represent more than one association

1. A player who, under the terms of article 6, is eligible to represent more than one association on account of their nationality, may play in an international match for one of these associations only if, in addition to holding the relevant nationality, they fulfil at least one of the following conditions:

(a) they were born on the territory of the relevant association;

(b) their biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant association;

(c) their grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant association; and/or

(d) they have lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least five years.

2. Regardless of paragraph 1 above, associations sharing a common nationality may make an agreement under which paragraph 1 (d) of this article is deleted completely or amended to specify a longer time limit. Such agreements shall be lodged with and approved by the Council.

3. The associations which share a common nationality shall be identified and updated as appropriate by the FIFA general secretariat in a circular.

8. Acquisition of a new nationality

1. Any player who refers to article 6 paragraph 1 to assume a new nationality and who has not played international football in accordance with article 6 paragraph 3 shall be eligible to play for the representative teams of the new association only if they fulfil one of the following conditions:
   (a) they were born on the territory of the relevant association;
   (b) their biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant association;
   (c) their grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant association; and/or
   (d) they have lived on the territory of the relevant association:
      (i) for players that began living on the territory before the age of 10: at least three years;
      (ii) for players that began living on the territory between the age of 10 and 18: at least five years;
      (iii) for players that began living on the territory from the age of 18: at least five years.

2. A player who seeks to rely upon paragraph 1 (d) (ii) must:
   (a) demonstrate that the move to the territory of the association was not for the purpose of participating for its representative teams; and
   (b) submit, via the relevant association, a request for eligibility to the Football Tribunal.

9. Stateless individuals

1. A player that:
   (a) does not hold any nationality; and
   (b) due to national law of the country of their domicile, will never be granted the nationality of such country,

   may be declared eligible to play for the representative teams of the association concerned, provided that:
   (c) they have lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least five years; and
   (d) they can demonstrate that the move to the territory of the association was not for the purpose of participating for its representative teams.

2. A player who seeks to rely upon paragraph 1 must submit, via the relevant association, a request for eligibility to the Football Tribunal.

10. Change of association

1. A player may, only once, request to change the association for which they are eligible to play to the association of another country of which they hold nationality.

2. A request to change association may be granted only in the following circumstances:
   (a) the player:
      (i) was fielded in a match in an official competition at any level (with the exception of "A" international level) in any kind of football for their current association; and
      (ii) at the time of being fielded for their first match in an official competition in any kind of football for their current association, they already held the nationality of the association which they wish to represent.
   (b) the player:
      (i) was fielded in a match in an official competition at any level (with the exception of "A" international level) in any kind of football for their current association;
      (ii) at the time of being fielded for their first match in an official competition in any kind of football for their current association, they did not hold the nationality of the association which they wish to represent;
      (iii) at the time of being fielded for their last match in an official competition in any kind of football for their current association, they had not turned 21 years old; and
      (iv) meets any of the requirements provided in article 7 or 8.
   (c) the player:
      (i) was fielded in a match in an official competition at "A" international level in any kind of football for their current association;
      (ii) at the time of being fielded for their first match in an official competition (at any level) in any kind of football for their current association, they held the nationality of the association which they wish to represent;
      (iii) at the time of being fielded for their last match in an official competition in any kind of football for their current association, they had not turned 21 years old;

(iv) was fielded in no more than three matches at "A" international level in any kind of football for their current association, whether in an official competition or non-official competition;

(v) at least three years have passed since being fielded for their last match at "A" international level in any kind of football for their current association, whether in an official competition or non-official competition; and

(vi) has never participated in any kind of football at "A" international level in the final tournament of the FIFA World Cup™ or a final tournament of a confederation competition.

(d) the player:

(i) wishes to represent an association that was admitted to FIFA membership after being fielded in their first match in an official competition (at any level) in any kind of football for their current association;

(ii) was never fielded in a match in an official competition (at any level) in any kind of football for their current association after the association which they wish to represent was admitted to FIFA membership;

(iii) at the time of being fielded for their first match in an official competition (at any level) in any kind of football for their current association:

a. held the nationality of the association which they wish to represent; or

b. obtained the nationality of the association which they wish to represent as soon as reasonably practicable after the country was recognised by the majority of members of the United Nations;

(iv) meets any of the requirements provided in article 7 or 8.

(e) the player:

(i) was fielded in a match in an official competition at "A" international level in any kind of football for their current association;

(ii) permanently loses their nationality without their consent or against their will due to a decision by a government authority; and

(iii) holds the nationality of the association that they wish to represent.

3. A player is not permitted to play for their new association in any competition in which they have already played for their previous association.

4. A player who seeks to rely upon paragraph 2 must submit, via the relevant association, a request for change of association to the Football Tribunal.

5. A player that was:

   (a) granted a change of association; and

   (b) was not fielded in a match in any (official or unofficial) competition in any kind of football by the new association,

   may request a change of association back to their former association provided they continue to hold the nationality of such association.

6. A player who seeks to rely upon paragraph 5 must submit, via the relevant association, a request for change of association to the Football Tribunal.

7. A player that has filed a request in accordance with this article is not eligible to participate for any representative team until the request has been decided upon.

V. SPORTING INTEGRITY

11. Principle of promotion and relegation

1. A club's entitlement to take part in a domestic league championship shall depend principally on sporting merit. A club shall qualify for a domestic league championship by remaining in a certain division or by being promoted or relegated to another at the end of a season.

2. In addition to qualification on sporting merit, a club's participation in a domestic league championship may be subject to other criteria within the scope of the licensing procedure, whereby the emphasis is on sporting, infrastructural, administrative, legal and financial considerations. Licensing decisions must be able to be examined by the member association's body of appeal.

3. Altering the legal form or company structure of a club to facilitate its qualification on sporting merit and/or its receipt of a licence for a domestic league championship, to the detriment of the integrity of a sports competition, is prohibited. This includes, for example, changing the headquarters, changing the name or transferring stakeholdings between different clubs. Prohibitive decisions must be able to be examined by the member association's body of appeal.

4. Each member association is responsible for deciding national issues, which may not be delegated to the leagues. Each confederation is responsible for deciding issues involving more than one association concerning its own territory. FIFA is responsible for deciding international issues involving more than one confederation.

VI. LAWS OF THE GAME

12. Amendments to the Laws of the Game

1. FIFA shall notify its member associations of any amendments and decisions regarding the Laws of the Game within one month of the ordinary annual meeting of The IFAB.

2. The member associations shall enforce these amendments and decisions no later than 1 July following The IFAB's annual meeting. Exceptions may be granted only to member associations whose football season has not terminated by this date.

3. Member associations may apply such amendments and decisions as soon as they have been issued by The IFAB.

VII. REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES

13. Nomination

1. Each referee and assistant referee appointed to an international match shall belong to a neutral member association unless otherwise previously agreed by the member associations concerned.

2. The referee and assistant referees chosen to officiate at an international match shall be included in the official FIFA List of International Referees and Assistant Referees.

14. Report

1. The referee of every international "A" match shall send a report within 48 hours of the match both to FIFA and the member association on whose territory the match was played.

2. This report shall be made on the official form given to the referee by the member association under whose jurisdiction the match was played.

3. The report shall record all the disciplinary measures taken and the reasons for these measures.

15. Reimbursement

1. Referees and assistant referees at international matches shall be entitled to:

   (a) a daily allowance;

   (b) reimbursement of travel expenses.

   FIFA shall determine the amounts, travel category and number of days due for reimbursement to which referees and assistant referees are entitled.

2. The amount owed to the referees and assistant referees shall be paid to them in an easily convertible currency on the same day as the match by the organising member association.

3. The expenses for hotel and board incurred by referees and assistant referees of international matches shall be borne by the organising member association.

VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

16. Objectives

1. FIFA shall ensure that its objectives are achieved and secured solely by using suitable material and human resources either of its own or by delegating to member associations or confederations or by working with the confederations in accordance with the FIFA Statutes.

2. With reference to article 2 (g) of the FIFA Statutes, FIFA shall take action especially, but not exclusively, against irregular betting activities, doping and racism. These activities are prohibited and subject to sanctions.

17. Enforcement

The Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes were adopted at the Congress on 17 May 2024 and come into force immediately after adoption.

17 May 2024

For FIFA

President
Gianni Infantino



Secretary General
Mattias Grafström



STANDING ORDERS OF THE CONGRESS

1. Participation in the Congress

1. Each member association may be represented at the Congress by a maximum of three delegates, all of whom may take part in the debates. It is recommended that at least one of the delegates be a woman.

2. The names of the delegates, including the one with the right to vote, shall be submitted to the general secretariat before the opening of the Congress. The general secretariat enters the delegates mentioned on to a list (numbered 1 to 3). The delegate with the right to vote is entered as number 1. If the delegate with the right to vote leaves the Congress during the debates, the delegate entered as number 2 on the member association's delegation list is entitled to vote. If this delegate is also absent, the delegate entered as number 3 is entitled to vote.

3. FIFA shall bear the costs of travel and accommodation for three delegates of each member association taking part in the Congress. The Council shall issue appropriate directives in this connection.

2. Chair

1. The President shall chair the Congress. If the President is unable to attend, the longest-serving vice-president available shall deputise. If none of the vice-presidents is present, the Congress shall elect a member of the Council as chairperson.

2. The chair shall ensure that the Congress is conducted in strict compliance with these Standing Orders, open and close the Congress and debates, and, unless the Congress decides otherwise, grant delegates permission to speak and conduct all discussions.

3. The chair shall be responsible for maintaining order during debates.

   The chair may take the following action against any Congress participant who disturbs the debates:

   (a) a call to order;

   (b) a reprimand;

   (c) exclusion from one or more sessions.

4. If an appeal is made against such action, the Congress shall decide immediately without debate.

3. Scrutineers

At the beginning of the first session, the Congress shall appoint an adequate number of scrutineers to count the votes and to assist the Secretary General in distributing and counting voting papers issued for the elections. The Council may decide to use electronic equipment to determine the results of a vote.

4. Interpreters

Official interpreters shall be appointed to translate into the official languages of the Congress. They shall be appointed by the Secretary General.

5. Debates

1. Debates on each item on the agenda shall be preceded by a short report:
   (a) by the chair or a member of the Council designated for this purpose;
   (b) by a representative of the committee designated by the Council to give a report;
   (c) by a delegate from the member association that requested the item be included in the agenda.
2. The chair then opens the debate.

6. Speakers

1. Permission to speak is granted in the order in which it is requested. A speaker may not begin speaking until they have obtained permission to do so. Speakers shall address the Congress from the rostrum intended for this purpose.
2. A speaker may not speak for a second time on the same item until all other delegates who have requested permission to speak have spoken.

7. Proposals

1. All proposals shall be submitted in writing. Proposals which are not relevant to the subject under discussion shall not be admitted to the debate.

2. Any amendment shall be drawn up in writing and passed to the chair before being put to the debate.

8. Procedural motions and closing of debates

1. If a procedural motion is made, discussion on the main question shall be suspended until a vote has been taken on the motion.

2. If a motion is made to close the discussion, it shall immediately be put to the vote without debate. If the motion is approved, permission to speak shall only be granted to those member associations who have asked to speak before the vote was taken.

3. The chair shall close the discussion unless the Congress decides otherwise by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast.

9. Votes

1. Voting by secret ballot is prohibited. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted at a Congress held in person. When a Congress is held by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication, voting by correspondence and/or online is permitted.

2. Before each vote, the chair, or the person designated by the chair, shall read the text of the proposal aloud and explain the voting procedure (quorum) to the Congress. If an objection is raised, the Congress shall decide immediately.

3. Votes may be taken by roll call if requested by at least 15 of the member associations present and eligible to vote.

4. No-one is compelled to vote.

5. As a rule, votes are taken by a show of hands (voting cards) or by the use of electronic equipment.

6. Proposals shall be put to the vote in the order in which they are submitted. If there are more than two main proposals, they shall be put to the vote in succession and the delegates may not vote for more than one of the proposals.

7. Alterations to amendments shall be put to the vote before the amendments proper, and amendments before the main proposal.

8. Proposals without a vote against are regarded as having been passed.

9. The chair shall check the result of the vote and announce it to the Congress.

10. No one is permitted to speak during the vote and until after the result has been announced.

10. Elections

1. Elections shall be carried out by secret ballot. They shall either be conducted with ballot papers or by using televoters, electronic vote counters that guarantee the secrecy of the election. Elections of the President shall not be carried out by using televoters. The Secretary General, assisted by the scrutineers, shall conduct the distribution and counting of the ballot papers or the distribution and evaluation of the televoters.

2. The number of ballot papers that have been distributed shall be announced by the chair before the count.

3. If the number of ballot papers returned is equal to or fewer than the number of ballot papers distributed, the election shall be declared valid. If the number returned exceeds that of the ballot papers distributed, the vote shall be declared null and void and another vote shall be taken immediately.

4. The chair shall announce the result of each ballot.

5. The Secretary General shall put the ballot papers that have been collected and counted into envelopes intended for this purpose and seal them immediately. The general secretariat shall keep these envelopes and destroy them 100 days after the end of the Congress.

11. Calculation of majorities

1. The simple majority (more than 50%) shall be calculated for elections, votes and other decisions on the basis of the number of valid ballot papers collected or the number of valid votes cast electronically. Blank ballot papers, invalid votes or electronic votes manipulated in any other way as well as abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the simple majority.

2. The absolute majority (more than 50%) shall be calculated on the basis of the number of member associations present and eligible to vote.

3. If during an election a member association casts two or more votes in support of one candidate on one ballot paper or through an electronic vote counter in an election round, or if during a vote a member association casts two or more votes for the same matter, only the last vote cast shall be considered valid and counted.

12. Enforcement

These Standing Orders of the Congress were adopted by the Congress on 17 May 2024 and come into force immediately after adoption.

17 May 2024

For FIFA

President
Gianni Infantino



Secretary General
Mattias Grafström



FIFA®



FIFA Governance Regulations

JULY 2026

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I.

Introduction and general provisions

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THESE REGULATIONS

These Governance Regulations are issued by the FIFA Council based on the FIFA Statutes and set out FIFA's general principles concerning its structure, internal organisation and the general regime of powers, responsibilities, competencies and elections.

ARTICLE 2: IMPLEMENTATION

These Governance Regulations shall be adhered to and implemented by the FIFA administration, the relevant FIFA bodies and all officials as further set out herein.

ARTICLE 3: ELIGIBILITY CHECKS

All members of the Council (including the President), chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of the standing committees, the independent committees, the expert panels, the normalisation committees and the Football Tribunal, as well as the Secretary General shall be required to fulfil eligibility checks in accordance with Annexe 1 to these regulations prior to their (re-)election or (re)appointment. Eligibility checks are carried out for all other members of the aforementioned committees in the first year of their appointment.

ARTICLE 4: INDEPENDENCE

Specific independence criteria applying to certain members of FIFA bodies are set out in Annexe 3.

II.

Duties, powers, responsibilities and organisation of FIFA bodies and holders of key positions

A. COUNCIL

ARTICLE 5: DUTIES, POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 The Council defines FIFA's mission, strategic direction, policies and values, in particular with regard to the organisation and development of football and all related matters at a worldwide level. In particular, it:

a) approves and issues FIFA regulations;

b) deals with global strategies for football and its political, economic and social status;

c) defines FIFA's overall strategy;

d) exercises general oversight of the activities of the standing committees and the overall management of FIFA;

e) appoints and dismisses the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the standing committees and of the chambers of the Football Tribunal; the Council may remove any member of a standing committee at any time;

f) may decide to establish expert panels or working groups;

g) proposes to the Congress for election the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Appeal Committee and the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee;

h) may decide to set up bureaus and/or sub-committees;

i) appoints and dismisses the Secretary General upon the proposal of the President; the Council may also dismiss the Secretary General without such a proposal;

j) defines the standards, policies and procedures applicable to the awarding of commercial contracts by FIFA;

k) defines the standards, policies and procedures applicable to football development grants;

l) defines the standards, policies and procedures regarding the operational costs of FIFA;

m) defines the standards, policies and procedures regarding all other business- or finance-related matters of FIFA;

n) approves the budget analysed by the Finance Committee to be submitted to the Congress for approval;

o) approves the accounts and annual audited financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements, to be submitted to the Congress for approval;

p) approves the annual report to be submitted to the Congress for approval;

q) decides on the place and dates of the final competitions of FIFA tournaments and the number of teams taking part from each confederation, except for the place of the FIFA World Cup™ and FIFA Women's World Cup™ final competitions;

r) appoints the three representatives of FIFA who shall attend the general assembly of The IFAB in addition to the President; furthermore, it is entitled to direct how the representatives of FIFA shall vote in The IFAB;

s) supports the full participation of women at all levels of football, including in governance and technical roles; and

t) may, under exceptional circumstances and in consultation with the relevant confederation, establish and/or approve the registration of a national or representative team for a competition organised by FIFA when a Member Association is unable to do so.

5.2 The Council determines the number of seats to be assigned to each confederation in the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee and in the judicial bodies, and thereafter submits proposals for the members of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee and the judicial bodies to the general secretariat in due time before the start of the relevant Congress.

5.3 The Council shall deal with all matters relating to FIFA that do not fall within the responsibility of another body. The Council shall not be competent for matters of an executive nature, including daily business and operational matters. Such matters fall under the responsibility of the President and/or the Secretary General.

ARTICLE 6: MEETINGS AND DECISION-MAKING

6.1 The Council shall meet ordinarily at least three times a year.

6.2 The President shall convene the ordinary meetings of the Council at least 14 days in advance, stating the date, time and place of the meeting as well as the agenda items. At least 19 members of the Council may request from the President the convening of an extraordinary meeting. Meetings may be held in person or remotely. Instead of making decisions during a meeting, the Council may pass a circular resolution. Meetings of the Bureau of the Council shall be convened promptly.

6.3 If the President is unable to attend, the longest-serving vice-president shall conduct the meeting as deputy chairperson. If the longest-serving vice-president is prevented from conducting the meeting, the next vice-president in line shall conduct the meeting.

6.4 Decisions are taken by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast. Each member of the Council has one vote. Abstentions are not counted.

6.5 Council meetings and their associated documentation are confidential.

6.6 The minutes of every meeting shall be recorded by the general secretariat.

ARTICLE 7: COUNCIL MEMBERS' DUTIES

7.1 The members of the Council shall participate in the meetings in person.

7.2 Council members shall recuse themselves in cases of conflicts of interest and shall immediately notify the President in cases of potential conflicts of interest.

7.3 Council members shall complete and submit the Related-Party Declaration as further detailed in Annexe 2.

ARTICLE 8: EXPENSES

Expenses of the Council members shall be reimbursed in accordance with the applicable FIFA Compensation, Expenses and Benefits Regulations for Senior Officials.

B. PRESIDENT

ARTICLE 9: CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FIFA

The relationship between FIFA and the President including, in particular, compensation matters, shall be governed by a written contract. The compensation shall be approved by the Compensation Sub-Committee and signed on behalf of FIFA by the Secretary General and a second person having the power to sign.

ARTICLE 10: ROLE, DUTIES, POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

10.1 The President represents FIFA.

10.2 The President chairs the Congress and the Council.

10.3 The President ensures that, in the management of all business, finance or sport-related matters of FIFA, FIFA's objectives, mission, strategic direction, policies and values are sustainably pursued, protected and implemented, and that a positive image of FIFA is fostered. The President shall be guided by the following principles:

a) integrity, ethics and fair play;

b) human rights and humanitarian values;

c) non-discrimination, gender equality, equal treatment in general, and the stance against racism;

d) solidarity and mutual respect in football, as well as in society in general; and

e) promoting friendly and peaceful relations within FIFA, as well as in society in general for humanitarian reasons.

10.4 The President shall have joint powers of signature (with one other person).

10.5 The President has, in particular, the following specific duties:

a) to propose FIFA's overall strategy to the Council, ensure that FIFA's overall strategy is implemented and appraise the Secretary General's performance;

b) to prepare the business of the Council and the Congress;

c) to convene meetings of the Bureau of the Council and notify the Council immediately of the decisions passed by the Bureau of the Council;

d) to propose the appointment or dismissal of the Secretary General; and

e) to engage the members of the President's Office and terminate their employment.

10.6 The President may delegate certain tasks to the Secretary General or individual members of the Council or committees, or other individuals, who shall report to the President for such delegated tasks.

C. SECRETARY GENERAL

ARTICLE 11: CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH FIFA

The Secretary General shall be employed by FIFA on the basis of a written employment agreement. The employment contract of the Secretary General shall be signed on behalf of FIFA by the President and a second person having power to sign.

ARTICLE 12: ROLE, DUTIES, POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

12.1 The Secretary General is responsible for the organisation, management and direction of the general secretariat. The Secretary General chairs and heads the Management Board.

12.2 The Secretary General shall have joint powers of signature (with one other person).

12.3 The main duties of the Secretary General are as follows:

a) to propose targets for the various divisions in accordance with FIFA's overall strategy as determined by the President and the Council;

b) to approve the organisational structures in each division or set up new divisions;

c) to implement decisions passed by the FIFA bodies under the supervision of the President;

d) to prepare the Congress;

e) to appoint and/or dismiss their deputies and chief officers of FIFA;

f) to grant limited signatory rights for FIFA, where necessary;

g) to issue guidelines and directives for all FIFA employees;

h) to propose the salary structure (including bonuses), as well as FIFA's social benefits to the President for approval;

i) to issue guidelines concerning procurement;

j) to approve the creation of FIFA subsidiaries and amendments to their structure, as well as acquiring participations and disposal of holdings in companies;

k) to determine persons for representation in subsidiaries and companies in which FIFA has a stake;

l) to organise the accounting, financial control and financial planning system required for the management of FIFA according to industry standards;

m) to facilitate relations with the confederations, member associations and stakeholders;

n) to compile the minutes for the meetings of the Congress, the Council and the standing committees; and

o) to propose candidates for the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the standing committees.

12.4 The Secretary General may delegate duties to one of their deputies or to the chief officers of the various divisions for a certain period, in particular, the Secretary General may delegate mandatory reporting and minutes-taking of the standing committees.

12.5 The Secretary General shall consult with the President concerning major decisions, such as the ones foreseen in this article.

12.6 The Secretary General shall ensure that the overall strategy is reflected in FIFA's day-to-day business.

ARTICLE 13: MANAGEMENT BOARD

13.1 The Management Board consists of the Secretary General, who chairs the Management Board, and the following members: the deputy or deputies and the chief officers. The President may also attend the Management Board meetings.

13.2 Meetings of the Management Board are held at regular intervals and/or as necessary.

13.3 The duties and responsibilities of the Management Board shall be set by the Secretary General.

13.4 The members of the Management Board shall have joint powers of signature (with one other person).

ARTICLE 14: DEPUTY/-IES AND CHIEF OFFICERS

14.1 The deputy/-ies and chief officers report to the Secretary General.

14.2 The duties and responsibilities of the deputy/-ies and the chief officers, including specific reporting lines, are set by the Secretary General.

D. STANDING COMMITTEES

GENERAL RULES

ARTICLE 15: ROLE AND DUTIES

Standing committees shall advise and assist the Council and the general secretariat in their respective fields of function.

ARTICLE 16: COMPOSITION AND TERM OF OFFICE

16.1 Unless stipulated otherwise, each standing committee shall consist of a chairperson, deputy chairperson and the necessary members in order to ensure appropriate representation, as well as sufficient and suitably diverse expertise for the proper functioning of each standing committee. Members of the FIFA Council may be appointed as specific representatives of that body to individual standing committees at the proposal of the FIFA President.

16.2 The committee shall contain members knowledgeable and experienced in the respective field of function of the committee to which they are appointed.

16.3 Committee members are appointed for a term of office of four years. Committee members may be removed by the Council on proposal of the proposing entity or at its discretion at any time. When a seat on a standing committee becomes vacant, the Council may, at any time, appoint a replacement for the remaining term of office.

ARTICLE 17: ORGANISATION

17.1 The Secretary General shall appoint an administrator for each standing committee from the FIFA administration who is responsible, together with the chairperson, for the preparation and organisation of the meetings.

17.2 The chairperson shall coordinate meeting dates with the general secretariat. Meetings may be held in person or remotely.

17.3 The chairperson shall draw up the agenda in conjunction with the general secretariat.

17.4 A meeting schedule for the year shall be drawn up by the general secretariat, which, as a general principle, and in the interest of organisational, environmental and financial optimisation and sustainability, shall contain no more than one in-person meeting and one virtual meeting of each committee, and any sub-committees or working groups annually, with any additional meetings that are deemed necessary taking place by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication.

17.5 The committee members shall take part in the meetings in person. Recurring unexcused failure to attend committee meetings is regarded as a reason for relieving members of their duties.

ARTICLE 18: DECISION-MAKING

18.1 If a vote is needed on any matter, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is required for the decision to be adopted. Each member of the committee has one vote. Votes are conducted openly. The chairperson (or where absent, the deputy) holds the casting vote. Abstentions are not counted.

18.2 Decisions may be passed without meeting by circular resolution, if required.

18.3 Except for the specific duties otherwise stipulated in the FIFA Statutes or in these regulations, standing committees shall not be competent for matters of an executive nature, including daily business and operational matters.

18.4 Committee meetings and their associated documentation are confidential.

ARTICLE 19: BUREAU

19.1 The chairperson may set up a bureau to settle urgent or specific matters between its meetings.

19.2 Each bureau shall be composed of the chairperson (or deputy chairperson if the chairperson is unable to take part or if they delegate the task to the deputy) and at least two ordinary members appointed by the chairperson (or deputy chairperson).

19.3 A bureau decides by a simple majority (more than 50%) of all its members with the chairperson or deputy chairperson holding the casting vote. Abstentions are not counted.

19.4 All decisions taken by a bureau shall be ratified by the respective committee at its next meeting.

SPECIFIC RULES FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES

ARTICLE 20: FINANCE COMMITTEE

20.1 Composition

a) The Finance Committee shall consist of at least three members and not more than the necessary number, all of whom must be qualified to deal with financial matters.

b) No fewer than half of the committee's members shall fulfil the independence criteria defined in Annexe 3 to these regulations.

20.2 The Finance Committee:

a) advises on and assists with the financial management of FIFA;

b) analyses and prepares FIFA's budget to be submitted to the Council for approval;

c) analyses and prepares the accounts and consolidated financial statements to be submitted to the Council;

d) supervises the implementation of policies, rules and guidelines regarding FIFA's overall strategy in financial and asset management matters; and

e) advises on and assists with any other relevant matters relating to FIFA's finances, except for operational matters.

ARTICLE 21: DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Development Committee:

a) advises on and assists with the implementation of FIFA's global development programmes, and any other matters related to FIFA's development activity, as necessary;

b) supervises the implementation of regulations for FIFA development programmes and guidelines for the specific support provided to the beneficiaries;

c) reviews and approves the specific project applications for the use of FIFA development funds and the contracts of agreed objectives presented by the member associations and confederations together with the general secretariat;

d) monitors the development and implementation of capacity-building support by the FIFA administration; and

e) proposes new development activities and addresses the related budget matters, draws up guidelines and regulations on development programmes, approves the thematic focus, types of activity and budget allocation per continent and/or per member association, and instructs the administration on the execution of the Development Committee's decisions.

ARTICLE 22: COMPETITIONS COMMITTEES

22.1 The competitions committees:

a) oversee the organisation of FIFA competitions in compliance with the provisions of the respective competition regulations, as well as the relevant hosting documents and hosting requirements;

b) advise and assist regarding possible modifications to existing competitions, as well as the possible introduction of any new competitions; and

c) advise on and assist with any other relevant FIFA competitions-related matters.

22.2 The Men's National Team Competitions Committee deals with matters relating to:

a) the FIFA World Cup™;

b) the FIFA Arab Cup™;

c) the FIFA Series™; and

d) any other senior men's national-team competition organised by FIFA.

22.3 The Women's National Team Competitions Committee deals with matters relating to:

a) the FIFA Women's World Cup™; and

b) any other senior women's national-team competition organised by FIFA.

22.4 The Men's Club Competitions Committee deals with matters relating to:

a) the FIFA Club World Cup™;

b) the FIFA Intercontinental Cup™ (replacing the previous FIFA Club World Cup); and

c) any other club competition for men organised by FIFA (senior or youth).

22.5 The Women's Club Competitions Committee deals with matters relating to:

a) the FIFA Women's Club World Cup™; and

b) any other club competition for women organised by FIFA (senior or youth).

22.6 The Olympic Football Committee deals with matters relating to:

a) the Men's Olympic Football Tournament;

b) the Women's Olympic Football Tournament;

c) the Men's Youth Olympic Futsal Tournament;

d) the Women's Youth Olympic Futsal Tournament; and

e) any other matter related to the role of football and all its disciplines in the Olympic Games.

22.7 The Youth Boys' Competitions Committee deals with matters relating to:

a) the FIFA U-17 World Cup™;

b) the FIFA U-20 World Cup™; and

c) any other matter related to the organisation and development of youth football competitions for boys by FIFA generally.

22.8 The Youth Girls' Competitions Committee deals with matters relating to:

a) the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup™;

b) the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup™; and

c) any other matter related to the organisation and development of youth football competitions for girls by FIFA generally.

22.9 The Futsal Committee deals with matters relating to:

a) the FIFA Futsal World Cup™;

b) the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup™;

c) the organisation of FIFA futsal competitions; and

d) the development of futsal as a discipline generally.

22.10 The Beach Soccer Committee deals with any matter relating to:

a) the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup™;

b) the organisation of FIFA beach soccer competitions; and

c) the development of beach soccer as a discipline generally.

ARTICLE 23: MEN'S FOOTBALL STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE

The Men's Football Stakeholders Committee:

a) advises on and assists with all matters relating to men's professional football, particularly the structure of the game and the relationship between clubs, players, leagues, member associations, confederations, football fans and FIFA, as well as with issues relating to the interests of men's club football worldwide;

b) makes recommendations and proposals to be submitted to the Council concerning the structural development of men's professional football;

c) addresses fair-play matters, promotes the concept of fair play, promotes gender equality in football and fights discrimination in football worldwide;

d) reviews and recommends, as necessary, updates to the Men's International Match Calendar; and

e) advises on and assists with any other relevant men's professional football-related matters.

ARTICLE 24: WOMEN'S FOOTBALL STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE

The Women's Football Stakeholders Committee:

a) advises on and assists with all matters relating to women's professional football, particularly the structure of the game and the relationship between clubs, players, leagues, member associations, confederations, football fans and FIFA, as well as with issues relating to the interests of women's club football worldwide;

b) makes recommendations and proposals to be submitted to the Council concerning the structural development of women's football;

c) addresses fair-play matters, promotes the concept of fair play, promotes gender equality in football and fights discrimination in football worldwide;

d) reviews and recommends, as necessary, updates to the Women's International Match Calendar; and

e) advises on and assists with any other relevant women's professional football-related matters.

ARTICLE 25: MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS COMMITTEE

The Member Associations Committee:

a) advises on and assists with all governance matters impacting the member associations;

b) advises the member associations on matters relating to good governance and best-practice principles within their structures;

c) examines any requests from member associations affected by exceptional circumstances, for presentation to the Council;

d) submits to the Council procedures for the affiliation of any association applying for membership of FIFA and processes all the applications received in accordance with the applicable provisions of the FIFA Statutes and regulations;

e) investigates any governance-related or regulatory issues arising in a member association and proposes suitable measures or actions to the Council to resolve the situation;

f) monitors the evolution of statutes and regulations of the member associations; and

g) advises on and assists with any other relevant governance-related member association matters.

ARTICLE 26: REFEREES COMMITTEE

The Referees Committee:

a) advises on and assists with all matters relating to refereeing;

b) compiles a list of match officials eligible to officiate at international matches from among the nominations submitted by member associations;

c) appoints match officials for matches in competitions organised by FIFA or for any other tournaments, whenever requested to do so;

d) organises courses for match officials, referee instructors and referee observers;

e) ensures that each member association has a properly constituted referees committee and that this committee functions properly;

f) advises and assists the Council regarding matters related to the Laws of the Game for football in all its disciplines; and

g) advises on and assists with any other relevant refereeing-related matters.

ARTICLE 27: MEDICAL COMMITTEE

The Medical Committee:

a) advises on and assists with all matters relating to sports medicine;

b) draws up medical guidelines for coaches, players, referees and assistant referees;

c) draws up instructions regarding medical services at international matches and tournaments;

d) draws up guidelines for preventing injury and improving treatment;

e) advises on anti-doping matters; and

f) advises on and assists with any other relevant medical-related matters not explicitly covered by other committees or bodies.

ARTICLE 28: MEN'S PLAYERS COMMITTEE

The Men's Players Committee:

a) advises on and assists with player welfare and other player-related matters;

b) considers player-related aspects related to the organisation and development of the men's game;

c) may advise other bodies regarding potential amendments to the Laws of the Game; and

d) advises on and assists with any other relevant men's player-related matters not explicitly covered by other committees or bodies.

ARTICLE 29: WOMEN'S PLAYERS COMMITTEE

The Women's Players Committee:

a) advises on and assists with player welfare and other player-related matters, which have an impact on women footballers;

b) considers player-related aspects related to the organisation and development of the women's game;

c) may advise other bodies regarding potential amendments to the Laws of the Game; and

d) advises on and assists with any other relevant women's player-related matters not explicitly covered by other committees or bodies.

ARTICLE 30: MEN'S COACHES COMMITTEE

The Men's Coaches Committee:

a) advises and assists member associations regarding coach education matters with an emphasis on men's football;

b) addresses the matter of coach licensing for men's football;

c) facilitates access to innovative educational programmes dedicated to coaches and coach educators for men's football in each of FIFA's member associations; and

d) advises on and assists with any other relevant coach-related matters for men's football not explicitly covered by other committees or bodies.

ARTICLE 31: WOMEN'S COACHES COMMITTEE

The Women's Coaches Committee:

a) advises and assists member associations regarding coach education matters with an emphasis on women's football;

b) addresses the matter of coach licensing for women's football;

c) facilitates access to innovative educational programmes dedicated to coaches and coach educators for women's football in each of FIFA's member associations; and

d) advises on and assists with any other relevant coach-related matters for women's football not explicitly covered by other committees or bodies.

ARTICLE 32: FANS COMMITTEE

The Fans Committee:

a) advises on and assists with all matters related to the interests of fans, particularly the sustainable development of the game globally, stadium safety, ticketing and tackling key social issues;

b) safeguards and improves the fan experience at FIFA competitions;

c) facilitates effective dialogue with fans aimed at improving the relationship between fans and other stakeholders within the game; and

d) advises on and assists with any other relevant fan-related matters not explicitly covered by other committees or bodies.

ARTICLE 33: TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Technical Development Committee:

a) advises on and assists with all matters related to talent development, particularly the FIFA Talent Development Scheme and establishing talent development pathways;

b) oversees the proper constitution of technical departments and talent development programmes in each member association;

c) promotes the education of technical leaders;

d) analyses how the game is progressing with regard to team performances at FIFA competitions; and

e) advises on and assists with any other relevant technical development-related matters not explicitly covered by other committees or bodies.

ARTICLE 34: WOMEN'S FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Women's Football Development Committee:

a) advises on and assists with all matters related to women's football development, particularly the FIFA Women's Football Strategy;

b) assists in drawing up and implementing the FIFA Women's Development Programme;

c) promotes the development of women's football and the full participation of women at all levels of football;

d) analyses the women's football landscape with the aim of guiding key decisions on the future of the women's game; and

e) advises on and assists with any other relevant women's football-related matters.

ARTICLE 35: GRASSROOTS AND AMATEUR FOOTBALL COMMITTEE

The Grassroots and Amateur Football Committee:

a) advises on and assists with regard to all grassroots and amateur football initiatives;

b) assists in ensuring that as many participation opportunities exist as possible across the game, regardless of the level at which it is played and regardless of gender, age or ability;

c) assists in drawing up grassroots programmes aimed at maintaining the popularity of football as a recreational activity;

d) considers the amateur football landscape and its further development; and

e) advises on and assists with any other relevant grassroots and amateur football-related matters.

ARTICLE 36: INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Institutional Relations Committee:

a) advises on and assists with relations with other international sporting and non-sporting institutions;

b) oversees a wide range of programmes and initiatives with global institutions aimed at delivering important social messages around relevant causes;

c) fosters relations with relevant international sporting and non-sporting institutions; and

d) advises on and assists with any other relevant institutional relations-related matters.

ARTICLE 37: LEGAL COMMITTEE

The Legal Committee:

a) advises on and assists with football-related legal issues and FIFA's legal obligations;

b) provides legal advice on the FIFA Statutes and all of FIFA's rules and regulations; and

c) provides legal advice on any disputes involving FIFA.

ARTICLE 38: STADIUM AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

The Stadium and Security Committee:

a) advises on and assists with all aspects concerning stadiums and security at football matches;

b) monitors and assesses stadiums to be used for FIFA competitions;

c) proposes guidelines and recommendations relating to stadium and safety requirements;

d) promotes the safe development of football infrastructure; and

e) advises on and assists with any other relevant stadium and security-related matters.

ARTICLE 39: ANTI-RACISM AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE

The Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Committee:

a) advises on and assists with measures aimed at combating racism and discrimination in football;

b) oversees anti-racism and anti-discrimination awareness, action and education campaigns;

c) submits recommendations to assist and support member associations in the fight against racism and discrimination; and

d) advises on and assists with any other relevant anti-racism and anti-discrimination-related matters.

ARTICLE 40: FOOTBALL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE

The Football Social Responsibility Committee:

a) advises on and assists with all matters related to football social responsibility;

b) oversees initiatives aimed at promoting a fairer, more equal society through football;

c) proposes joint projects with United Nations and international agencies as well as international and intergovernmental organisations to address global challenges; and

d) advises on and assists with any other relevant football social responsibility-related matters.

ARTICLE 41: FOOTBALL TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE

The Football Technology, Innovation and Digital Transformation Committee:

a) advises on and assists in harnessing technology to improve the game through research, development and innovation with the aim of enhancing the football experience on and off the pitch;

b) explores both existing and emerging technologies to positively impact the game, especially in order to help referees to make correct decisions;

c) oversees FIFA's football technology and innovation programmes;

d) submits recommendations to develop FIFA's digital footprint; and

e) advises on and assists with any other relevant matters relating to football technology, innovation and digital transformation not explicitly covered by other committees or bodies.

ARTICLE 42: COMMERCIAL AND MARKETING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Commercial and Marketing Advisory Committee:

a) advises on and assists in defining the commercial and marketing strategy of FIFA;

b) makes recommendations on increasing commercial revenue streams for FIFA and the member associations; and

c) advises on and assists with any other relevant commercial and marketing-related matters.

ARTICLE 43: MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Media and Communications Committee:

a) advises on and assists in defining the media and communications strategy of FIFA;

b) advises on FIFA publications;

c) oversees the policy for media activities and accreditation at FIFA tournaments and events; and

d) advises on and assists with any other relevant media and communication matters.

ARTICLE 44: FOOTBALL ESPORT COMMITTEE

The Football Esport Committee:

a) oversees the organisation of FIFA esport competitions in compliance with the provisions of the respective competition regulations;

b) advises on and assists with possible modifications to existing competitions, as well as the possible introduction of any new competitions; and

c) advises on and assists with any other relevant FIFA esport-related matters.

ARTICLE 45: FUTURE OF FOOTBALL COMMITTEE

The Future of Football Committee:

a) advises on and assists in developing the football of the future;

b) explores the possible impact of proposed changes to the future of football, particularly with regard to revised and new competition formats;

c) makes recommendations regarding the structures of club and national-team competitions within the international match calendars for women's and men's football; and

d) advises on and assists with any other relevant matters relating to the future of football not explicitly covered by other committees or bodies.

ARTICLE 46: LAWS OF THE GAME COMMITTEE

The Laws of the Game Committee:

a) advises and assists the Referees Committee regarding the Laws of the Game;

b) may make representations to and interact with the IFAB regarding potential trials and potential amendments to the Laws of the Game in conjunction with the Referees Committee; and

c) advises on and assists with any other relevant matters relating to the Laws of the Game not explicitly covered by other committees or bodies.

E. EXPERT PANELS

ARTICLE 47: ROLE AND DUTIES

Expert panels may be appointed to carry out special technical duties in specific matters of strategic interest relevant to global football. The role, responsibility and function of an expert panel shall be determined by the President, Secretary General or FIFA Council.

ARTICLE 48: ORGANISATION

48.1 In principle, the expert panels will work under the guidance of the general secretariat unless stipulated otherwise. The general secretariat is responsible for the preparation and organisation of the meetings.

48.2 Whenever possible, meetings of the expert panels shall take place by teleconference, by videoconference or by another means of communication.

F. ANNUAL MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS CONFERENCE

ARTICLE 49: FIFA SUMMITS

49.1 The annual member associations conference, also called the FIFA summit, is organised under the direction of the FIFA President at least once a year.

49.2 The presidents of each member association shall be invited. They may be accompanied by their top executives, as required and subject to availabilities at the venue. The FIFA President may invite other participants depending on the topic.

49.3 The FIFA summits are dedicated to strategic discussions on issues of high relevance for the football world as provided for in the FIFA Statutes.

49.4 Conclusions reached at the FIFA summits shall constitute guidance for the FIFA Council and the FIFA Congress.

G. INDEPENDENT COMMITTEES

GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 50: ROLE AND DUTIES

50.1 In addition to the provisions of the FIFA Statutes, the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee has specific duties with regard to operational matters, financial reporting matters and governance, compliance and risk-management matters.

50.2 With regard to operational matters, the specific duties of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee are to:

a) monitor the internal control environment;

b) review the external auditors' reports in order to ensure that appropriate action is taken if shortcomings have been detected in internal controls or procedures;

c) review, at least annually, tax matters, including the status of income tax reserves and governmental tax audits and developments in this area; and

d) review the Related-Party Declarations submitted by the members of the Council.

50.3 With regard to financial reporting matters, the specific duties of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee are to:

a) review major issues regarding accounting policies and financial statement presentations, including any significant changes or applications of accounting principles;

b) provide the Finance Committee and the Council with an opinion on the approval of the financial statements;

c) monitor and review related-party transactions at least annually;

d) review the reports of the yearly independent audits of the FIFA member associations; and

e) review the general principles regarding compensation, expenses and benefits of FIFA employees and approve the FIFA Compensation, Expenses and Benefits Regulations for Senior Officials as drawn up by the Compensation Sub-Committee.

50.4 With regard to governance, compliance and risk-management matters, the specific duties of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee are to:

a) monitor material changes to FIFA's governance-related regulations, as well as the introduction of new such regulations;

b) monitor material changes to FIFA's other relevant regulations, as well as the introduction of new such regulations;

c) review the status of FIFA's compliance with the law and FIFA's rules and regulations relating to compliance, as well as issuing any relevant guidelines;

d) annually review the effectiveness of FIFA's internal control system, including the internal audit and risk management processes;

e) approve the annual risk-based internal audit plan and the internal audit charter;

f) review reports directly submitted by the relevant Chief Officer;

g) review FIFA employees' compliance with the law and all relevant FIFA rules and regulations;

h) regularly evaluate the effectiveness of FIFA's governance, risk management and control processes based on the results of internal audits;

i) handle cases of alleged non-compliance; and

j) review any major legislative and regulatory developments that may have a significant impact on FIFA.

50.5 The chairperson of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall:

a) periodically meet separately with the chief officers and the external auditors as appropriate; and

b) annually report to the Congress and inform the President and the Council on the committee's work.

50.6 The Congress may delegate further duties to the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee at any time.

ARTICLE 51: COMPOSITION AND TERM OF OFFICE

51.1 The composition and term of office of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee are as defined in the FIFA Statutes.

51.2 The deputy chairperson and members of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall consult with the chairperson before accepting membership on the audit committee of any other organisation or company.

ARTICLE 52: ORGANISATION

Article 17 of these regulations shall also apply with regard to the organisation of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee and the bodies established under article 54 of these regulations.

ARTICLE 53: DECISION-MAKING

Article 18 of these regulations shall also apply with regard to the decision-making of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee and its sub-committees and the bodies established under article 54 of these regulations.

ARTICLE 54: COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

In accordance with the FIFA Statutes, the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall establish:

a) the Review Committee;

b) the Human Rights and Sustainability Sub-Committee; and

c) the Compensation Sub-Committee.

ARTICLE 55: REVIEW COMMITTEE

55.1 The Review Committee shall comprise the chairperson of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee and, based on the chairperson's proposal, two additional members appointed by the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee, who shall remain members of the plenary committee.

55.2 The Review Committee shall, in particular:

a) conduct, in accordance with Annexe 1, the eligibility checks as required by these regulations, except for the candidates for, or holders of, positions on the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee; and

b) conduct the independence reviews with regard to the candidates for, or holders of, the positions requiring such independence, except for the candidates for, or holders of, positions on the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee itself.

ARTICLE 56: HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE

56.1 The Human Rights and Sustainability Sub-Committee shall, based on the chairperson's proposal, be composed of one or more additional members appointed by the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee, who shall remain members of the plenary committee. Additional independent experts in these fields may be consulted to advise the sub-committee for specific agenda items during meetings.

56.2 The Human Rights and Sustainability Sub-Committee shall advise the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee on matters relating to human rights, safeguarding and child protection, and sustainable events.

ARTICLE 57: COMPENSATION SUB-COMMITTEE

57.1 The Compensation Sub-Committee shall comprise the chairperson of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee and two independent members appointed by the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee on proposal of its chairperson.

57.2 The Compensation Sub-Committee shall, in particular:

a) define and determine the compensation of the FIFA President, the members of the Council and the FIFA Secretary General and any other person concerned; and

b) monitor compliance with the Compensation Rules.

ARTICLE 58: JUDICIAL BODIES

58.1 The judicial bodies are:

a) the Disciplinary Committee;

b) the Ethics Committee; and

c) the Appeal Committee.

58.2 The composition, powers and responsibilities as well as the proceedings of the FIFA judicial bodies are set forth in the FIFA Statutes, the FIFA Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Code of Ethics.

58.3 Appropriate funding from FIFA shall be provided for payment of any outside counsel, experts or advisers to be engaged and for covering any ordinary administrative expenses of the judicial bodies that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out their duties. The expenses of the individual members of the judicial bodies shall be reimbursed in accordance with the applicable FIFA Compensation, Expenses and Benefits Regulations for Senior Officials.

58.4 According to the FIFA Statutes, candidates for any positions as members of the judicial bodies shall be subject to eligibility checks in accordance with Annexe 1 to these regulations. The incumbent members of the judicial bodies shall, prior to re-election or extension of the mandate, be subject to eligibility reviews.

58.5 Candidates for the offices of chairperson, deputy chairperson or member of the Disciplinary Committee, of each of the two chambers of the Ethics Committee and of the Appeal Committee shall fulfil the independence criteria defined in Annexe 3.

58.6 The incumbent chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Disciplinary Committee, of each of the two chambers of the Ethics Committee and of the Appeal Committee shall, at least prior to re-election or extension of the mandate, be subject to independence reviews.

III.

Football Tribunal and Global Social Dialogue Platform for Professional Football

ARTICLE 59: FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL

59.1 The Football Tribunal shall consist of three chambers:

a) the Dispute Resolution Chamber;

b) the Players' Status Chamber; and

c) the Agents Chamber.

59.2 The composition, powers and responsibilities as well as the proceedings of the Football Tribunal are set forth in the FIFA Statutes and the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal. The Football Tribunal is competent to pass decisions on specific football-related disputes and regulatory applications in accordance with the applicable regulations.

59.3 Candidates for any positions as members of the Football Tribunal shall be subject to eligibility checks in accordance with Annexe 1 to these regulations. The incumbent members of the Football Tribunal shall, at least prior to re-election or extension of the mandate, be subject to eligibility reviews.

ARTICLE 59BIS: GLOBAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE PLATFORM FOR PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

59bis.1 FIFA, in agreement with FIFPRO, European Football Clubs (EFC) and the World Leagues Association (WLA) has established the Global Social Dialogue Platform for Professional Football (the "Global Social Dialogue Platform"). FIFPRO, WLA and EFC are recognised as the global social partners of the professional football sector (the "social partners"), in particular for the purposes of the Global Social Dialogue Platform.

59bis.2 FIFA administers and chairs the Global Social Dialogue Platform. FIFA participates in the work and activities of the Global Social Dialogue Platform in a coordinating and steering role, including by providing logistical and secretarial support and preparing discussion papers and draft regulatory proposals.

59bis.3 Decisions, recommendations and agreements adopted within the framework of the Global Social Dialogue Platform, including those relating to its composition and functioning, are adopted by consensus, understood as the unanimous agreement of the social partners and FIFA.

59bis.4 Where such consensus is reached between the social partners, FIFA shall take the necessary steps to give effect to the agreed outcomes within its regulatory framework. FIFA may only decline to implement an agreed outcome where it can demonstrate that doing so would either be manifestly incompatible with its statutory obligations, or would materially breach its mandatory legal obligations, or would create unreasonable financial or operational burdens on FIFA, or would, in FIFA's reasonable assessment, expose FIFA to legal risks. In such case, FIFA shall provide a duly reasoned justification to the social partners. In the absence of such justification, FIFA shall proceed with the ratification of the agreed amendment(s). In the absence of consensus, the existing regulatory framework shall remain in place.

59bis.5 The Global Social Dialogue Platform operates through dedicated workstreams, including in particular but not limited to:

a) Transfer system and regulatory matters (the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players).

b) Domestic transfer systems and social dialogue support.

c) Player welfare and occupational health and safety standards.

The addition of any new workstream that may require FIFA to make changes to its regulatory framework requires the consent of FIFA.

59bis.6 FIFA and the social partners shall jointly adopt more detailed rules of procedure governing the Global Social Dialogue Platform.

IV.

Election of the President

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 60: DEFINITIONS

Unless indicated otherwise, terms used in this section that correspond to terms included in the Definitions section of the FIFA Statutes shall be understood as described there.

ARTICLE 61: SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS SECTION

This section governs:

a) the election for the position of President; and

b) the special duties and competences of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee in this regard.

ARTICLE 62: SCOPE OF APPLICATION

The provisions of this section shall apply to all bodies of FIFA, the confederations, member associations, officials and candidates involved or participating in the election for the position of President.

ARTICLE 63: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Any election for the position of President shall be conducted in accordance with the fundamental principles of FIFA as laid down in the FIFA Statutes and the FIFA Code of Ethics, such as democracy, separation of powers, transparency and openness.

ARTICLE 64: CALLING ELECTIONS

64.1 Implementation of the call

A FIFA presidential election shall be called by the Council in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Statutes and the pertinent FIFA regulations before a Congress and shall be included in the agenda of the Congress.

64.2 Content of the call

The call for election shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

a) the electoral period, which shall last from the opening of the Congress taking place before the Congress during which the election will take place, until the end of the latter; and

b) the electoral calendar.

64.3 Announcing the call

The call shall be sent to the FIFA member associations and to the confederations. It shall also be published on the official FIFA website.

ARTICLE 65: CANDIDATES

65.1 Candidates within the meaning of these regulations are all individuals who are proposed by FIFA member associations as a candidate for the office of President, as from the moment that those persons are proposed in accordance with the FIFA Statutes and article 68 of these regulations.

65.2 In addition, candidates for the FIFA presidency are all individuals who, irrespective of whether they have already been proposed as a candidate, declare themselves to be candidates or potential candidates for the position of President. If an individual engages in campaign or similar activities that give the appearance that the individual is a candidate, the electoral committee shall set a deadline of ten days for said individual to formally state, in writing, whether there is an intention of becoming a candidate. If the individual responds in the affirmative, the individual will be subject to these regulations from the time of the relevant declaration onwards. This shall also apply for the incumbent President. Notwithstanding this, in order to be eligible for admission as a candidate, the individual concerned must still be proposed as a candidate in accordance with the FIFA Statutes.

ARTICLE 66: CANDIDATURES

66.1 Candidatures and electoral campaigns shall be carried out by the candidates in a fair and reputable manner and, more generally, in a spirit of respect for fundamental ethical principles and FIFA regulations.

66.2 Candidates shall conduct all campaigns with dignity and moderation and with respect for any other candidate(s), for FIFA itself and for its member associations.

66.3 Candidates shall refrain from carrying out any electoral campaigning prior to the start of the electoral period. Electoral campaigning shall be understood, for the purposes of these regulations, as all activities undertaken by candidates or those working for them with the aim of canvassing votes.

66.4 Candidates within the meaning of article 65 of these regulations acknowledge and submit themselves to the relevant electoral calendar.

66.5 Candidates who hold official positions within FIFA, the confederations, the FIFA member associations and/or any other body in association football are permitted to remain in office during the election campaign.

ARTICLE 67: ELIGIBILITY

67.1 Candidates for the office of President must meet the following requirements:

a) the candidate shall have played an active role in association football (e.g. as a player or an official within FIFA, a confederation or an association, etc.) for two of the last five years before being proposed as a candidate and must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Review Committee;

b) the candidate shall have been proposed by a member association in accordance with the FIFA Statutes and article 68 of these regulations; and

c) the candidate shall present declarations of support from at least five member associations. Being proposed as a candidate by a member association shall be understood as a declaration of support. Each member association may only present a declaration of support for one person. If a member association presents declarations of support for more than one person, all of its declarations shall become invalid.

67.2 Member associations must notify the FIFA general secretariat, in writing, of a candidature for the office of President within the deadline stipulated in the FIFA Statutes.

ARTICLE 68: SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATURES

68.1 Candidatures for the office of President shall be proposed by member associations by the deadline specified in the FIFA Statutes, by a written proposal submission signed by the interested party and addressed to the FIFA general secretariat, including the candidate's identification details and declarations of support from at least five member associations.

68.2 The FIFA general secretariat shall forward all candidatures without any undue delay to the electoral committee for examination and for passing a decision on admission of the candidate.

ARTICLE 69: CALCULATION OF DEADLINES

The deadlines and time frames contained in these regulations shall be understood to refer to calendar days. A deadline shall be met if the respective submission is received by FIFA in the required format on the last day of the time limit/deadline by midnight (time zone at the legal domicile and headquarters of FIFA).

ARTICLE 70: MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Any matters not provided for in this section of these regulations shall be dealt with by the FIFA Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee.

B. PROPOSAL AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDATURES

ARTICLE 71: ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDATURES

71.1 Upon receipt of the proposed candidatures, the Review Committee or the electoral committee shall carry out in a timely manner the eligibility check in accordance with Annexe 1 and within the deadline specified in article 69 of these regulations and review the candidatures.

71.2 Upon receipt of the results of the eligibility checks carried out by the Review Committee, the electoral committee shall announce all candidatures it has admitted to the general secretariat.

ELECTION FORMAT

ARTICLE 72: TIME AND PLACE OF ELECTION

The President shall be elected by the Congress for a term of office of four years in the year following a FIFA World Cup. No person may serve as President for more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not). Previous terms served as a vice-president or as a member of the Council shall not be considered in determining the term limits of a President.

ARTICLE 73: SECRET VOTE

73.1 Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

73.2 The election of the President shall be conducted by means of ballot papers (cf. art. 10 par. 1 of the Standing Orders of the Congress).

73.3 Notwithstanding the above, where there is only one candidate, the Congress may elect the President by acclamation.

ARTICLE 74: BALLOT PAPERS

74.1 The ballot papers shall conform to the official model established by the electoral committee, and any vote cast using a different ballot paper shall be deemed invalid.

74.2 The number of ballot papers that have been distributed shall be announced by the chairperson of the Congress before the count (cf. art. 10 par. 2 of the Standing Orders of the Congress).

74.3 If the number of ballot papers returned is equal to or fewer than the number of ballot papers distributed, the election shall be declared valid. If the number returned exceeds that of the ballot papers distributed, the vote shall be declared null and void and another vote shall be taken immediately (cf. art. 10 par. 3 of the Standing Orders of the Congress).

74.4 The ballot papers shall contain the name(s) of the admitted candidate(s), and the voters must mark one candidate only. Ballot papers on which more than one candidate is marked or on which no candidate is marked shall be deemed invalid.

ARTICLE 75: SCRUTINEERS

At the beginning of the session, the Congress shall appoint an adequate number of scrutineers (cf. art. 3 of the Standing Orders of the Congress). The Secretary General, assisted by the scrutineers, shall conduct the distribution and counting of the ballot papers (cf. art. 10 par. 1 of the Standing Orders of the Congress) and be responsible for ensuring that the process is properly documented.

ARTICLE 76: ELECTION

76.1 Each member association has one vote in the election of the President.

76.2 Before the voting is opened, the candidates shall each have the opportunity to present their programme to the Congress. The electoral committee shall determine the length of time that each candidate is allowed to speak.

76.3 For the election of the President, where there are two candidates, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is necessary. If there are more than two candidates for the election of the President, two thirds of the votes of the member associations present and eligible to vote are necessary in the first ballot. As from the second ballot, whoever obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated until only two candidates are left. Where there is only one candidate, the Congress may elect the President by acclamation.

ARTICLE 77: COUNTING AND DECLARING THE RESULTS

77.1 The counting and declaring of the results shall take place in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress.

77.2 Any person elected as President shall state whether or not the election is accepted immediately after such election. In the affirmative, the mandate shall begin after the end of the Congress that has elected that President.

ARTICLE 78: SAFEKEEPING OF BALLOT PAPERS

The Secretary General shall put the ballot papers that have been collected and counted into envelopes intended for this purpose and seal them immediately. The general secretariat shall keep these envelopes and destroy them 100 days after the end of the Congress (cf. art. 10 par. 5 of the Standing Orders of the Congress).

ARTICLE 79: TIED VOTES

In the event of a tied vote, there shall be a decisive vote with regard to the candidates having obtained an equal number of votes. The candidate with the highest number of votes in the decisive vote shall be elected.

C. JURISDICTION OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 80: PRINCIPLE

80.1 As from the moment that these regulations apply to a particular candidate (cf. art. 65 of these regulations), that candidate shall be subject to the FIFA Code of Ethics if that candidate is not otherwise already bound and covered prior to that time.

80.2 As from the moment that these regulations apply to a particular candidate, that candidate shall also be subject to the FIFA Statutes as well as to all other FIFA regulations if that candidate is not otherwise already bound and covered prior to that time.

80.3 Any violation of these regulations shall be dealt with by the Ethics Committee or the Disciplinary Committee, in accordance with the FIFA Code of Ethics or the FIFA Disciplinary Code, as the case may be.

80.4 The electoral committee shall be obliged to notify the competent bodies of FIFA, in writing and in a substantiated manner, of any possible infringements of the provisions of these regulations that may be committed during the course of the electoral process within 24 hours of obtaining direct knowledge of such infringements or being made aware of them by any of the candidates, member associations or confederations.

D. ROLE OF THE GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE IN THE CONTEXT OF ELECTION PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 81: SPECIAL DUTIES AND COMPETENCES OF THE GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE IN THE CONTEXT OF ELECTION PROCEDURES

The Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall form an electoral committee of three members, consisting of the chairperson and two members of the committee chosen by the chairperson. The duties of the electoral committee with regard to election procedures shall include, in particular:

a) supervising the administrative process relating to the election for the position of President and monitoring compliance with these regulations, as well as with any other guidelines, as required, in the performance of its duties;

b) ensuring the correct application of the FIFA Statutes, regulations and provisions, as well as the contents of these regulations, in matters relating to the electoral process;

c) issuing instructions for the application of the Governance Regulations, as necessary, before and during the entire electoral process; and

d) admitting and announcing candidatures; in this regard, the electoral committee shall assess whether a candidate meets the profile specifications provided for by the FIFA Statutes as well as article 67 of these regulations.

The duties of the Review Committee with regard to election procedures shall include, in particular, carrying out the eligibility check with regard to all candidates for the position of President within a reasonable amount of time.

ARTICLE 82: APPEALS

The decisions of the electoral committee or the Review Committee in the context of elections may be appealed against before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

V.

Election of the Council

ARTICLE 83: DEFINITIONS

Unless indicated otherwise, terms used in this section that correspond to terms included in the Definitions section of the FIFA Statutes shall be understood as described there.

ARTICLE 84: SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS SECTION

This section governs:

a) the elections for the vice-presidents and members of the Council; and

b) the special duties and competences of the Review Committee in this regard.

ARTICLE 85: SCOPE OF APPLICATION

The provisions of this section shall apply to all bodies of FIFA, the confederations, member associations, officials and candidates involved or participating in the elections for the position of vice-president or member of the Council.

ARTICLE 86: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

86.1 Each confederation president shall be a vice-president *ex officio* of the Council.

86.2 The additional vice-presidents and the members of the Council shall be elected by the member associations in accordance with the fundamental principles of FIFA as laid down in the FIFA Statutes and the FIFA Code of Ethics, such as democracy, separation of powers, transparency and openness, on the occasion of their respective confederation congresses.

86.3 No more than one representative from the same member association may serve on the Council simultaneously, unless one of the two representatives is a designated female representative, in which case a maximum of two representatives of the same member association applies.

86.4 A member of the Council may serve for no more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not).

ARTICLE 87: CANDIDATES

Candidates within the meaning of this section are all individuals who are proposed by a member association as a vice-president or member of the Council.

ARTICLE 88: CANDIDATURES

88.1 Candidatures and electoral campaigns shall be carried out by the candidates in a fair and reputable manner and, more generally, in a spirit of respect for fundamental ethical principles and FIFA regulations.

88.2 Candidates shall conduct all campaigns with dignity and moderation and with respect for any other candidate(s), for FIFA itself and its member associations.

ARTICLE 89: PROPOSALS

89.1 Only member associations may propose candidates for the position of member of the Council. Such proposals shall be submitted to the confederation concerned.

89.2 Each member association is entitled to submit one proposal for a member of the Council. If a member association presents proposals for more than one individual, all of its proposals shall become invalid.

89.3 The members of each confederation must ensure that they elect at least one female member to the Council. In the event that no female candidate is elected by the members of a confederation for the Council, the seat reserved for a female member of such confederation will be deemed forfeited by all members of such confederation and shall remain vacant until the next election of members of the Council.

89.4 Upon request, the responsible body within the confederation shall inform a member association whether a person has already been proposed for the position of member of the Council.

ARTICLE 90: SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATURES

90.1 Pursuant to the FIFA Statutes, candidatures for the positions of vice-president or member of the Council, including the candidate's identification details and the position that candidate is proposed for, shall be submitted to the relevant confederation at least three months before the start of the respective confederation congress on the occasion of which the said election shall take place. The confederations shall notify the FIFA general secretariat of all candidatures submitted to them within five days of expiry of the three-month deadline.

90.2 The FIFA general secretariat shall forward all candidatures without any undue delay to the Review Committee to carry out the eligibility check.

ARTICLE 91: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

91.1 Candidates shall be required to fulfil the eligibility check in accordance with Annexe 1 conducted by the Review Committee.

91.2 The Review Committee shall carry out the eligibility check within 21 days of receipt of the respective candidature from the FIFA general secretariat.

91.3 The Review Committee shall pass a decision on the eligibility of the candidate concerned based on the eligibility check.

ARTICLE 92: ELECTION PROCEDURE

92.1 Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot or, where permitted by the applicable confederation's statutes, by acclamation.

92.2 The ballot(s) may be conducted by using televoters (cf. art. 10 par. 1 of the Standing Orders of the Congress).

92.3 Each member association shall have an equal number of votes in the election.

ARTICLE 93: JURISDICTION OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

93.1 As from the moment that this section applies to a particular candidate (cf. art. 87 of these regulations), that candidate shall be subject to the FIFA Code of Ethics, the FIFA Statutes and all other FIFA regulations if that candidate is not otherwise already bound and covered prior to that time.

93.2 Any violation of this section shall be dealt with by the competent body in accordance with the FIFA Code of Ethics or the FIFA Disciplinary Code, as the case may be.

93.3 Any official who may become aware of any possible infringements of the provisions of this section that may be committed during the course of the electoral process shall be obliged to notify the competent bodies thereof, in writing and in a substantiated manner, as soon as that official has direct knowledge of such infringements or is made aware of them by any of the candidates, member associations or confederations.

ARTICLE 94: SUPERVISION OF THE ELECTION

The elections of the vice-presidents and members of the Council at the confederation congresses shall be monitored by persons appointed by the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee. The persons appointed shall in particular monitor compliance with the FIFA Statutes and regulations.

ARTICLE 95: APPEAL

Decisions of the Review Committee in the context of elections may be appealed against directly to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

VI.

Auditing

ARTICLE 96: AUDITORS

96.1 The FIFA auditors shall audit the accounts and financial statements, including the consolidated financial statements, approved by the Council and present a report to the Congress. The audit shall be a full audit conducted by external auditors within the meaning of article 69b paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Swiss Civil Code. The provisions of article 727 et seq. of the Swiss Code of Obligations apply *mutatis mutandis*.

96.2 The FIFA auditors shall be appointed by the Congress for a period of three years. This mandate may be renewed. Notwithstanding this, the person who manages the audit may exercise the mandate for a total duration of seven years at the most. Such person may only accept the same mandate again after an interruption of three years.

96.3 The FIFA auditors shall fulfil the independence criteria set forth in article 728 of the Swiss Code of Obligations.

ARTICLE 97: AUDITING OF FIFA'S MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

97.1 All FIFA member associations shall subject themselves to yearly independent audits of their financial statements. These audits shall be carried out by local, external auditors with adequate qualifications in accordance with local law or by any qualified external auditors that the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee deems appropriate.

97.2 The auditors shall further undertake audit-related services on the development funds provided by FIFA on the basis of annual instructions provided by FIFA. These reports shall be submitted to the FIFA administration by each member association following the financial year under review.

97.3 The FIFA member associations shall supply all means of proof that FIFA and/or the auditors consider(s) necessary.

97.4 The Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee and/or the general secretariat may appoint a consultant for each member association concerned, who shall be given unrestricted access to all accounts, documents, etc. that the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee and/or the auditors deem(s) necessary.

VII.

Final provisions

ARTICLE 98: OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

These regulations are issued in English, French and Spanish. If there are any discrepancies in the interpretation of the different versions of these regulations, the English text is authoritative.

ARTICLE 99: ADOPTION AND ENFORCEMENT

These regulations, together with their annexes, which form an integral part of these regulations, were approved by the Bureau of the Council on 10 June 2026 and come into force on 1 July 2026.

Zurich, 10 June 2026

For FIFA

President

Gianni Infantino



Secretary General

Mattias Grafström



VIII.

Annexe I: Eligibility checks

ARTICLE 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 The eligibility checks with regard to candidates for, and holders of, official positions within FIFA that are subject to such checks shall be conducted by the appropriate body in accordance with the provisions of this annexe. The appropriate body may, at its sole discretion, in the context of conducting such eligibility checks, call on external specialised professional resources.

1.2 Candidates for, and holders of, official positions subject to eligibility checks are obliged to comply with a screening and self-disclosure process as outlined below. Prior to the screening process, every candidate for, or holder of, the official position concerned shall give written consent for said process. If such written consent is not provided, the eligibility check shall be deemed as not passed.

1.3 Candidates for, and holders of, official positions subject to eligibility checks are obliged to collaborate to establish the relevant facts. In particular, they shall comply, upon reasonable notice, with requests for any documents, information or any other material of any nature held by them. In addition, they shall comply with the procurement and provision of documents, information or any other material of any nature not held by them but which they are entitled to obtain. Non-compliance with such requests may lead to sanctions imposed by the appropriate FIFA body.

1.4 In the context of carrying out eligibility checks, the relevant body in charge has a wide margin of appreciation in evaluating and weighing the information gathered with regard to specific individuals. Notwithstanding this, an eligibility check shall, in principle, be deemed as not passed if the individual concerned is found to have committed misconduct that has a direct material connection to the position that individual holds or for which they are a candidate.

1.5 Subject to the relevant provisions regarding disclosure and forwarding of the information and related data obtained in the context of eligibility checks in accordance with this annexe, all such information and all related data must be treated as strictly confidential by the body conducting the eligibility checks concerned.

1.6 Incomplete or false information submitted in the context of eligibility checks is subject to sanctions by the appropriate body.

ARTICLE 2: IDENTIFICATION CHECK AND SELF-DISCLOSURE

2.1 Identification check

At the beginning of the screening process, every individual subject to eligibility checks shall undergo an identification check ("ID check"). In this context, the individual must submit a copy of the individual's current valid passport to the body in charge of performing the eligibility check. The ID check shall include verification/identification of the following:

a) name;

b) address (place of residence);

c) country of residence;

d) date and place of birth; and

e) nationality/nationalities.

2.2 Self-disclosure

Every individual subject to an eligibility check shall be subject to a self-disclosure process, including completing the attached eligibility questionnaire (cf. art. 3 below).

2.3 Additional information

The body in charge of performing the eligibility check may conduct independent research and/or investigations in order to obtain further relevant information on a particular individual, which may include information on intermediaries and related parties, mandates, potential conflicts of interest and significant participations as well as civil and criminal proceedings/investigations.

ARTICLE 3: ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

First name(s):	
Surname(s):	
Date of birth:	
Member association:	
Nationality/nationalities:	
Profession:	

3.1. Have you been previously convicted by a final decision of any intentional indictable offence or of any offence corresponding to a violation of the rules of conduct set out in part II section 5 of the FIFA Code of Ethics?

☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, please specify:

3.2 Has a sports governing body ever imposed any disciplinary or similar sanction or measure on you in the past for actions which amount to a violation of the rules of conduct set out in part II section 5 of the FIFA Code of Ethics?

☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, please specify:

3.3. Are you the subject of any pending civil, criminal or disciplinary proceedings or investigations?

☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, please specify:

3.4 I am fully aware that I am subject to the provisions of the FIFA Code of Ethics and to the provisions of the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA that address integrity issues, and I fully comply with such provisions. In this respect, I have in particular taken due note of the fact that the FIFA Code of Ethics also applies to conduct which occurred before it entered into force (as per the FIFA Code of Ethics).

3.5 I currently hold the following positions in football:

3.6 The following facts and circumstances may give rise to potential conflicts of interest regarding me (as per the FIFA Code of Ethics and the FIFA Governance Regulations in this respect):

3.7 Remarks and observations which may be of potential relevance in this context:

3.8 I am fully aware and agree that this questionnaire is made available to the members of the appropriate FIFA bodies.

3.9 I am fully aware and confirm that I must notify the body conducting the eligibility check of any relevant facts and circumstances arising after the eligibility check has been completed, and that failure to do so may be subject to sanctions by the appropriate body.

3.10 I am fully aware and confirm that I am obliged to collaborate to establish the relevant facts with regard to the eligibility check to which I am subject. In particular, I will comply with requests for any documents, information or any other material of any nature held by me. In addition, I will comply with the procurement and provision of documents, information or any other material of any nature not held by me but which I am entitled to obtain. I am fully aware and confirm that non-compliance with such requests may lead to sanctions imposed by the appropriate body.

3.11 I am fully aware and confirm that the body conducting the eligibility check may also request information on possible sanctions (questions 1 and 2 above) directly from the relevant confederation or FIFA member association, as well as from other institutions, such as the Court of Arbitration for Sport or the International Olympic Committee. In this regard, I hereby release the relevant institutions from any obligation of confidentiality relating to the information concerned.

3.12 I am fully aware and confirm that the body conducting the eligibility check may collect further information on me in accordance with article 2 paragraph 3 of Annexe 1 to the FIFA Governance Regulations.

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(Place and date) (Signature)

IX.

Annexe II: Related-party declaration

ARTICLE 1: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the provisions of this annexe are:

a) to ensure that FIFA's financial statements contain, with regard to the members of the Council, the disclosures necessary to draw attention to the possibility that its financial position and profit or loss may have been affected by transactions and outstanding balances, including commitments, with Council members; and

b) to ensure appropriate transparency with regard to the business and other relevant relations of Council members that may affect the members' conduct and activities in the context of the Council.

ARTICLE 2: OBLIGATION

2.1 Pursuant to article 7 paragraph 3 of these regulations, the members of the Council shall complete and submit the Related-Party Declaration, using the form provided in article 4 of this annexe, on an annual basis.

2.2 The Council members shall submit such a declaration for each calendar year. They shall do so by 15 January of the following year at the latest.

2.3 The Related-Party Declarations are to be submitted in two copies: one to the President and one to the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee. The President shall also submit two copies of the Related-Party Declaration, one to the Secretary General and one to the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee.

ARTICLE 3: DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

3.1 Related-party transactions

Under the heading of "Related-party transactions", Council members shall disclose all transactions carried out or agreed upon between themselves, a close member of their family or a company or other entity significantly influenced by them on the one hand, and FIFA or a FIFA subsidiary on the other.

The term "transactions" covers any transfer of resources, services or obligations. It includes purchases and sales of goods, services, property or other assets, lease agreements, transfers of research and development, transfers under licence agreements, and financing activities such as loans, and settlement of liabilities. This enumeration is merely exemplary and thus not exhaustive.

3.2 Business and other relevant relations

Under the heading of "Business and other relevant relations", Council members shall disclose any and all involvements in, and relations to, individuals and entities (e.g. companies) that might be relevant with regard to the objectivity of their activities as Council members. Relations that might be relevant under article 20 of the FIFA Code of Ethics (Conflicts of interest) are of particular interest.

Such relations include board positions in, or business relations with, companies active in the field of production and/or selling of sports equipment, sports marketing, purchasing and selling of media rights, or sports betting; involvement (e.g. in the form of holding official positions) in confederations, FIFA member associations and/or affiliated entities; involvement in, or business relations with, FIFA subsidiaries. This enumeration is merely exemplary and thus not exhaustive.

ARTICLE 4: RELATED-PARTY DECLARATION FORM

Related-Party Declaration for members of the Council for the year:

Surname(s):

First name(s):

Member of the Council since:

PART 1 – RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

As a member of the Council, I hereby declare, for myself, the following related-party transactions within the meaning of article 3 paragraph 1 of Annexe 2 to the FIFA Governance Regulations:

Note: Please specify for each transaction carried out or agreed upon between yourself, a close member of your family or a company or other entity significantly influenced by yourself or a close member of your family on the one hand, and FIFA or a FIFA subsidiary on the other:

a) the relevant date or period of time;

b) the exact counterpart on behalf of FIFA or the FIFA subsidiary concerned; and

c) the nature and contents of the transaction.

PART 2 – BUSINESS AND OTHER RELEVANT RELATIONS

As a member of the Council, I hereby declare, for myself, the following business and other relevant relations within the meaning of article 3 paragraph 2 of Annexe 2 to the FIFA Governance Regulations:

Note: Please specify for each relation:

I. The relevant commencement date or period of time

II. The nature and contents of the relation

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(Place and date) (Signature)

X.

Annexe III: Independence

The restrictions resulting from the requirement of independence of the members of the relevant FIFA bodies are as follows:

1.1 Finance Committee members required to be independent, and their immediate family, are not permitted to have (including the four years preceding the initial term):

a) another official function at FIFA;

b) another official function at a confederation or a member association; or

c) a material business relationship with FIFA, a confederation or member association.

1.2 Chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee and judicial bodies and their immediate family are not permitted to have (including the four years preceding the initial term):

a) another official function at FIFA;

b) another official function at a confederation or a member association; or

c) a material business relationship with FIFA, a confederation or member association.

1.3 Members of the investigatory and adjudicatory chambers of the Ethics Committee are not permitted to have:

a) another official function at FIFA (including the four years preceding the initial term; also applicable for immediate family);

b) another official function at a confederation or a member association (other than being a member of a judicial body at FIFA, confederation or national level).

1.4 Other members of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee and judicial bodies (other than the Ethics Committee) and their immediate family are not permitted to have another official function at FIFA (including the four years preceding the initial term).

1.5 "Immediate family" means, with respect to any person, such person's spouse or domestic partner, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, children (including any stepchild or adopted child), grandchildren, son-, daughter-, father- or mother-in-law and the spouses of such persons, and including anyone else, whether by blood or otherwise, with whom the individual has a relationship akin to a family relationship for which such person provides financial support.

1.6 "Material business relationship" means, with respect to any person, that i) such person has been, or ii) such person is a current director or executive officer or employee of or owns, directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the equity of any entity that has made payments to or received payments from FIFA, any confederation, any member association or any sponsor, auditor, outside counsel or other paid adviser or contractor of any of FIFA, any confederation or any member association for property or services in an amount which, in any single year, exceeds USD 125,000. Any compensation or other amounts paid to any such person in their capacity as a member of the Council or of an independent FIFA body shall not constitute a material business relationship within the meaning of this provision.

1.7 Members of the Finance Committee who are required to be independent as well as chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of independent committees may not attempt to form a business relationship with FIFA for a period of one year after concluding their mandate on the respective committee.

FIFA®



FIFA Disciplinary Code

MAY 2026 EDITION

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ANNEXE

Annexe 1: List of disciplinary measures

I.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. OBJECT

This Code describes infringements of the rules in FIFA regulations, determines the sanctions incurred, regulates the organisation and function of the FIFA judicial bodies responsible for taking decisions and the procedures to be followed before said bodies.

2. SCOPE OF APPLICATION: SUBSTANTIVE LAW

1. This Code applies to every match and competition organised by FIFA and to matches and competitions in association football that do not fall under the jurisdiction of the confederations and/or the member associations, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.
2. This Code also applies to any breach of FIFA's statutory objectives as well as of any FIFA rule that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other FIFA body.

3. SCOPE OF PERSONAL APPLICATION

The following are subject to this Code:

a) member associations;

b) members of member associations, in particular the clubs;

c) officials;

d) players;

e) match officials;

f) football agents licensed by FIFA;

g) match agents licensed by FIFA;

h) single-entity leagues;

i) anyone elected or assigned by FIFA to exercise a function, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organised by FIFA.

4. SCOPE OF TEMPORAL APPLICATION

1. This Code applies to all disciplinary offences committed following the date on which it comes into force.
2. This Code also applies to all disciplinary offences committed prior to the date on which it comes into force, subject to any milder sanction that would apply under previous rules.
3. Disciplinary proceedings instigated against someone who was under FIFA's jurisdiction as per article 3 on the day the alleged disciplinary offence was committed shall not be abandoned by the FIFA judicial bodies solely because the person involved is no longer under FIFA's jurisdiction.

5. APPLICABLE LAW

The FIFA judicial bodies base their decisions:

a) primarily, on the FIFA Statutes as well as FIFA's regulations, circulars, directives and decisions, and the Laws of the Game; and

b) subsidiarily, on Swiss law and any other law that the competent judicial body deems applicable.

6. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

1. The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on natural and legal persons:
   a) warning;
   b) reprimand;
   c) fine or any other pecuniary measure;
   d) return of awards;
   e) withdrawal of a title;
   f) order to fulfil a financial obligation arising or existing in the context of a trial.
2. The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on natural persons only:
   a) suspension for a specific number of matches or for a specific period;
   b) ban from dressing rooms and/or team bench;
   c) ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
   d) community football service;
   e) suspension or withdrawal of a football agent licence;
   f) suspension or withdrawal of a match agent licence.

3. The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on legal persons only:

   a) ban on registering new players;

   b) playing a match without spectators;

   c) playing a match with a limited number of spectators;

   d) playing a match on neutral territory;

   e) ban on playing in a particular stadium;

   f) annulment of the result of a match;

   g) deduction of points;

   h) relegation to a lower division;

   i) expulsion from a competition in progress or from future competitions;

   j) forfeit;

   k) replaying a match;

   l) implementation of a prevention plan;

   m) forfeiture of training rewards that are due;

   n) payment of restitution to an affiliated club;

   o) payment of a specific amount to a club or a member association.

4. In general, fines shall not be less than USD 100 or more than USD 1,000,000. However, fines in relation to specific provisions of this Code may extend beyond that range.

5. Member associations are jointly liable for fines imposed on representative team players and officials. The same applies to clubs in respect of their players and officials.

6. The disciplinary measures provided for in this Code may be combined.

7. DIRECTIVES

1. Directives require those affected by them to behave in a certain manner.

2. In addition to disciplinary measures, the FIFA judicial bodies may issue directives stipulating the manner in which a disciplinary measure must be carried out, including the date and conditions on which the disciplinary measure is enforced.

3. The FIFA judicial bodies may also award compensation for damage where an association or club is liable for that damage on the basis of article 8 or 17.

8. RESPONSIBILITY

1. Unless otherwise specified in this Code, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or negligently. In particular, member associations and clubs may be responsible for the behaviour of their members, players, officials or supporters or any other person carrying out a function on their behalf even if the association or club concerned can prove the absence of any fault or negligence.
2. Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable.
3. Anyone who takes part in committing an infringement or induces someone to do so, whether as instigator or accomplice, may also be sanctioned.

9. DECISIONS OF THE REFEREE

1. Decisions taken by the referee on the field of play are final and may not be reviewed by the FIFA judicial bodies.
2. In cases where a decision by the referee involves an obvious error (such as mistaking the identity of the person penalised), the FIFA judicial bodies may only review the disciplinary consequences of that decision. In cases of mistaken identity, disciplinary proceedings may, in accordance with this Code, be opened only against the person who was actually at fault.
3. A protest against a caution or a sending-off from the field of play after two cautions is admissible only if the referee's error was to mistake the identity of the player.
4. In cases of serious misconduct, disciplinary action may be taken even if the referee and their assistants did not see the event in question and were therefore unable to take any action.
5. The provisions of this Code relating to protests against match results affected by a referee's decision that was an obvious violation of a rule remain applicable.

10. LIMITATION PERIOD FOR PROSECUTION

1. Infringements may no longer be prosecuted in accordance with the following periods:
   a) two years for infringements committed during a match;
   b) ten years for anti-doping rule violations (as defined in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations), infringements relating to international transfers involving minors, and match manipulation;
   c) five years for all other offences.

2. The limitation period runs as follows:

   a) from the day on which the perpetrator committed the infringement;

   b) if the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed;

   c) if the infringement lasted for a certain period, from the day on which it ended;

   d) from the day on which the decision of the Football Tribunal or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) becomes final and binding.

3. The limitation periods set out above are interrupted by all procedural acts, starting afresh with each interruption.

11. DUTY TO REPORT

1. Anyone subject to this Code shall immediately report to the secretariat of the Disciplinary Committee any violation of, or attempt to violate, this Code by any third party.

2. Anyone subject to this Code who makes an unfounded or irresponsible accusation may be sanctioned.

12. DUTY TO COLLABORATE

1. The parties shall act in good faith throughout the proceedings.

2. The parties or the persons subject to this Code shall collaborate to establish the facts and, in particular, comply with requests for information from a FIFA body, committee, subsidiary or instance, as well as from the FIFA administration.

3. In particular, persons subject to this Code shall help to establish and/or clarify the facts of a case or any possible breaches of this Code and, in particular, shall provide any evidence requested.

4. Any breach of this article by any person subject to this Code may lead to the appropriate sanctions being imposed by the relevant judicial body.

5. If the parties fail to collaborate, especially if they ignore the stipulated time limits, the judicial body may nonetheless reach a decision on the case using the file in its possession.

II.

OFFENCES

CHAPTER 1. INFRINGEMENTS OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME

13. OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOUR AND VIOLATIONS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF FAIR PLAY

1. Member associations and clubs, as well as their players, officials and any other member and/or person carrying out a function on their behalf, must respect the Laws of the Game, as well as the FIFA Statutes and FIFA's regulations, directives, guidelines, circulars and decisions, and comply with the principles of fair play, loyalty and integrity.

2. For example, anyone who acts in any of the following ways may be subject to disciplinary measures:

   a) violating the basic rules of decent conduct;

   b) insulting a natural or legal person in any way, especially by using offensive gestures, signs or language;

   c) using a sports event for demonstrations of a non-sporting nature;

   d) behaving in a way that brings the sport of football and/or FIFA into disrepute;

   e) actively altering the age of players shown on the identity cards they produce at competitions that are subject to age limits.

CHAPTER 2. DISORDERLINESS AT MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

14. MISCONDUCT OF PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

1. Players and officials shall be suspended for misconduct as specified below and may be fined accordingly:

   a) one match for players who are sent off for denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity;

   b) at least one match or an appropriate period of time for unsporting behaviour towards an opponent or a person other than a match official;

   c) at least one match for officials who are sent off for dissent by word or action;

   d) at least one match for deliberately receiving a yellow or red card, including in order to be suspended for an upcoming match or to ultimately have a clean record;

   e) at least two matches for serious foul play;

   f) at least two matches for provoking spectators at a match by any means;

   g) at least two matches or a specific period for acting with obvious intent to cause a match official to make an incorrect decision or supporting their error of judgement and thereby causing them to make an incorrect decision;

   h) at least three matches for violent conduct;

   i) at least three matches or an appropriate period of time for assault, including elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting at or hitting an opponent or a person other than a match official;

   j) at least four matches or an appropriate period of time for unsporting behaviour towards a match official;

   k) at least ten matches or an appropriate period of time for intimidating or threatening a match official;

   l) at least 15 matches or an appropriate period of time for assaulting a match official, including elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting or hitting.

2. The misconduct described in paragraph 1 b), f), j) and k) is also subject to the respective sanctions in this Code, despite the fact that the offence has been committed off the field of play (including via social networks).

3. If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those actually played by the respective team count towards execution of the suspension. It is not necessary for a player to be included on the team sheet for the respective match or competition in order for a match suspension to be considered served.

4. A player or official who, in the context of a match (including pre- and post-match) or competition, publicly incites others to hatred or violence will be sanctioned with a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for no less than six months and with a minimum fine of USD 5,000. In serious cases, in addition to the above sanctions and in particular if the infringement is committed using social networks and/or the mass media (such as the press, radio or television) or takes place on a matchday in or around a stadium, the minimum fine will be USD 20,000.

5. If a national or club team conducts itself improperly (including but not limited to causing a late kick-off or if individual disciplinary sanctions are imposed by the referee on five or more players – three or more in the case of futsal – during a match), disciplinary measures may also be taken against the association or club concerned.

6. Additional disciplinary measures may also be imposed in all cases.

15. DISCRIMINATION AND RACIST ABUSE

1. Any person who offends the dignity or integrity of a country, a person or group of people through contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words or actions on account of race, skin colour, ethnicity, nationality, social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status or any other reason shall be sanctioned with a suspension lasting at least ten matches or a specific period, or any other appropriate disciplinary measure.

2. Member associations and clubs shall take all necessary and reasonable measures to ban from entering stadiums any person who has been charged with, or found guilty of, having racially abused a player, match official, coach, other team official or any other person exercising an official role during a match through contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words or actions on account of race, skin colour, descent, nationality or ethnicity, including via social media or any other digital platform or written medium.

3. In the event of racist abuse occurring during a match, the referee will implement FIFA's three-step anti-discrimination procedure, in line with the relevant regulations and circular letters. The procedure allows the referee to 1) stop the match, 2) suspend the match and 3) abandon the match.

4. Any player or official who is the victim of racist abuse by the crowd during a match may inform the referee by using the appropriate gesture, as outlined in the relevant FIFA rules, or by any other means. The referee may then immediately implement the first step of FIFA's three-step anti-discrimination procedure, as described in

paragraph 3 above. Subsequently, the host club, member association or organising authority shall immediately deploy the necessary personnel to the relevant section of the stadium with the aim of stopping the racist abuse. The player or official may also identify the person(s) involved in perpetrating such abuse and request that they be removed from the stadium whenever possible. If they cannot be removed due to security reasons and the racist abuse continues, the referee may implement the second step of FIFA's three-step anti-discrimination procedure until the abuse desists.

5. In cases where the racist abuse has been personally verified by the referee and the second step of FIFA's three-step anti-discrimination procedure (i.e. suspend the match) has been applied per paragraph 3 above, the player or official who has been subjected to the abuse may provide the Disciplinary Committee with a victim statement. If the club or member association concerned is unable to provide enough evidence or clarification to disprove the racist abuse alleged by the player or official, the player or official's statement will be accepted. In such cases, and after all the relevant circumstances have been considered, the Disciplinary Committee may decide to declare the match forfeited by the responsible club or member association.

6. If one or more supporters of a representative team or club engage in the behaviour described in paragraph 1 above, the member association or club responsible will be subject to the following disciplinary measures, even if the member association or club concerned can prove the absence of any fault or negligence:

   a) For a first offence, playing a match with a limited number of spectators and a fine of at least USD 20,000 shall be imposed on the association or club concerned, unless this would lead to an unreasonable financial impact on the affected member association or club, in which case the fine may be reduced, on an exceptional basis, to no less than USD 1,000. As an exception to article 6.4 of this Code, the maximum fine to be imposed in cases of racist abuse against a player, match official, coach, other team official or any other person exercising an official role during a match shall be USD 5,000,000;

   b) For recidivists or repeat incidents, or if the circumstances of the case require it, disciplinary measures such as the implementation of a prevention plan, a fine, a points deduction, playing one or more matches without spectators, a ban on playing in a particular stadium, the forfeiting of a match, expulsion from a competition or relegation to a lower division may be imposed on the association or club concerned.

7. The competent judicial body may deviate from the above minimum sanctions in either of the following scenarios:

   a) The discrimination was perpetrated by a player or official who subsequently admits the offence, in which case up to half of the sanction may, at the discretion of the judicial body, be commuted to educational, communication and training initiatives to be approved by FIFA.

b) The association and/or club concerned commits to developing, in conjunction with FIFA, a comprehensive plan to ensure action against discrimination and to prevent repeated incidents. The plan shall be approved by FIFA and shall include, at least, the following three focus areas:

   i. Educational activities (including a communication campaign aimed at supporters and the general public). The effectiveness of the campaign will be reviewed regularly.

   ii. Stadium security and dialogue measures (including a policy on how offenders will be identified and dealt with through football sanctions, a policy on escalation to state (criminal) legal authorities, and a dialogue with supporters and influencers on how to create change).

   iii. Partnerships (including working with supporters, NGOs, experts and stakeholders to advise on and support the action plan and ensure effective and ongoing implementation).

8. Persons who are bound by this Code and have been the victim of potential discriminatory behaviour may be invited by the respective judicial body to make an oral or written victim impact statement, and will have the right to request the motivated decision in proceedings before the judicial bodies, as well as to lodge an appeal and act as party in the disciplinary appeal proceedings in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Code.

9. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, if a match is abandoned by the referee because of discriminatory behaviour and/or racist abuse, the match shall be declared forfeited.

16. UNPLAYED MATCHES AND ABANDONMENT

1. If a match cannot take place or cannot be played in full for reasons other than force majeure, but due to the behaviour of a team or behaviour for which an association or a club is liable, the association or the club will be sanctioned with a minimum fine of USD 10,000. The match will either be forfeited or replayed, and additional disciplinary measures may be imposed on the association or club concerned.

2. As an exception to the above, a replay does not apply if a match is abandoned because a team has left the field of play in protest at a refereeing decision. In such cases, the sanction imposed on the corresponding association or club shall be a forfeiture and any other disciplinary measure deemed adequate by the judicial body.

3. If a match was abandoned and is to be replayed in full, any caution issued during that match shall be annulled. If a match was abandoned, in particular for reasons of force majeure, and it recommences at the minute at which play was interrupted, any caution imposed before the match was abandoned remains valid for the remainder of the match. If the match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the teams shall be upheld.

17. ORDER AND SECURITY AT MATCHES

1. Host clubs and member associations are responsible for order and security both in and around the stadium before, during and after matches. Without prejudice to their responsibility for the inappropriate behaviour of their own supporters, they are liable for incidents of any kind, including but not limited to those listed in paragraph 2 below, and may be subject to disciplinary measures and directives unless they can prove that they have not been negligent in any way in the organisation of the match. In particular, member associations, clubs and licensed match agents who organise matches shall:

   a) assess the degree of risk posed by the match and notify the FIFA bodies of those that are especially high-risk;

   b) comply with and implement existing safety rules (FIFA regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by the circumstances in and around the stadium before, during and after the match and if incidents occur;

   c) ensure the safety of the match officials and the players and officials of the visiting team during their stay;

   d) keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;

   e) ensure that law and order are maintained in and around the stadiums and that matches are organised properly.

2. All member associations and clubs are liable for inappropriate behaviour on the part of one or more of their supporters as stated below and may be subject to disciplinary measures and directives even if they can prove the absence of any negligence in relation to the organisation of the match:

   a) the invasion or attempted invasion of the field of play;

   b) the throwing of objects;

   c) the lighting of fireworks or any other objects;

   d) the use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices;

   e) the use of gestures, words, objects or any other means to transmit a message that is not appropriate for a sports event, particularly messages that are of a political, ideological, religious or offensive nature;

   f) acts of damage;

   g) causing a disturbance during national anthems;

   h) any other lack of order or discipline observed in or around the stadium.

18. PROTESTS

1. Member associations and their clubs are entitled to lodge protests. Protests must reach the Disciplinary Committee in writing via the FIFA Legal Portal, indicating the relevant grounds, within 24 hours of the end of the match in question.

2. The 24-hour time limit cannot be extended. For the sake of the smooth running of the competition, the corresponding competition regulations may shorten the protest deadline accordingly.

3. The protest fee is USD 1,000. It must be paid when the protest is lodged and is reimbursed only if the protest is admitted in full.

4. A protest is admissible only if the protest fee is paid in accordance with paragraph 3 above and only if it is based on:

   a) an ineligible player's participation in a match as a consequence of that player not fulfilling the conditions defined in the relevant FIFA regulations;

   b) an unfit field of play, as long as the referee was informed as soon as the problem was reported or observed (whether in writing before the match, or orally by a team captain, in the presence of the captain of the opposing team, during the match);

   c) an obvious error by the referee as defined in article 9 of this Code, in which case the protest may be directed only at the disciplinary consequences of the referee's obvious error.

19. FIELDING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER

1. If a player fielded in a match and/or competition is declared ineligible, the FIFA judicial bodies, taking into consideration the integrity of the competition concerned, may impose any appropriate disciplinary measures.

2. If a player fielded in a match is declared ineligible following a protest, the team to which the player belongs will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of USD 6,000. The player may also be sanctioned.

3. The Disciplinary Committee may act *ex officio*.

20. MANIPULATION OF FOOTBALL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

1. Anyone who directly or indirectly, by an act or an omission, unlawfully influences or manipulates the course, result or any other aspect of a match and/or competition or conspires or attempts to do so by any means shall be sanctioned with a minimum five-year ban on taking part in any football-related activity as well as a fine of at least USD 100,000. In serious cases, a longer ban period, including a potential lifetime ban on taking part in any football-related activity, shall be imposed.

2. If a player or official engages in behaviour described in paragraph 1, the club or association to which the player or official belongs may be sanctioned with the forfeiting of the match in question or may be declared ineligible to participate in a different competition, provided the integrity of the competition is protected. Additional disciplinary measures may be imposed.

3. Persons bound by this Code must cooperate fully with FIFA at all times in its efforts to combat such behaviour and shall therefore immediately and voluntarily report to the secretariat of the Disciplinary Committee any approach in connection with activities and/or information directly or indirectly related to the possible manipulation of a football match or competition as described above. Any breach of this provision shall be sanctioned with a ban of at least two years on taking part in any football related activity and a fine of at least USD 15,000.

4. The Disciplinary Committee shall be competent to investigate and adjudicate all conduct on and off the field of play in connection with the manipulation of football matches and competitions.

CHAPTER 3. OTHER PROVISIONS

21. FAILURE TO RESPECT DECISIONS

1. Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, a coach, a football agent, a match agent or a club) or FIFA a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA or a CAS decision (financial decision), or anyone who fails to comply with another final decision (non-financial decision) passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA, or by CAS:

   a) may be fined for failing to comply with a decision and receive any pertinent additional disciplinary measure; and, if necessary:

   b) will be granted a final deadline in which to pay the amount due or to comply with the non-financial decision;

   c) may be ordered to pay an interest rate of 18% p.a. to the creditor as from the date of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee rendered in connection to a CAS decision on an appeal against a (financial) decision passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA;

   d) in the case of clubs, upon expiry of the aforementioned final deadline and in the event of persistent default or failure to comply in full with the decision within the period stipulated, a ban on registering new players will be issued until the complete amount due is paid or the non-financial decision is complied with. A deduction of points or relegation to a lower division may also be ordered in addition to a ban on registering new players in the event of persistent failure (i.e. the ban on registering new players has been served for more than three entire and consecutive registration periods following the notification of the decision), repeated offences or serious infringements or if no full registration ban could be imposed or served for any reason;

   e) in the case of member associations, upon expiry of the aforementioned final deadline and in the event of persistent default or failure to comply in full with the decision within the period stipulated, additional disciplinary measures may be imposed;

   f) in the case of natural persons, upon expiry of the aforementioned final deadline and in the event of persistent default or failure to comply in full with the decision within the period stipulated, a ban on any football-related activity and/or a suspension of the relevant licence for a specific period may be imposed. Other disciplinary measures may also be imposed.

2. With regard to financial decisions passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA, or CAS, disciplinary proceedings may only commence at the request of the creditor or any other affected party who is entitled to be notified of the final outcome of the said disciplinary proceedings, including the motivated decision if so requested.

3. If the sanctioned person disregards the final time limit, FIFA and/or the relevant association (in cases involving clubs or natural persons) shall implement the sanctions imposed. Where a registration ban (in the case of a club), a ban on any football-related activity and/or a suspension of the relevant licence (in the case of a natural person) or a disciplinary measure (in the case of member associations) has been enforced against a debtor in accordance with this article in relation to a financial obligation resulting from a CAS or FIFA decision and where the debtor provides FIFA with reliable evidence of having complied with such decision, such ban or measure may be provisionally lifted.

   The creditor will be invited to confirm whether such payment has been made.

   a) Should the debtor have provided accurate information and fully settled its financial obligation, the ban or measure is considered permanently lifted.

   b) Should the debtor have provided inaccurate information and/or have failed to comply with its financial obligation in full, the Disciplinary Committee may decide to:

      i. reinstate the ban or measure; and

      ii. impose additional disciplinary measures.

4. The sporting successor of a non-compliant party shall also be considered a non-compliant party and thus subject to the obligations under this provision. Criteria to assess whether an entity is to be considered as the sporting successor of another entity are, among others, its headquarters, name, legal form, team colours, players, public perception, shareholders or stakeholders or ownership and the category of competition concerned.

5. With regard to financial decisions passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA, or CAS, creditors are expected to remain vigilant and take prompt legal action to enforce any financial claims arising from such decisions, including by actively registering their claims in accordance with the relevant domestic insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings, unless said claims are registered *ex officio* in those proceedings.

   a) Debtors must notify creditors in a timely and reasonable manner about the initiation of domestic insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings, and no later than 15 days after becoming aware of the initiation of such proceedings. They must also outline the creditors' rights in the proceedings and the methods available to the creditors for registering a claim.

b) Creditors shall be considered negligent if they fail to register their claims without valid justification and despite having been informed by the debtor about the initiation of domestic insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings.

c) Creditors shall not be considered negligent if they are unable to register their claims in the relevant domestic insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings if the financial decision passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA, or CAS, is issued when the domestic registration period for claims has expired and cannot be reopened.

6. Any financial or non-financial decision that has been issued against a club by a competent decision-making body within the relevant association shall be enforced by the association of the deciding body that has issued the decision in accordance with the principles established in this article and in compliance with the applicable disciplinary regulations. An association will be fined for failing to enforce the decision in accordance with this article. In the event of persistent failure to enforce the decision, additional disciplinary measures may be imposed on the association.

7. Any financial or non-financial decision that has been issued against a natural person by a competent decision-making body within the relevant association shall be enforced by the association of the deciding body that has issued the decision or by the natural person's new association, if the natural person has, in the meantime, been registered or licensed at another association, or otherwise employed by a club affiliated to another association or by another association, in accordance with the principles established in this article and in compliance with the applicable disciplinary regulations. An association will be fined for failing to enforce the decision in accordance with this article. In the event of persistent failure to enforce the decision, additional disciplinary measures may be imposed on the association.

8. Any financial decision issued by the Football Tribunal or FIFA imposing disciplinary measures, such as a ban from registering any new players – either nationally or internationally – or a restriction on playing in official matches, will be automatically enforced by FIFA and the relevant member association. FIFA will be competent to deal with any issue relating to the enforcement of such decisions, including but not limited to the potential recognition of the sporting successor and the assessment of potential insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings.

9. Where a decision issued by the FIFA Football Tribunal or a proposal confirmed by the FIFA general secretariat contains consequences for failure to pay relevant amounts on time and the debtor has not provided proof of payment after such consequences have been served in full, the Disciplinary Committee may decide to provisionally extend such consequences until a final decision has been rendered by this judicial body in accordance with this article.

10. The Disciplinary Committee shall be competent to decide on cases related to the failure to respect settlement agreements concluded in the context of disciplinary proceedings opened against a debtor with respect to a final and binding financial decision issued by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA or by CAS. This shall include private agreements concluded after any decision passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA or by CAS and made in order to settle their dispute.

11. Disciplinary proceedings for failing to respect a final CAS decision rendered in the context of ordinary proceedings may be initiated provided that the respective CAS procedure started after 15 July 2019.

22. FORGERY AND FALSIFICATION

1. Anyone who, in football-related activities, forges a document, falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document will be sanctioned with a fine and a suspension or a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a specific period of no less than 12 months.

2. An association or a club may be held liable for an act of forgery or falsification by one of its officials and/or players.

23. SPECIFIC PROCEEDINGS

1. Doping is sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and this Code.

2. Breaches of the FIFA Football Agent Regulations are sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Football Agent Regulations and this Code.

3. Breaches of the FIFA Match Agent Regulations are sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Match Agent Regulations and this Code.

4. Breaches of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations are sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Clearing House Regulations and this Code.

CHAPTER 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

24. ENFORCEMENT OF SANCTIONS

1. The limitation period to enforce disciplinary measures is five years.
2. The limitation period begins on the day on which the final decision comes into force.

25. DETERMINING THE DISCIPLINARY MEASURE

1. The judicial body determines the type and extent of the disciplinary measures to be imposed in accordance with the objective and subjective elements of the offence, taking into account both aggravating and mitigating circumstances.
2. Disciplinary measures may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of match or competition.
3. When determining the disciplinary measure, the judicial body shall take into account all relevant factors of the case, including any assistance of and substantial cooperation by the offender in uncovering or establishing a breach of any FIFA rule, the circumstances and the degree of the offender's guilt and any other relevant circumstances.
4. In exercising its discretionary powers, the relevant FIFA judicial body may scale down the disciplinary measure to be imposed or even dispense with it entirely.

26. RECIDIVISM

1. Recidivism occurs if another offence of a similar nature and gravity is committed after notification of the previous decision within:
   a) one year of the previous offence if that offence was sanctioned with a suspension of up to two matches;
   b) two years of the previous offence if that offence related to order and security;
   c) ten years of the previous offence if that offence related to match manipulation or corruption;
   d) three years of the previous offence in all other cases.
2. Recidivism counts as an aggravating circumstance.
3. Recidivism in doping matters is subject to the rules of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

27. SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

1. The judicial body may decide to fully or partially suspend the implementation of a disciplinary measure.
2. By suspending the implementation of the sanction, the judicial body subjects the person sanctioned to a probationary period of one to four years.
3. If the person benefiting from a suspended sanction commits another infringement of a similar nature and gravity during the probationary period, the suspension shall be revoked by the judicial body and the sanction enforced without prejudice to any additional sanction imposed for the new infringement.
4. Disciplinary measures relating to match manipulation cannot be suspended.

28. FORFEIT

1. A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost the match 3-0 in 11-a-side football, 5-0 in futsal or 10-0 in beach soccer. If the goal difference at the end of the match is less favourable to the team at fault, the result on the pitch is upheld.
2. Cautions issued in a match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be annulled.

29. MATCHES TO BE PLAYED WITHOUT SPECTATORS

To the extent that the competent judicial body decides otherwise, no one shall be allowed to attend a match that has been ordered to be played without spectators, with the exception of:

a) a maximum of 200 people holding category 1 tickets from the visiting club or association and a maximum of 20 VIP guests for each association;

b) a maximum of 55 people per team delegation, including the players;

c) accredited broadcast staff and media (journalists and photographers);

d) police officers and security staff with specific tasks related to security at the match;

e) people carrying out functions related to the stadium infrastructure (grounds, lighting, signage, etc.) and persons carrying out functions related to the match (ball kids, children involved in the pre-match ceremony as well as their chaperones);

f) a maximum of 75 confederation/FIFA representatives carrying out functions at the match;

g) people from the confederation/FIFA and confederation/FIFA partners with complimentary tickets; and

h) a maximum of 1,000 children up to the age of 14 (duly accompanied) from schools and/or football academies invited to the match free of charge.

III.

ORGANISATION AND COMPETENCE

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

30. GENERAL RULE

1. The FIFA judicial bodies shall be competent to investigate, prosecute and sanction conduct within the scope of application of this Code.

2. Confederations, member associations and other sports organisations are responsible for investigating, prosecuting and sanctioning conduct in their respective jurisdictions. In particular, confederations shall have jurisdiction on disciplinary matters related to friendly matches and competitions between representative teams or clubs belonging to the same confederation, provided that the competition is not organised by FIFA.

3. FIFA shall have jurisdiction on disciplinary matters related to matches and competitions organised by it, to international "A" friendly matches (tier-1 international matches), to friendly matches and competitions between representative teams or clubs belonging to different confederations or to matches involving invitational teams composed of players registered with clubs belonging to member associations of different confederations.

4. Each member association has a duty to cooperate with other member associations to forward and notify them of documents or to provide information related to and/or required for domestic disciplinary proceedings. If a member association fails to cooperate in this way, it may lead to sanctions as provided under this Code.

5. Confederations and member associations shall inform FIFA immediately of the sanctions issued by their respective judicial bodies in relation to serious infringements (including but not limited to doping, manipulation of football matches and competitions, sexual abuse or harassment).

6. In exceptional circumstances, after consultation with the relevant panel or committee competent to support FIFA's global stand against racism, FIFA may decide to lodge an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against any decision issued by the relevant judicial body of a member association in cases of racist abuse towards a player, match official, coach, other team official or any other person exercising an official role during a match, whenever such a decision appears to contravene article 15 of this Code.

7. The FIFA judicial bodies reserve the right to investigate, prosecute and sanction serious infringements within the scope of application of this Code – in particular, doping, match manipulation and discrimination – that fall within the jurisdiction of confederations, member associations or other sports organisations, if deemed appropriate in a specific case and if no formal investigation has been initiated by the competent confederation, member association or other sports organisation 90 days after the matter became known to FIFA, or if the relevant confederation, member association or sports organisation agrees with FIFA to confer the competence regarding the relevant matter on FIFA.

8. In particular, for cases of racist abuse towards a player, match official, coach, other team official or any other person exercising an official role during a match, FIFA reserves the right to investigate, prosecute and sanction the relevant offender(s) if no formal investigation has been opened after 14 days of the matter becoming known to FIFA or if no decision has been rendered by the relevant member association in line with the relevant provisions of article 15 of this Code.

9. The FIFA judicial bodies shall not deal with cases that have been previously subject to a final decision by another FIFA body involving the same party or parties and the same cause of action. In such cases, the claim shall be deemed inadmissible.

31. COMPOSITION OF THE FIFA JUDICIAL BODIES

1. In the context of this Code, the FIFA judicial bodies are:

   a) the Disciplinary Committee;

   b) the Appeal Committee.

2. The FIFA judicial bodies shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and an unspecified number of members.

3. The Congress elects, upon the proposal of the Council, the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the FIFA judicial bodies for a period of four years.

32. INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY

1. The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the FIFA judicial bodies shall be impartial and fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the FIFA Governance Regulations.

2. Members of the FIFA judicial bodies may not decide on a matter where there are legitimate grounds for questioning their independence or impartiality and/or if there is a conflict of interest. They shall disclose any circumstance which may give rise to any such ground.

3. Members who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the chairperson immediately.

4. If the circumstances give rise to legitimate doubts over the independence or impartiality of a member of the FIFA judicial body, a party is entitled to challenge said member at the latest two days prior to the relevant date on which the judicial body is called to decide on a matter.

5. The chairperson shall decide on any such challenge. If an objection is raised concerning the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or, in their absence, the longest-serving member present shall decide on such challenge.

33. MEETINGS

1. At the request of the chairperson of the judicial body, the deputy chairperson or, in their absence, the longest-serving member available, and depending on the seriousness of the potential infringement, the secretariat shall call the number of members deemed necessary to each meeting.
2. A meeting may take place with a single judge.
3. The chairperson shall conduct the meetings and pass the decisions that this Code empowers them to take. In the absence of the chairperson of a judicial body, responsibility for deputising shall fall to the respective deputy chairperson or, in the absence of the deputy chairperson, to the longest-serving member or, in the absence of both, to the single judge.

34. CONFIDENTIALITY

1. The members of the FIFA judicial bodies shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential (including the facts of the case, the contents of the deliberations and decisions taken).
2. The opening of proceedings as well as decisions already notified to the addressees may be made public by FIFA.
3. Any person who is required to participate in or is subject to a disciplinary investigation or disciplinary proceedings must keep such information confidential at all times, unless the chairperson of the judicial body explicitly stipulates otherwise in writing. Any breach of such duty may be sanctioned.
4. In the event of a breach of this article by a member of a judicial body, the relevant member shall be suspended from the Disciplinary Committee until the next FIFA Congress.

35. SECRETARIAT

1. The FIFA general secretariat provides the FIFA judicial bodies with a secretariat and the necessary support, infrastructure and staff at FIFA headquarters. The FIFA judicial bodies may be assisted by legal counsel or experts.
2. The secretariat takes charge of the administrative work and writes the decisions of the meetings.
3. The secretariat manages the case files. The decisions passed and the relevant files shall be kept for at least five years.
4. The secretariat keeps records of cautions, sendings-off and match suspensions, which are stored in FIFA's central data storage system. The secretariat of the Disciplinary Committee confirms them in writing to the association or club

concerned or, in the case of final competitions, to the head of the delegation concerned (or the person(s) indicated by the latter for each competition). To ensure that the relevant records are complete, the confederations shall inform FIFA of all sanctions that have been issued during their own competitions that are likely to be carried over to a FIFA competition or future competitions organised by the confederations.

5. The secretariat takes charge of the necessary investigation *ex officio*.

6. The general principles that will apply to investigations are the following:

   a) FIFA may investigate possible offences falling within the scope of this Code.

   b) In principle, when an investigation is initiated, the parties concerned are informed. This does not apply where such notification is not deemed appropriate. Such investigations are conducted by means of written inquiries, engaging with third parties, such as forensic companies and, where necessary, the questioning of individuals. Other investigative procedures may also be employed, including but not limited to on-site inspections, document requests and the procurement of expert opinions.

   An investigation may be reopened if new evidence or facts emerge which imply that an offence falling within the scope of this Code may have been committed.

36. DISCIPLINARY AND ETHICS PROSECUTORS

1. The secretariat may appoint a Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor to support the necessary investigations into potential breaches of FIFA regulations. A Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor shall always be appointed in cases concerning potential breaches of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

2. The appointed Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor may request the opening of disciplinary proceedings and propose that disciplinary measures be imposed on member associations, clubs and individuals.

3. The Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor shall remain impartial and fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the FIFA Governance Regulations. The requirements and conditions of their appointment as well as of their role are set in accordance with the relevant circular letter on this subject. The term of a Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor shall last four years. The secretariat establishes a list of Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutors.

37. EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY

Except in the case of gross culpability, neither the members of the FIFA judicial bodies nor the secretariat may be held liable for any deeds or omissions relating to any disciplinary procedure.

38. TIME LIMITS

1. Time limits shall commence the day after the notification of the relevant document. Time limits are deemed to have been complied with if the relevant action has been completed by midnight (Eastern Standard Time) at the latest on the last day of the stipulated deadline.
2. Official holidays and non-working days are included in the calculation of time limits. Time limits are paused from 20 December to 5 January inclusive, with the exception of time limits established under article 60 of this Code regarding appeals to the Appeal Committee, which stay unaffected.
3. Time limits to which parties and legal representatives shall adhere commence on the day after notification of the document by FIFA.
4. When a deadline expires on a Saturday, Sunday or a federal holiday in the United States of America, where FIFA's Legal & Compliance Division is located, it is carried forward to the next working day.
5. If a time limit is not observed, the defaulter loses the procedural right in question.
6. Unless otherwise established in this Code, time limits laid down by this Code may not be extended. Time limits set by the secretariat to the FIFA judicial bodies may be extended upon substantiated request submitted before the expiry of the relevant time limit.

39. EVIDENCE, EVALUATION OF EVIDENCE AND STANDARD OF PROOF

1. Any type of proof may be produced.
2. The competent judicial body has absolute discretion regarding the evaluation of evidence.
3. The standard of proof to be applied in FIFA disciplinary proceedings is the comfortable satisfaction of the competent judicial body.

40. MATCH OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Facts contained in match officials' reports and in any additional reports or correspondence submitted by the match officials are presumed to be accurate. Proof of their inaccuracy may be provided.

41. BURDEN OF PROOF

1. The burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on the FIFA judicial bodies.

2. Any party claiming a right on the basis of an alleged fact shall carry the burden of proof of this fact. During the proceedings, the party shall submit all relevant facts and evidence of which the party is aware at that time, or of which the party should have been aware by exercising due care.

3. For anti-doping rule violations, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations apply.

42. WITNESSES

1. Witnesses shall tell the absolute and whole truth and shall answer the questions put to them to the best of their knowledge and judgement.

2. It is the responsibility of the parties to ensure the appearance of the witnesses requested by them and to pay all costs and expenses in connection with their appearance.

43. ANONYMOUS PARTICIPANTS IN PROCEEDINGS

1. When a person's testimony in proceedings conducted in accordance with this Code could lead to threats to them or put them or any person particularly close to them in physical danger, the chairperson of the competent judicial body or the deputy chairperson may order, inter alia, that:

   a) the person not be identified in the presence of the parties;

   b) the person not appear at the hearing;

   c) the person's voice be distorted;

   d) the person be questioned outside the hearing room;

   e) the person be questioned in writing;

   f) all or some of the information that could be used to identify the person be included only in a separate, confidential case file.

2. If no other evidence is available to corroborate the testimony provided by the person concerned, such testimony may only be used in the context of imposing sanctions under this Code if:

   a) the parties and their legal representatives had the opportunity to pose questions to the person concerned in writing; and

b) the members of the judicial body had the opportunity to interview the person concerned directly and in full awareness of their identity and to assess their identity and record in full.

3. Disciplinary measures shall be imposed on anyone who reveals the identity of any person granted anonymity under this provision or any information that could be used to identify such person.

44. IDENTIFICATION OF ANONYMOUS PARTICIPANTS IN PROCEEDINGS

1. To ensure their safety, persons granted anonymity shall be identified behind closed doors in the absence of the parties. This identification shall be conducted by the chairperson of the competent judicial body alone, the deputy chairperson and/or the members of the competent judicial body present and shall be recorded in minutes containing the relevant person's personal details.

2. These minutes shall not be communicated to the parties.

3. The parties shall receive a brief notice which:

   a) confirms that the person concerned has been formally identified; and

   b) contains no details that could be used to identify such person.

45. REPRESENTATION AND ASSISTANCE

1. Subject to article 46 of this Code, the parties are free to have legal representation at their own cost, in which case a specific, recent and duly signed power of attorney must be submitted.

2. If they are not required to appear personally, they may be represented.

46. LEGAL AID

1. In order to guarantee their rights, individuals bound by this Code who have insufficient financial means may request legal aid from FIFA for the purpose of proceedings before the FIFA judicial bodies.

2. Applicants for legal aid must submit reasoned requests and supporting documents.

3. The secretariat establishes a list of pro bono counsel.

4. According to each applicant's needs, and subject to prior written confirmation by FIFA, legal aid may be provided as follows:

   a) The applicant may be released from having to pay the costs of proceedings.

b) Pro bono counsel may be selected by the applicant from the list provided by the secretariat.

c) The applicant's own reasonable travel and accommodation costs and those of witnesses and experts they call to testify may be covered by FIFA, including the travel and accommodation costs of any pro bono counsel selected from the list provided by the secretariat.

5. The chairperson of the corresponding judicial body decides on requests for legal aid. Such decisions are final.

6. Further conditions and requirements associated with legal aid and pro bono counsel may be communicated by circular letter.

47. LANGUAGE USED IN PROCEEDINGS

1. The languages used in proceedings are English, French and Spanish. The FIFA judicial bodies and the parties may choose to communicate in any of these languages.

2. Decisions are passed in any of the aforementioned languages.

3. If the language used in a decision is not the mother tongue of the person concerned, the association to which the person belongs will be responsible for translating it.

48. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PARTIES

1. All of the parties shall be notified of the decision.

2. All communications between FIFA and the party concerned during proceedings before the FIFA judicial bodies shall be sent exclusively through the FIFA Legal Portal. Communications through the FIFA Legal Portal are valid and binding means of communication and are sufficient to establish time limits and their observance.

3. The parties and member associations must ensure that their contact details (including their address, telephone number and email address) are valid and kept up to date at all times.

4. Decisions and other documents intended for players and officials are addressed to the association or club concerned on condition that it immediately forwards the documents to the parties concerned. Associations shall also immediately forward correspondence intended for their affiliated clubs. Failure by the association or club to comply with the instructions contained in this article may result in disciplinary proceedings in accordance with this Code.

5. In the event that an association or club acts on behalf of the party concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee upon notification of the association or club concerned in line with article 38.3 of this Code.

6. In the event that the email address of the ultimate addressee is unknown and the association or club is not acting on their behalf, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four days after the notification of the document to the respective association or club.

49. COSTS AND EXPENSES

1. As a general rule and except for protest cases, proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee are free of charge. Should there be costs associated with the proceedings, they shall be borne by the sanctioned party. In protest cases, the costs shall be borne by the defeated party.

2. The costs of proceedings before the Appeal Committee shall be borne by the sanctioned party. If no sanction is imposed, the costs shall be allocated considering the degree of success of the appeal.

3. Should a party generate unnecessary costs on account of its conduct, costs may be imposed upon it, irrespective of the outcome of the proceedings.

4. The relevant judicial body decides how costs and expenses shall be allocated. This decision is not subject to appeal.

5. Each party shall bear its own costs, including the costs of its own witnesses, representatives, legal advisers, interpreters and counsel, subject to article 46.

50. EFFECTS OF DECISIONS

1. Decisions come into force as soon as they are notified.

2. Cautions, sendings-off and automatic match suspensions have an immediate effect on subsequent matches even if the notification reaches the association, club or head of delegation concerned later.

51. PROVISIONAL MEASURES

1. The chairperson of the competent judicial body, or their nominee, is entitled to issue provisional measures where these are deemed necessary to ensure the proper administration of justice, to maintain sporting discipline or to avoid irreparable harm, or for reasons of safety and security. They are not obliged to hear the parties.

2. Provisional measures issued by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee or their nominee may be appealed against in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Code. However, the appeal must reach FIFA in writing via the FIFA Legal Portal and with grounds within three days of notification of the contested measure, without the condition of payment of any appeal fee. The chairperson of the Appeal Committee, or their nominee, decides on such appeals as a single judge. Such decisions are final.

3. A provisional measure may apply for up to 90 days. The duration of any such measure may be deducted from the final disciplinary sanction. The chairperson of the competent judicial body, or their nominee, may exceptionally extend the validity of a provisional measure by up to 90 days.

52. COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)

Decisions passed by the Disciplinary and Appeal Committees may be appealed against before CAS, subject to the provisions of this Code and articles 49 and 50 of the FIFA Statutes.

CHAPTER 2. DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

53. CONVOCATION, RIGHTS OF THE PARTIES, HEARINGS, DECISIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

1. As a general rule, there are no oral statements and the FIFA judicial bodies decide on the basis of the file.
2. At the motivated request of one of the parties or at the discretion of the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or the competent single judge, a hearing may be arranged to be held, to which all the parties shall be summoned.
3. Unless this Code specifies otherwise, the parties are entitled to submit written statements, examine the case file and order copies of the case file before any decision is reached.
4. Hearings are recorded and archived. Parties are not given access to recordings of hearings; however, if a party claims that procedural rules in its favour have been breached during a hearing, the chairperson of the competent judicial body, or their nominee, may allow that party to have access to the recording. Recordings are destroyed after five years.
5. The FIFA judicial bodies may hold hearings and take decisions in the absence of one or all of the parties.
6. If different proceedings are opened against the same association, club or individual, the competent judicial body may combine the cases and issue one comprehensive decision.
7. Hearings of the FIFA judicial bodies are not open to the public, except in cases of anti-doping rule violations by individuals if duly requested by the defendant and approved by the chairperson of the relevant judicial body or their nominee. In cases of match manipulation, the relevant chairperson or their nominee will decide about a public hearing. The chairperson or their nominee decides at their own discretion if and under what conditions a public hearing may take place.
8. At any time prior to the meeting set up to decide the case by the relevant judicial body, a party may accept responsibility and request the FIFA judicial bodies to impose a specific sanction. The FIFA judicial bodies may decide on the basis of such request or render a decision which it considers appropriate in the context of this Code.

9. All communications concerning an association, club or individual (including notifications of proceedings against them and the issuing of the decisions taken by the FIFA judicial bodies) are addressed to the association or club concerned, which must then, if applicable, inform the club or the individual in person. All such communications by FIFA or the FIFA judicial bodies shall be sent by the secretariat via the FIFA Legal Portal.

10. Written communications to FIFA by an association, club or individual shall be submitted via the FIFA Legal Portal.

54. DECISIONS

1. Decisions are passed by a single judge or by a simple majority of the members present. If votes are equal, the chairperson has the casting vote.

2. The FIFA judicial bodies may take decisions via personal meetings, telephone conference, video conference or any other similar method.

3. In principle, the FIFA judicial bodies issue the terms of decisions without grounds, and only these terms of the decision are notified to the parties, who are informed that they have ten days from that notification to request, in writing via the FIFA Legal Portal, a motivated decision. Failure to make such a request results in the decision becoming final and binding and the parties being deemed to have waived their right to lodge an appeal.

4. A motivated decision shall include at least:

   a) a brief summary of the facts, which does not need to include every single contention;

   b) the article(s) infringed;

   c) the considerations that are relevant to the potential breach of the FIFA regulations; and

   d) the criteria used to determine the possible sanction.

5. If the motivated decision is requested within the time limit stipulated in paragraph 3 above, the time limit for lodging an appeal begins only on notification of the motivation. Only the parties to which a decision is addressed can request the motivation.

6. Any appeal lodged before notification of the motivated decision is regarded exclusively as a request for motivation.

7. Doping-related decisions are issued with grounds. In case of urgency, or under any other special circumstances, the relevant judicial body may notify the party of only the terms of the decision, which become immediately applicable. The full, written decision shall then be notified within 60 days.

8. The FIFA secretariat publishes decisions issued by the FIFA judicial bodies. Where such a decision contains confidential information, FIFA may decide, *ex officio* or at the request of a party, to publish an anonymised or a redacted version.

9. The request for a motivated decision does not affect the enforcement of the decision, which shall take effect as soon as it is notified, with the exception of orders to pay a sum of money.

10. The competent judicial body may rectify any mistakes in calculation or any other obvious errors in the decision at any time.

CHAPTER 3. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

55. COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Proceedings are opened by the secretariat of the Disciplinary Committee:

   a) on the basis of match officials' reports;

   b) where a protest has been lodged;

   c) at the request of the FIFA Council;

   d) at the request of the Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor;

   e) at the request of the Ethics Committee;

   f) on the basis of a report filed by a FIFA body, committee, subsidiary, instance or by the FIFA administration;

   g) on the basis of article 21 of this Code;

   h) on the basis of documents received from a public authority;

   i) *ex officio*.

2. Any person or body may report any conduct that is considered incompatible with FIFA regulations to the FIFA judicial bodies. Such complaints shall be made in writing. FIFA may initiate investigations and appoint a Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor to investigate any such complaint.

56. JURISDICTION

1. The Disciplinary Committee is competent to sanction any breach of FIFA regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body.

2. The Disciplinary Committee is, in particular, responsible for:

   a) sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention;

   b) rectifying obvious errors in the referee's disciplinary decisions;

   c) extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by a sending-off;

   d) pronouncing additional sanctions.

3. If deemed appropriate, the chairperson or their deputy may refer a case, regardless of the matter involved, directly to the Appeal Committee for consideration and decision. Cases concerning anti-doping rule violations shall always be referred directly to the Appeal Committee for adjudication.

57. JURISDICTION OF THE SINGLE JUDGES OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. The chairperson can rule alone as a single judge and may delegate their functions to another member of the Disciplinary Committee. The chairperson or their nominee acting as a single judge may take decisions with respect to any matters provided for in this Code.

2. The secretariat, under the guidance of the chairperson or the deputy chairperson, is responsible for assigning the relevant cases to single judges. The proceedings before a single judge shall be conducted in accordance with this Code. A panel shall decide on matters involving discrimination or match manipulation, unless they are deemed urgent, in which case paragraph 1 applies.

58. PROPOSAL BY THE SECRETARIAT

In matters reserved for the single judge, the secretariat may propose a sanction on the basis of the existing file. The party concerned may reject the proposed sanction and submit its position before the relevant judicial body by the stipulated deadline, in the absence of which the proposed sanction will become final and binding.

59. CLOSURE OF PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings may be closed when:

a) the parties reach an agreement;

b) a party is under insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings pursuant to the relevant national law and is legally unable to comply with an order;

c) a club is disaffiliated from an association;

d) the alleged violation has not been proven.

CHAPTER 4. APPEAL COMMITTEE

60. JURISDICTION

1. The Appeal Committee is competent to decide on appeals against any of the Disciplinary Committee's decisions that FIFA regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body, as well as on cases referred by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee or their deputy for consideration and decision.
2. The Appeal Committee is also competent to decide directly on cases involving anti-doping rule violations.
3. Any party intending to lodge an appeal must inform the Appeal Committee of its intention to appeal, in writing via the FIFA Legal Portal, within three days of notification of the grounds of the decision.
4. Within five days of expiry of the time limit for submission of the intention to appeal, the appellant must file, in writing via the FIFA Legal Portal, the appeal brief. This must contain the appellant's requests, an account of the facts, evidence, a list of the proposed witnesses (with a brief summary of their expected testimony) and the appellant's conclusions. The appellant is not authorised to produce further written submissions or evidence after the deadline for filing the appeal brief.
5. In urgent cases and during final competitions, the chairperson may shorten the deadline for the submission of the above-mentioned documents. In exceptional circumstances and at the motivated request of the appellant, the time limit to file the appeal brief may be extended by the chairperson.
6. The appeal fee is USD 1,000, payable on submission of the appeal brief at the latest.
7. The appeal is not admissible if any deadline and/or any of the above-mentioned requirements are not met.

61. ADMISSIBILITY OF APPEALS

1. An appeal may be lodged with the Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee, unless the disciplinary measure issued is:

   a) a warning;

   b) a reprimand;

   c) a suspension of up to two matches or of up to two months;

   d) a fine of up to USD 15,000 imposed on an association or a club or of up to USD 7,500 in other cases;

   e) decisions passed in compliance with articles 21, 23.2, 23.3 or 23.4 of this Code.

2. Only the motivated decision can be appealed against.

3. If the Disciplinary Committee combines disciplinary measures, an appeal is admissible if at least one of the disciplinary measures imposed exceeds the above limits.

62. STANDING TO APPEAL

1. Anyone who has been a party to the proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee may lodge an appeal with the Appeal Committee, provided this party has a legally protected interest in filing the appeal.

2. Member associations and clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their players, officials or members.

63. DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS

1. The Appeal Committee deliberates behind closed doors.

2. Within the framework of the appeal proceedings, the Appeal Committee has full power to review the facts and the law.

3. The decision by the Appeal Committee upholds, amends or overturns the contested decision. In the case of a fundamental mistrial, the Appeal Committee can overturn the contested decision and refer the case back to the Disciplinary Committee for reassessment.

4. If the accused is the only party to have lodged an appeal, the sanction cannot be increased.

5. If new disciplinary offences come to light while appeal proceedings are pending, they may be judged in the course of the same proceedings. In such a situation, the sanction can be increased.

64. JURISDICTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON RULING ALONE

The chairperson (or in their absence, respectively the deputy chairperson and the longest-serving member available) of the Appeal Committee may take decisions alone:

a) on a preliminary procedural issue related to the appeal, including the admissibility of the appeal;

b) in urgent or protest cases;

c) on an appeal against a decision to extend a sanction;

d) to resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeal Committee;

e) on appeals against provisional decisions passed by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee;

f) to issue, alter and annul provisional measures;

g) in cases where the sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Committee is a fine of up to USD 500,000 or a suspension from playing or carrying out a function for up to five matches or a period of time up to 12 months; and/or

h) at the request of the parties.

65. EFFECTS OF APPEAL

1. The appeal does not have a suspensive effect except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.

2. The chairperson, the deputy chairperson or, in their absence, the longest-serving member available, may, on receipt of a reasoned request, award a stay of execution.

IV.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

66. EXPULSION AND MATCH SUSPENSION

1. A player who has been sent off:

   a) shall stay in the team dressing room or the doping control room, accompanied by a chaperone, until the names of the players selected for the doping test are communicated. The player may be allowed to sit in the stands, provided their integrity and security are safeguarded, they are not picked for doping control and are no longer wearing their football equipment;

   b) is not entitled to attend the post-match press conference or any other media activity held in the stadium.

2. A player who is serving a match suspension:

   a) may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided their security and integrity are safeguarded;

   b) shall not enter the dressing room, tunnel or technical area, before or during the match, attend the warm-up, or sit on the team bench. After the final whistle, a suspended player may join their team in the dressing room;

   c) is not entitled to attend the post-match press conference or any other media activity held in the stadium.

3. An official who has been sent off or is serving a match suspension:

   a) may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided their security and integrity are safeguarded;

   b) shall not enter the dressing room, tunnel or technical area, or communicate with or contact any person involved in the match – in particular, players or technical staff – by any means whatsoever prior to or during the match;

   c) is not entitled to attend the post-match press conference or any other media activity held in the stadium.

4. A sending-off automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match. The FIFA judicial bodies may impose additional match suspensions and other disciplinary measures.

5. The automatic match suspension and any additional match suspension must be served, even if the sending-off is imposed in a match that is later abandoned, annulled, forfeited and/or replayed.

6. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited (except for a violation of article 19), a suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the circumstances that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the match.

7. A match suspension is regarded as no longer pending if a match is retroactively forfeited because a player took part in a match despite being ineligible. This also applies to the match suspension imposed on the player who took part in the match despite being ineligible.

67. CARRYING OVER CAUTIONS

1. If a person receives a caution in two separate matches of the same FIFA competition, they are automatically suspended from the next match in that competition. Such suspensions must be served before any other suspension. The Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from or amend this rule before the start of a particular competition. Any such decision reached by the Disciplinary Committee is final and binding.
2. Cautions received during one competition are not carried over to another competition.
3. They are, however, carried over from one round to the next in the same competition. The Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from this rule before the start of a particular competition. This provision is subject to article 68 of this Code and to any derogating rules that FIFA may issue for a specific competition.
4. If a person is sent off as a result of a direct red card, any other caution they have previously received in the same match is upheld.

68. CANCELLATION OF CAUTIONS

1. The Disciplinary Committee may, at its own discretion and on its own initiative or upon the justified and reasonable request of a confederation, cancel cautions that have not resulted in a sending-off or a suspension by means of a decision not subject to appeal.
2. When evaluating the cancellation of cautions, the Disciplinary Committee must take into account, among other general principles, the impact on the integrity of the competition, and the equal treatment between participants.

69. CARRYING OVER MATCH SUSPENSIONS

1. As a general rule, every match suspension (of players and other persons) is carried over from one round to the next in the same competition.
2. Match suspensions imposed in terms of matches in relation to a sending-off issued against a player outside of a competition (separate match[es]) or not served during the competition for which they were intended (elimination or the last match in the competition) are carried over as follows:

a) FIFA World Cup™ and FIFA Women's World Cup™: carried over to the representative team's next official match;

b) competitions subject to an age limit: carried over to the representative team's next official match in the same age group. Where the suspension cannot be served in the same age group, it shall be carried over to the next-highest age category, unless the person concerned is eligible to participate in a match in the next-lowest age group and the said match is to be played before that of the next-highest age group; in that case, the suspension shall be carried over to the next official match of the next-lowest age group;

c) FIFA club competitions: carried over to the club's next official match;

d) Women's Olympic Football Tournament: carried over to the representative team's next official match;

e) Men's Olympic Football Tournament: for players who meet the age limit, carried over to the representative team's next official match in the same age group. Where the suspension cannot be served in the same age group, it shall be carried over to the next-highest age category. For players who do not meet the age limit, it shall be carried over to the representative team's next official match;

f) confederation competitions for representative teams: carried over to the representative team's next official match;

g) competitions in which teams have been chosen in accordance with certain criteria (cultural, geographical, historical, etc.): unless the regulations of these competitions specifically stipulate otherwise, the suspension is carried over to the representative team's next official match;

h) friendly matches: carried over to the representative team's next friendly match.

3. If a representative team is hosting a final competition and is consequently not required to participate in qualifying matches to reach the final competition of this tournament and its next official match is in that final competition, any match suspension shall be carried over to the representative team's next friendly match.

4. In no case may match suspensions resulting from several cautions issued to a player in different matches of the same competition be carried over to another competition.

5. Officials of a club or an association shall serve a match suspension with any club or association of which the official is an official.

6. Match suspensions that have to be carried over to another competition must be served by the person concerned, regardless of whether the status of that person has changed in the meantime, including from player to official or vice versa.

70. EXTENDING SANCTIONS TO HAVE WORLDWIDE EFFECT

1. If the infringement is serious, in particular but not limited to discrimination, manipulation of football matches and competitions, misconduct against match officials, or forgery and falsification, as well as sexual abuse or harassment, the member associations, confederations, and other organising sports bodies shall request that the Disciplinary Committee extend the sanctions they have imposed so as to have worldwide effect (worldwide extension).

2. Any doping-related legally binding sanction imposed by another national or international sports association, national anti-doping organisation or any other state body that complies with fundamental legal principles shall automatically be adopted by FIFA and, provided that the requirements described hereunder and in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations are met, shall be automatically recognised by all confederations and member associations.

3. The request shall be submitted in writing via the FIFA Legal Portal and enclose the following:

   a) a true copy of the decision;

   b) the name, email address, nationality and date of birth of the person who has been sanctioned, or the name, postal address and email address of the club that has been sanctioned;

   c) the name of the association concerned;

   d) the start and end date of the sanction which is to be submitted for a worldwide extension;

   e) evidence that the party concerned has been cited properly and has had the opportunity to state its case (with the exception of provisional measures);

   f) evidence that the decision has been duly communicated to the party concerned; and

   g) evidence that the party concerned has been informed that the sanction will be submitted for a worldwide extension.

4. If the Disciplinary Committee discovers that member associations, confederations and other sports organisations have not requested a decision to be extended to have worldwide effect, a decision may still be passed *ex officio*.

5. A worldwide extension will be approved if the request fulfils the requirements set forth in paragraph 3 above, the decision is compatible with the regulations of FIFA and extending the sanction does not conflict with public order or with accepted standards of behaviour.

6. The chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee takes their decision, in principle, without deliberations or orally hearing any of the parties, using only the file.

7. The chairperson may exceptionally decide to summon the parties concerned.

8. The chairperson is restricted to ascertaining that the conditions of this article have been fulfilled. They may not review the substance of the decision.

9. The chairperson shall either grant or refuse to grant the request to have the sanction extended.

10. A sanction imposed by an association or a confederation has the same effect in each association of FIFA, in each confederation and in FIFA itself as if the sanction had been imposed by any one of them.

11. If a decision that is not yet final in a legal sense is extended to have worldwide effect, any decision regarding extension shall follow the outcome of the association's or confederation's current decision.

71. REVIEW

1. A review may be requested before the competent judicial body after a legally binding decision has been passed if a party discovers facts or proof that would have resulted in a more favourable decision and that, even with due diligence, could not have been produced sooner.

2. A request for review shall be made within ten days of discovering the reasons for review.

3. The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one year after the decision has become final and binding.

V.

FINAL PROVISIONS

72. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

1. This Code exists in English, French and Spanish.
2. In the event of any discrepancy between the three texts, the English version is authoritative.

73. GENDER AND NUMBER

Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice versa.

74. SPECIFIC DISCIPLINARY RULES

Specific disciplinary rules may be introduced for the duration of a FIFA final competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the participating member associations/clubs before the first match of the final competition at the latest.

75. MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS' DISCIPLINARY CODES

1. The member associations are obliged to adapt their own disciplinary provisions to the general principles of this Code for the purpose of harmonising disciplinary measures. Article 15 (except paragraph 7 a)) and article 66 paragraph 4 of this Code are considered mandatory in domestic competitions.
2. Upon FIFA's request, the member associations must provide FIFA with a copy of their updated regulations.
3. All member associations shall also ensure that no one is involved in the management of clubs or the association itself who is under prosecution for action unworthy of such a position or who has been convicted of a criminal offence in the past five years.

76. ADOPTION AND ENFORCEMENT

This Code was adopted by the FIFA Council on 28 April 2026 and comes into force on 1 May 2026.

Zurich, 28 April 2026

For FIFA:



President

Gianni Infantino



Secretary General

Mattias Grafström

ANNEXE

ANNEXE 1: LIST OF DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Article 6 of this Code establishes the list of disciplinary measures which may be imposed by FIFA's judicial bodies on natural and legal persons.

This annexe is aimed at providing a list of specific disciplinary measures which may be taken into consideration by the relevant judicial body when deciding on a specific case.

For the sake of good order, it is to be noted that the list of disciplinary measures developed in the present annexe is not exhaustive, nor binding, and is without prejudice to the general principles established under article 25 of this Code. As a matter of fact, the decisions are rendered on a case-by-case basis and the type and extent of the disciplinary measures are determined by the relevant judicial body in accordance with the objective and subjective elements of the offence, taking into account both aggravating and mitigating circumstances.

I. FAILURE TO RESPECT FINANCIAL DECISIONS (ART. 21 OF THIS CODE)

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Amount due (in USD)</th><th rowspan="2">Fine (in USD)</th><th rowspan="2">Final deadline to comply with the relevant decision</th><th colspan="3">Further disciplinary measures in case of failure to comply by the final deadline</th></tr>
<tr><th>In the case of clubs</th><th>In the case of member associations</th><th>In the case of natural persons</th></tr>
<tr><td>0-10,000</td><td>1,000</td><td rowspan="11">30 days</td><td rowspan="11">Imposition of a ban on registering new players until the complete amount due is paid[1]</td><td rowspan="11">Additional disciplinary measures</td><td rowspan="11">Imposition of a ban on any football-related activity[2]</td></tr>
<tr><td>10,001-20,000</td><td>2,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>20,001-50,000</td><td>5,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>50,001-75,000</td><td>7,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>75,001-100,000</td><td>10,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>100,001-250,000</td><td>15,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>250,001-500,000</td><td>20,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>500,001-750,000</td><td>25,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>750,001-1,500,000</td><td>30,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>1,500,001-3,000,000</td><td>30,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>> 3,000,000</td><td>30,000</td></tr>
</table>

[1] A deduction of points or relegation to a lower division may also be ordered in addition to a transfer ban in the event of persistent failure, repeated offences or serious infringements or if no full transfer ban could be imposed or served for any reason.

[2] Other disciplinary measures may also be imposed.

II. ORDER AND SECURITY AT MATCHES (ART. 17 OF THIS CODE)

A. Host clubs' and member associations' responsibilities

Offence	Sanction for first offence	Sanction for second offence	Sanction for further offences
Failure to assess the degree of risk posed by the match and notify the FIFA bodies of those that are especially high-risk	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	USD 15,000
Failure to comply with and implement existing safety rules and take every safety precaution demanded by the circumstances in and around the stadium before, during and after the match and if incidents occur	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	USD 15,000
Failure to ensure the safety of the match officials and the players and officials of the visiting team during their stay	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	USD 15,000
Failure to keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	USD 15,000
Failure to ensure that law and order are maintained in and around the stadiums and that matches are organised properly	USD 10,000	USD 15,000	USD 30,000

B. Member associations' and clubs' responsibilities for inappropriate behaviour of their supporters

Offence	Sanction for first offence	Sanction for second offence	Sanction for further offences
Invasion or attempted invasion of the field of play	USD 5,000 *(less than 5 persons)* USD 7,500 *(between 5 and 10)* USD 10,000 *(between 10 and 20)* USD 20,000 *(more than 20)*	USD 7,500	Previous fine increased by 100%
Throwing of objects	No. of objects x USD 500	No. of objects x USD 750	No. of objects x USD 1,000
Lighting of fireworks or any other objects	No. of fireworks x USD 500 *With a minimum of USD 1,000*	No. of fireworks x USD 750 *With a minimum of USD 1,500*	No. of fireworks x USD 1,000 *With a minimum of USD 2,000*
Use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	Previous fine increased by 100%
Use of gestures, words, objects or any other means to transmit a message that is not appropriate for a sports event	USD 5,000 *(low severity)* USD 10,000 *(high severity)*	USD 10,000 *(low severity)* USD 20,000 *(high severity)*	Previous fine increased by 100%
Acts of damage	USD 5,000 + damages	USD 7,500 + damages	Previous fine increased by 100%
Causing a disturbance during national anthems	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	Previous fine increased by 100%
Drone	USD 15,000 *(if no match interruption/no impact on the match)* USD 25,000 *(if impact on the match – interruption or delay)*	-	-

III. MISCONDUCT OF PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS (ART. 14 OF THIS CODE)

FIFA tournament	Fine			
	Yellow card (caution)	Indirect red card	Direct red card	Team misconduct[3]
FIFA World Cup™ and men's club competitions	USD 10,000	USD 15,000	USD 20,000	USD 15,000
FIFA Women's World Cup™ and women's club competitions	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	USD 10,000	USD 7,500
FIFA Arab Cup™ and FIFA ASEAN Cup™	USD 2,500	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	USD 5,000
FIFA U-20 World Cup™	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup™	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
FIFA U-17 World Cup™	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup™	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup™	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
FIFA Futsal World Cup™ and FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup™	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
Men's Olympic Football Tournament	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
Women's Olympic Football Tournament	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
Men's Youth Olympic Futsal Tournament	N/A	N/A	N/A	USD 500
Women's Youth Olympic Futsal Tournament	N/A	N/A	N/A	USD 500

[3] Such fine would be imposed in addition to the individual fines in case individual disciplinary sanctions are imposed by the referee on five or more players of the team during the relevant match.

IV. OTHER MATCH-RELATED ISSUES

FIFA Equipment Regulations

Offence	Sanction for first offence	Sanction for second offence[4]	Sanction for further offences[5]
Infringement of the FIFA Equipment Regulations	Warning	USD 5,000	Previous fine increased by 50%

FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations

Offence	Sanction for first offence	Sanction for second offence[6]	Sanction for further offences[7]
Unapproved advertisement on equipment in controlled areas	Warning	USD 5,000	Previous fine increased by 50%
Consumption of competing beverage brands in controlled areas	Warning	USD 500	Previous fine increased by 50%
Unapproved advertisement on the official training sites	Warning	USD 5,000	Previous fine increased by 50%
Failure to comply with media activity obligations in controlled areas	Warning	USD 2,000	Previous fine increased by 50%
Display and/or distribution of promotional materials in controlled areas	Warning	USD 1,000	Previous fine increased by 50%
Unapproved use of FIFA competition marks	Warning	USD 2,000	Previous fine increased by 50%

Others

Offence	Sanction for first offence	Sanction for second offence	Sanction for further offences
Late kick-off	Warning	USD 10,000	Previous fine increased by 100%

4 The below amounts should be reduced to 20% for youth tournaments, futsal tournaments and beach soccer tournaments.

5 The below amounts should be reduced to 20% for youth tournaments, futsal tournaments and beach soccer tournaments.

6 The below amounts should be reduced to 20% for youth tournaments, futsal tournaments and beach soccer tournaments.

7 The below amounts should be reduced to 20% for youth tournaments, futsal tournaments and beach soccer tournaments.

FIFA®



FIFA Disciplinary Code

JANUARY 2027 EDITION

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I.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. OBJECT

This Code describes infringements of the rules in FIFA regulations, determines the sanctions incurred, regulates the organisation and function of the FIFA judicial bodies responsible for taking decisions and the procedures to be followed before said bodies.

2. SCOPE OF APPLICATION: SUBSTANTIVE LAW

1. This Code applies to every match and competition organised by FIFA and to matches and competitions in association football that do not fall under the jurisdiction of the confederations and/or the member associations, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.
2. This Code also applies to any breach of FIFA's statutory objectives as well as of any FIFA rule that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other FIFA body.

3. SCOPE OF PERSONAL APPLICATION

The following are subject to this Code:

a) member associations;

b) members of member associations, in particular the clubs;

c) officials;

d) players;

e) match officials;

f) football agents licensed by FIFA;

g) match agents licensed by FIFA;

h) single-entity leagues;

i) anyone elected or assigned by FIFA to exercise a function, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organised by FIFA.

4. SCOPE OF TEMPORAL APPLICATION

1. This Code applies to all disciplinary offences committed following the date on which it comes into force.
2. This Code also applies to all disciplinary offences committed prior to the date on which it comes into force, subject to any milder sanction that would apply under previous rules.
3. Disciplinary proceedings instigated against someone who was under FIFA's jurisdiction as per article 3 on the day the alleged disciplinary offence was committed shall not be abandoned by the FIFA judicial bodies solely because the person involved is no longer under FIFA's jurisdiction.

5. APPLICABLE LAW

The FIFA judicial bodies base their decisions:

a) primarily, on the FIFA Statutes as well as FIFA's regulations, circulars, directives and decisions, and the Laws of the Game; and

b) subsidiarily, on Swiss law and any other law that the competent judicial body deems applicable.

6. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

1. The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on natural and legal persons:
   a) warning;
   b) reprimand;
   c) fine or any other pecuniary measure;
   d) return of awards;
   e) withdrawal of a title;
   f) order to fulfil a financial obligation arising or existing in the context of a trial.
2. The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on natural persons only:
   a) suspension for a specific number of matches or for a specific period;
   b) ban from dressing rooms and/or team bench;
   c) ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
   d) community football service;
   e) suspension or withdrawal of a football agent licence;
   f) suspension or withdrawal of a match agent licence.

3. The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on legal persons only:

   a) ban on registering new players;

   b) playing a match without spectators;

   c) playing a match with a limited number of spectators;

   d) playing a match on neutral territory;

   e) ban on playing in a particular stadium;

   f) annulment of the result of a match;

   g) deduction of points;

   h) relegation to a lower division;

   i) expulsion from a competition in progress or from future competitions;

   j) forfeit;

   k) replaying a match;

   l) implementation of a prevention plan;

   m) forfeiture of training rewards that are due;

   n) payment of restitution to an affiliated club;

   o) payment of a specific amount to a club or a member association.

4. In general, fines shall not be less than USD 100 or more than USD 1,000,000. However, fines in relation to specific provisions of this Code may extend beyond that range.

5. Member associations are jointly liable for fines imposed on representative team players and officials. The same applies to clubs in respect of their players and officials.

6. The disciplinary measures provided for in this Code may be combined.

7. DIRECTIVES

1. Directives require those affected by them to behave in a certain manner.

2. In addition to disciplinary measures, the FIFA judicial bodies may issue directives stipulating the manner in which a disciplinary measure must be carried out, including the date and conditions on which the disciplinary measure is enforced.

3. The FIFA judicial bodies may also award compensation for damage where an association or club is liable for that damage on the basis of article 8 or 17.

8. RESPONSIBILITY

1. Unless otherwise specified in this Code, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or negligently. In particular, member associations and clubs may be responsible for the behaviour of their members, players, officials or supporters or any other person carrying out a function on their behalf even if the association or club concerned can prove the absence of any fault or negligence.
2. Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable.
3. Anyone who takes part in committing an infringement or induces someone to do so, whether as instigator or accomplice, may also be sanctioned.

9. DECISIONS OF THE REFEREE

1. Decisions taken by the referee on the field of play are final and may not be reviewed by the FIFA judicial bodies.
2. In cases where a decision by the referee involves an obvious error (such as mistaking the identity of the person penalised), the FIFA judicial bodies may only review the disciplinary consequences of that decision. In cases of mistaken identity, disciplinary proceedings may, in accordance with this Code, be opened only against the person who was actually at fault.
3. A protest against a caution or a sending-off from the field of play after two cautions is admissible only if the referee's error was to mistake the identity of the player.
4. In cases of serious misconduct, disciplinary action may be taken even if the referee and their assistants did not see the event in question and were therefore unable to take any action.
5. The provisions of this Code relating to protests against match results affected by a referee's decision that was an obvious violation of a rule remain applicable.

10. LIMITATION PERIOD FOR PROSECUTION

1. Infringements may no longer be prosecuted in accordance with the following periods:
   a) two years for infringements committed during a match;
   b) ten years for anti-doping rule violations (as defined in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations), infringements relating to international transfers involving minors, and match manipulation;
   c) five years for all other offences.

2. The limitation period runs as follows:

   a) from the day on which the perpetrator committed the infringement;

   b) if the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed;

   c) if the infringement lasted for a certain period, from the day on which it ended;

   d) from the day on which the decision of the Football Tribunal or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) becomes final and binding.

3. The limitation periods set out above are interrupted by all procedural acts, starting afresh with each interruption.

11. DUTY TO REPORT

1. Anyone subject to this Code shall immediately report to the secretariat of the Disciplinary Committee any violation of, or attempt to violate, this Code by any third party.

2. Anyone subject to this Code who makes an unfounded or irresponsible accusation may be sanctioned.

12. DUTY TO COLLABORATE

1. The parties shall act in good faith throughout the proceedings.

2. The parties or the persons subject to this Code shall collaborate to establish the facts and, in particular, comply with requests for information from a FIFA body, committee, subsidiary or instance, as well as from the FIFA administration.

3. In particular, persons subject to this Code shall help to establish and/or clarify the facts of a case or any possible breaches of this Code and, in particular, shall provide any evidence requested.

4. Any breach of this article by any person subject to this Code may lead to the appropriate sanctions being imposed by the relevant judicial body.

5. If the parties fail to collaborate, especially if they ignore the stipulated time limits, the judicial body may nonetheless reach a decision on the case using the file in its possession.

II.

OFFENCES

CHAPTER 1. INFRINGEMENTS OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME

13. OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOUR AND VIOLATIONS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF FAIR PLAY

1. Member associations and clubs, as well as their players, officials and any other member and/or person carrying out a function on their behalf, must respect the Laws of the Game, as well as the FIFA Statutes and FIFA's regulations, directives, guidelines, circulars and decisions, and comply with the principles of fair play, loyalty and integrity.

2. For example, anyone who acts in any of the following ways may be subject to disciplinary measures:

   a) violating the basic rules of decent conduct;

   b) insulting a natural or legal person in any way, especially by using offensive gestures, signs or language;

   c) using a sports event for demonstrations of a non-sporting nature;

   d) behaving in a way that brings the sport of football and/or FIFA into disrepute;

   e) actively altering the age of players shown on the identity cards they produce at competitions that are subject to age limits.

CHAPTER 2. DISORDERLINESS AT MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

14. MISCONDUCT OF PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

1. Players and officials shall be suspended for misconduct as specified below and may be fined accordingly:

   a) one match for players who are sent off for denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity;

   b) at least one match or an appropriate period of time for unsporting behaviour towards an opponent or a person other than a match official;

   c) at least one match for officials who are sent off for dissent by word or action;

   d) at least one match for deliberately receiving a yellow or red card, including in order to be suspended for an upcoming match or to ultimately have a clean record;

   e) at least two matches for serious foul play;

   f) at least two matches for provoking spectators at a match by any means;

   g) at least two matches or a specific period for acting with obvious intent to cause a match official to make an incorrect decision or supporting their error of judgement and thereby causing them to make an incorrect decision;

   h) at least three matches for violent conduct;

   i) at least three matches or an appropriate period of time for assault, including elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting at or hitting an opponent or a person other than a match official;

   j) at least four matches or an appropriate period of time for unsporting behaviour towards a match official;

   k) at least ten matches or an appropriate period of time for intimidating or threatening a match official;

   l) at least 15 matches or an appropriate period of time for assaulting a match official, including elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting or hitting.

2. The misconduct described in paragraph 1 b), f), j) and k) is also subject to the respective sanctions in this Code, despite the fact that the offence has been committed off the field of play (including via social networks).

3. If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those actually played by the respective team count towards execution of the suspension. It is not necessary for a player to be included on the team sheet for the respective match or competition in order for a match suspension to be considered served.

4. A player or official who, in the context of a match (including pre- and post-match) or competition, publicly incites others to hatred or violence will be sanctioned with a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for no less than six months and with a minimum fine of USD 5,000. In serious cases, in addition to the above sanctions and in particular if the infringement is committed using social networks and/or the mass media (such as the press, radio or television) or takes place on a matchday in or around a stadium, the minimum fine will be USD 20,000.

5. If a national or club team conducts itself improperly (including but not limited to causing a late kick-off or if individual disciplinary sanctions are imposed by the referee on five or more players – three or more in the case of futsal – during a match), disciplinary measures may also be taken against the association or club concerned.

6. Additional disciplinary measures may also be imposed in all cases.

15. DISCRIMINATION AND RACIST ABUSE

1. Any person who offends the dignity or integrity of a country, a person or group of people through contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words or actions on account of race, skin colour, ethnicity, nationality, social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status or any other reason shall be sanctioned with a suspension lasting at least ten matches or a specific period, or any other appropriate disciplinary measure.

2. Member associations and clubs shall take all necessary and reasonable measures to ban from entering stadiums any person who has been charged with, or found guilty of, having racially abused a player, match official, coach, other team official or any other person exercising an official role during a match through contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words or actions on account of race, skin colour, descent, nationality or ethnicity, including via social media or any other digital platform or written medium.

3. In the event of racist abuse occurring during a match, the referee will implement FIFA's three-step anti-discrimination procedure, in line with the relevant regulations and circular letters. The procedure allows the referee to 1) stop the match, 2) suspend the match and 3) abandon the match.

4. Any player or official who is the victim of racist abuse by the crowd during a match may inform the referee by using the appropriate gesture, as outlined in the relevant FIFA rules, or by any other means. The referee may then immediately implement the first step of FIFA's three-step anti-discrimination procedure, as described in

paragraph 3 above. Subsequently, the host club, member association or organising authority shall immediately deploy the necessary personnel to the relevant section of the stadium with the aim of stopping the racist abuse. The player or official may also identify the person(s) involved in perpetrating such abuse and request that they be removed from the stadium whenever possible. If they cannot be removed due to security reasons and the racist abuse continues, the referee may implement the second step of FIFA's three-step anti-discrimination procedure until the abuse desists.

5. In cases where the racist abuse has been personally verified by the referee and the second step of FIFA's three-step anti-discrimination procedure (i.e. suspend the match) has been applied per paragraph 3 above, the player or official who has been subjected to the abuse may provide the Disciplinary Committee with a victim statement. If the club or member association concerned is unable to provide enough evidence or clarification to disprove the racist abuse alleged by the player or official, the player or official's statement will be accepted. In such cases, and after all the relevant circumstances have been considered, the Disciplinary Committee may decide to declare the match forfeited by the responsible club or member association.

6. If one or more supporters of a representative team or club engage in the behaviour described in paragraph 1 above, the member association or club responsible will be subject to the following disciplinary measures, even if the member association or club concerned can prove the absence of any fault or negligence:

   a) For a first offence, playing a match with a limited number of spectators and a fine of at least USD 20,000 shall be imposed on the association or club concerned, unless this would lead to an unreasonable financial impact on the affected member association or club, in which case the fine may be reduced, on an exceptional basis, to no less than USD 1,000. As an exception to article 6.4 of this Code, the maximum fine to be imposed in cases of racist abuse against a player, match official, coach, other team official or any other person exercising an official role during a match shall be USD 5,000,000;

   b) For recidivists or repeat incidents, or if the circumstances of the case require it, disciplinary measures such as the implementation of a prevention plan, a fine, a points deduction, playing one or more matches without spectators, a ban on playing in a particular stadium, the forfeiting of a match, expulsion from a competition or relegation to a lower division may be imposed on the association or club concerned.

7. The competent judicial body may deviate from the above minimum sanctions in either of the following scenarios:

   a) The discrimination was perpetrated by a player or official who subsequently admits the offence, in which case up to half of the sanction may, at the discretion of the judicial body, be commuted to educational, communication and training initiatives to be approved by FIFA.

b) The association and/or club concerned commits to developing, in conjunction with FIFA, a comprehensive plan to ensure action against discrimination and to prevent repeated incidents. The plan shall be approved by FIFA and shall include, at least, the following three focus areas:

   i. Educational activities (including a communication campaign aimed at supporters and the general public). The effectiveness of the campaign will be reviewed regularly.

   ii. Stadium security and dialogue measures (including a policy on how offenders will be identified and dealt with through football sanctions, a policy on escalation to state (criminal) legal authorities, and a dialogue with supporters and influencers on how to create change).

   iii. Partnerships (including working with supporters, NGOs, experts and stakeholders to advise on and support the action plan and ensure effective and ongoing implementation).

8. Persons who are bound by this Code and have been the victim of potential discriminatory behaviour may be invited by the respective judicial body to make an oral or written victim impact statement, and will have the right to request the motivated decision in proceedings before the judicial bodies, as well as to lodge an appeal and act as party in the disciplinary appeal proceedings in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Code.

9. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, if a match is abandoned by the referee because of discriminatory behaviour and/or racist abuse, the match shall be declared forfeited.

16. UNPLAYED MATCHES AND ABANDONMENT

1. If a match cannot take place or cannot be played in full for reasons other than force majeure, but due to the behaviour of a team or behaviour for which an association or a club is liable, the association or the club will be sanctioned with a minimum fine of USD 10,000. The match will either be forfeited or replayed, and additional disciplinary measures may be imposed on the association or club concerned.

2. As an exception to the above, a replay does not apply if a match is abandoned because a team has left the field of play in protest at a refereeing decision. In such cases, the sanction imposed on the corresponding association or club shall be a forfeiture and any other disciplinary measure deemed adequate by the judicial body.

3. If a match was abandoned and is to be replayed in full, any caution issued during that match shall be annulled. If a match was abandoned, in particular for reasons of force majeure, and it recommences at the minute at which play was interrupted, any caution imposed before the match was abandoned remains valid for the remainder of the match. If the match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the teams shall be upheld.

17. ORDER AND SECURITY AT MATCHES

1. Host clubs and member associations are responsible for order and security both in and around the stadium before, during and after matches. Without prejudice to their responsibility for the inappropriate behaviour of their own supporters, they are liable for incidents of any kind, including but not limited to those listed in paragraph 2 below, and may be subject to disciplinary measures and directives unless they can prove that they have not been negligent in any way in the organisation of the match. In particular, member associations, clubs and licensed match agents who organise matches shall:

   a) assess the degree of risk posed by the match and notify the FIFA bodies of those that are especially high-risk;

   b) comply with and implement existing safety rules (FIFA regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by the circumstances in and around the stadium before, during and after the match and if incidents occur;

   c) ensure the safety of the match officials and the players and officials of the visiting team during their stay;

   d) keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;

   e) ensure that law and order are maintained in and around the stadiums and that matches are organised properly.

2. All member associations and clubs are liable for inappropriate behaviour on the part of one or more of their supporters as stated below and may be subject to disciplinary measures and directives even if they can prove the absence of any negligence in relation to the organisation of the match:

   a) the invasion or attempted invasion of the field of play;

   b) the throwing of objects;

   c) the lighting of fireworks or any other objects;

   d) the use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices;

   e) the use of gestures, words, objects or any other means to transmit a message that is not appropriate for a sports event, particularly messages that are of a political, ideological, religious or offensive nature;

   f) acts of damage;

   g) causing a disturbance during national anthems;

   h) any other lack of order or discipline observed in or around the stadium.

18. PROTESTS

1. Member associations and their clubs are entitled to lodge protests. Protests must reach the Disciplinary Committee in writing via the FIFA Legal Portal, indicating the relevant grounds, within 24 hours of the end of the match in question.

2. The 24-hour time limit cannot be extended. For the sake of the smooth running of the competition, the corresponding competition regulations may shorten the protest deadline accordingly.

3. The protest fee is USD 1,000. It must be paid when the protest is lodged and is reimbursed only if the protest is admitted in full.

4. A protest is admissible only if the protest fee is paid in accordance with paragraph 3 above and only if it is based on:

   a) an ineligible player's participation in a match as a consequence of that player not fulfilling the conditions defined in the relevant FIFA regulations;

   b) an unfit field of play, as long as the referee was informed as soon as the problem was reported or observed (whether in writing before the match, or orally by a team captain, in the presence of the captain of the opposing team, during the match);

   c) an obvious error by the referee as defined in article 9 of this Code, in which case the protest may be directed only at the disciplinary consequences of the referee's obvious error.

19. FIELDING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER

1. If a player fielded in a match and/or competition is declared ineligible, the FIFA judicial bodies, taking into consideration the integrity of the competition concerned, may impose any appropriate disciplinary measures.

2. If a player fielded in a match is declared ineligible following a protest, the team to which the player belongs will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of USD 6,000. The player may also be sanctioned.

3. The Disciplinary Committee may act *ex officio*.

20. MANIPULATION OF FOOTBALL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

1. Anyone who directly or indirectly, by an act or an omission, unlawfully influences or manipulates the course, result or any other aspect of a match and/or competition or conspires or attempts to do so by any means shall be sanctioned with a minimum five-year ban on taking part in any football-related activity as well as a fine of at least USD 100,000. In serious cases, a longer ban period, including a potential lifetime ban on taking part in any football-related activity, shall be imposed.

2. If a player or official engages in behaviour described in paragraph 1, the club or association to which the player or official belongs may be sanctioned with the forfeiting of the match in question or may be declared ineligible to participate in a different competition, provided the integrity of the competition is protected. Additional disciplinary measures may be imposed.

3. Persons bound by this Code must cooperate fully with FIFA at all times in its efforts to combat such behaviour and shall therefore immediately and voluntarily report to the secretariat of the Disciplinary Committee any approach in connection with activities and/or information directly or indirectly related to the possible manipulation of a football match or competition as described above. Any breach of this provision shall be sanctioned with a ban of at least two years on taking part in any football related activity and a fine of at least USD 15,000.

4. The Disciplinary Committee shall be competent to investigate and adjudicate all conduct on and off the field of play in connection with the manipulation of football matches and competitions.

CHAPTER 3. OTHER PROVISIONS

21. FAILURE TO RESPECT DECISIONS

1. Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, a coach, a football agent, a match agent or a club) or FIFA a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA or a CAS decision (financial decision), or anyone who fails to comply with another final decision (non-financial decision) passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA, or by CAS:

   a) may be fined for failing to comply with a decision and receive any pertinent additional disciplinary measure; and, if necessary:

   b) will be granted a final deadline in which to pay the amount due or to comply with the non-financial decision;

   c) may be ordered to pay an interest rate of 18% p.a. to the creditor as from the date of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee rendered in connection to a CAS decision on an appeal against a (financial) decision passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA;

   d) in the case of clubs, upon expiry of the aforementioned final deadline and in the event of persistent default or failure to comply in full with the decision within the period stipulated, a ban on registering new players will be issued until the complete amount due is paid or the non-financial decision is complied with. A deduction of points or relegation to a lower division may also be ordered in addition to a ban on registering new players in the event of persistent failure (i.e. the ban on registering new players has been served for more than three entire and consecutive registration periods following the notification of the decision), repeated offences or serious infringements or if no full registration ban could be imposed or served for any reason;

   e) in the case of member associations, upon expiry of the aforementioned final deadline and in the event of persistent default or failure to comply in full with the decision within the period stipulated, additional disciplinary measures may be imposed;

   f) in the case of natural persons, upon expiry of the aforementioned final deadline and in the event of persistent default or failure to comply in full with the decision within the period stipulated, a ban on any football-related activity and/or a suspension of the relevant licence for a specific period may be imposed. Other disciplinary measures may also be imposed.

2. With regard to financial decisions passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA, or CAS, disciplinary proceedings may only commence at the request of the creditor or any other affected party who is entitled to be notified of the final outcome of the said disciplinary proceedings, including the motivated decision if so requested.

3. If the sanctioned person disregards the final time limit, FIFA and/or the relevant association (in cases involving clubs or natural persons) shall implement the sanctions imposed. Where a registration ban (in the case of a club), a ban on any football-related activity and/or a suspension of the relevant licence (in the case of a natural person) or a disciplinary measure (in the case of member associations) has been enforced against a debtor in accordance with this article in relation to a financial obligation resulting from a CAS or FIFA decision and where the debtor provides FIFA with reliable evidence of having complied with such decision, such ban or measure may be provisionally lifted.

   The creditor will be invited to confirm whether such payment has been made.

   a) Should the debtor have provided accurate information and fully settled its financial obligation, the ban or measure is considered permanently lifted.

   b) Should the debtor have provided inaccurate information and/or have failed to comply with its financial obligation in full, the Disciplinary Committee may decide to:

      i. reinstate the ban or measure; and

      ii. impose additional disciplinary measures.

4. The sporting successor of a non-compliant party shall also be considered a non-compliant party and thus subject to the obligations under this provision. Criteria to assess whether an entity is to be considered as the sporting successor of another entity are, among others, its headquarters, name, legal form, team colours, players, public perception, shareholders or stakeholders or ownership and the category of competition concerned.

5. With regard to financial decisions passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA, or CAS, creditors are expected to remain vigilant and take prompt legal action to enforce any financial claims arising from such decisions, including by actively registering their claims in accordance with the relevant domestic insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings, unless said claims are registered *ex officio* in those proceedings.

   a) Debtors must notify creditors in a timely and reasonable manner about the initiation of domestic insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings, and no later than 15 days after becoming aware of the initiation of such proceedings. They must also outline the creditors' rights in the proceedings and the methods available to the creditors for registering a claim.

b) Creditors shall be considered negligent if they fail to register their claims without valid justification and despite having been informed by the debtor about the initiation of domestic insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings.

c) Creditors shall not be considered negligent if they are unable to register their claims in the relevant domestic insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings if the financial decision passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA, or CAS, is issued when the domestic registration period for claims has expired and cannot be reopened.

6. Any final and binding financial or non-financial decision that has been issued against a club by a competent decision-making body within the relevant association shall be enforced by the association of the deciding body that has issued the decision in accordance with the principles established in this article and in compliance with the applicable disciplinary regulations. An association will be fined for failing to enforce the decision in accordance with this article. In the event of persistent failure to enforce the decision, additional disciplinary measures may be imposed on the association. In addition, if the decision in question has been issued by a national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC) recognised in accordance with the applicable FIFA regulations, and if the NDRC decision is not enforced by the relevant association within 60 days, the Disciplinary Committee will be automatically competent to enforce the NDRC decision against the club concerned in accordance with this article.

7. Any final and binding financial or non-financial decision that has been issued against a natural person by a competent decision-making body within the relevant association shall be enforced by the association of the deciding body that has issued the decision or by the natural person's new association, if the natural person has, in the meantime, been registered or licensed at another association, or otherwise employed by a club affiliated to another association or by another association, in accordance with the principles established in this article and in compliance with the applicable disciplinary regulations. An association will be fined for failing to enforce the decision in accordance with this article. In the event of persistent failure to enforce the decision, additional disciplinary measures may be imposed on the association. In addition, if the decision in question has been issued by a national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC) recognised in accordance with the applicable FIFA regulations, and if the NDRC decision is not enforced by the relevant association within 60 days, the Disciplinary Committee will be automatically competent to enforce the NDRC decision against the natural person concerned in accordance with this article.

8. Any financial decision issued by the Football Tribunal or FIFA imposing disciplinary measures, such as a ban from registering any new players – either nationally or internationally – or a restriction on playing in official matches, will be automatically enforced by FIFA and the relevant member association. FIFA will be competent to deal with any issue relating to the enforcement of such decisions, including but not

limited to the potential recognition of the sporting successor and the assessment of potential insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings.

9. Where a decision issued by the FIFA Football Tribunal or a proposal confirmed by the FIFA general secretariat contains consequences for failure to pay relevant amounts on time and the debtor has not provided proof of payment after such consequences have been served in full, the Disciplinary Committee may decide to provisionally extend such consequences until a final decision has been rendered by this judicial body in accordance with this article.

10. The Disciplinary Committee shall be competent to decide on cases related to the failure to respect settlement agreements concluded in the context of disciplinary proceedings opened against a debtor with respect to a final and binding financial decision issued by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA or by CAS. This shall include private agreements concluded after any decision passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA or by CAS and made in order to settle their dispute.

11. Disciplinary proceedings for failing to respect a final CAS decision rendered in the context of ordinary proceedings may be initiated provided that the respective CAS procedure started after 15 July 2019.

22. FORGERY AND FALSIFICATION

1. Anyone who, in football-related activities, forges a document, falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document will be sanctioned with a fine and a suspension or a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a specific period of no less than 12 months.

2. An association or a club may be held liable for an act of forgery or falsification by one of its officials and/or players.

23. SPECIFIC PROCEEDINGS

1. Doping is sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and this Code.

2. Breaches of the FIFA Football Agent Regulations are sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Football Agent Regulations and this Code.

3. Breaches of the FIFA Match Agent Regulations are sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Match Agent Regulations and this Code.

4. Breaches of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations are sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Clearing House Regulations and this Code.

CHAPTER 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

24. ENFORCEMENT OF SANCTIONS

1. The limitation period to enforce disciplinary measures is five years.
2. The limitation period begins on the day on which the final decision comes into force.

25. DETERMINING THE DISCIPLINARY MEASURE

1. The judicial body determines the type and extent of the disciplinary measures to be imposed in accordance with the objective and subjective elements of the offence, taking into account both aggravating and mitigating circumstances.
2. Disciplinary measures may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of match or competition.
3. When determining the disciplinary measure, the judicial body shall take into account all relevant factors of the case, including any assistance of and substantial cooperation by the offender in uncovering or establishing a breach of any FIFA rule, the circumstances and the degree of the offender's guilt and any other relevant circumstances.
4. In exercising its discretionary powers, the relevant FIFA judicial body may scale down the disciplinary measure to be imposed or even dispense with it entirely.

26. RECIDIVISM

1. Recidivism occurs if another offence of a similar nature and gravity is committed after notification of the previous decision within:
   a) one year of the previous offence if that offence was sanctioned with a suspension of up to two matches;
   b) two years of the previous offence if that offence related to order and security;
   c) ten years of the previous offence if that offence related to match manipulation or corruption;
   d) three years of the previous offence in all other cases.
2. Recidivism counts as an aggravating circumstance.
3. Recidivism in doping matters is subject to the rules of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

27. SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

1. The judicial body may decide to fully or partially suspend the implementation of a disciplinary measure.
2. By suspending the implementation of the sanction, the judicial body subjects the person sanctioned to a probationary period of one to four years.
3. If the person benefiting from a suspended sanction commits another infringement of a similar nature and gravity during the probationary period, the suspension shall be revoked by the judicial body and the sanction enforced without prejudice to any additional sanction imposed for the new infringement.
4. Disciplinary measures relating to match manipulation cannot be suspended.

28. FORFEIT

1. A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost the match 3-0 in 11-a-side football, 5-0 in futsal or 10-0 in beach soccer. If the goal difference at the end of the match is less favourable to the team at fault, the result on the pitch is upheld.
2. Cautions issued in a match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be annulled.

29. MATCHES TO BE PLAYED WITHOUT SPECTATORS

To the extent that the competent judicial body decides otherwise, no one shall be allowed to attend a match that has been ordered to be played without spectators, with the exception of:

a) a maximum of 200 people holding category 1 tickets from the visiting club or association and a maximum of 20 VIP guests for each association;

b) a maximum of 55 people per team delegation, including the players;

c) accredited broadcast staff and media (journalists and photographers);

d) police officers and security staff with specific tasks related to security at the match;

e) people carrying out functions related to the stadium infrastructure (grounds, lighting, signage, etc.) and persons carrying out functions related to the match (ball kids, children involved in the pre-match ceremony as well as their chaperones);

f) a maximum of 75 confederation/FIFA representatives carrying out functions at the match;

g) people from the confederation/FIFA and confederation/FIFA partners with complimentary tickets; and

h) a maximum of 1,000 children up to the age of 14 (duly accompanied) from schools and/or football academies invited to the match free of charge.

III.

ORGANISATION AND COMPETENCE

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

30. GENERAL RULE

1. The FIFA judicial bodies shall be competent to investigate, prosecute and sanction conduct within the scope of application of this Code.

2. Confederations, member associations and other sports organisations are responsible for investigating, prosecuting and sanctioning conduct in their respective jurisdictions. In particular, confederations shall have jurisdiction on disciplinary matters related to friendly matches and competitions between representative teams or clubs belonging to the same confederation, provided that the competition is not organised by FIFA.

3. FIFA shall have jurisdiction on disciplinary matters related to matches and competitions organised by it, to international "A" friendly matches (tier-1 international matches), to friendly matches and competitions between representative teams or clubs belonging to different confederations or to matches involving invitational teams composed of players registered with clubs belonging to member associations of different confederations.

4. Each member association has a duty to cooperate with other member associations to forward and notify them of documents or to provide information related to and/or required for domestic disciplinary proceedings. If a member association fails to cooperate in this way, it may lead to sanctions as provided under this Code.

5. Confederations and member associations shall inform FIFA immediately of the sanctions issued by their respective judicial bodies in relation to serious infringements (including but not limited to doping, manipulation of football matches and competitions, sexual abuse or harassment).

6. In exceptional circumstances, after consultation with the relevant panel or committee competent to support FIFA's global stand against racism, FIFA may decide to lodge an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against any decision issued by the relevant judicial body of a member association in cases of racist abuse towards a player, match official, coach, other team official or any other person exercising an official role during a match, whenever such a decision appears to contravene article 15 of this Code.

7. The FIFA judicial bodies reserve the right to investigate, prosecute and sanction serious infringements within the scope of application of this Code – in particular, doping, match manipulation and discrimination – that fall within the jurisdiction of confederations, member associations or other sports organisations, if deemed appropriate in a specific case and if no formal investigation has been initiated by the competent confederation, member association or other sports organisation 90 days after the matter became known to FIFA, or if the relevant confederation, member association or sports organisation agrees with FIFA to confer the competence regarding the relevant matter on FIFA.

8. In particular, for cases of racist abuse towards a player, match official, coach, other team official or any other person exercising an official role during a match, FIFA reserves the right to investigate, prosecute and sanction the relevant offender(s) if no formal investigation has been opened after 14 days of the matter becoming known to FIFA or if no decision has been rendered by the relevant member association in line with the relevant provisions of article 15 of this Code.

9. The FIFA judicial bodies shall not deal with cases that have been previously subject to a final decision by another FIFA body involving the same party or parties and the same cause of action. In such cases, the claim shall be deemed inadmissible.

31. COMPOSITION OF THE FIFA JUDICIAL BODIES

1. In the context of this Code, the FIFA judicial bodies are:

   a) the Disciplinary Committee;

   b) the Appeal Committee.

2. The FIFA judicial bodies shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and an unspecified number of members.

3. The Congress elects, upon the proposal of the Council, the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the FIFA judicial bodies for a period of four years.

32. INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY

1. The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the FIFA judicial bodies shall be impartial and fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the FIFA Governance Regulations.

2. Members of the FIFA judicial bodies may not decide on a matter where there are legitimate grounds for questioning their independence or impartiality and/or if there is a conflict of interest. They shall disclose any circumstance which may give rise to any such ground.

3. Members who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the chairperson immediately.

4. If the circumstances give rise to legitimate doubts over the independence or impartiality of a member of the FIFA judicial body, a party is entitled to challenge said member at the latest two days prior to the relevant date on which the judicial body is called to decide on a matter.

5. The chairperson shall decide on any such challenge. If an objection is raised concerning the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or, in their absence, the longest-serving member present shall decide on such challenge.

33. MEETINGS

1. At the request of the chairperson of the judicial body, the deputy chairperson or, in their absence, the longest-serving member available, and depending on the seriousness of the potential infringement, the secretariat shall call the number of members deemed necessary to each meeting.
2. A meeting may take place with a single judge.
3. The chairperson shall conduct the meetings and pass the decisions that this Code empowers them to take. In the absence of the chairperson of a judicial body, responsibility for deputising shall fall to the respective deputy chairperson or, in the absence of the deputy chairperson, to the longest-serving member or, in the absence of both, to the single judge.

34. CONFIDENTIALITY

1. The members of the FIFA judicial bodies shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential (including the facts of the case, the contents of the deliberations and decisions taken).
2. The opening of proceedings as well as decisions already notified to the addressees may be made public by FIFA.
3. Any person who is required to participate in or is subject to a disciplinary investigation or disciplinary proceedings must keep such information confidential at all times, unless the chairperson of the judicial body explicitly stipulates otherwise in writing. Any breach of such duty may be sanctioned.
4. In the event of a breach of this article by a member of a judicial body, the relevant member shall be suspended from the Disciplinary Committee until the next FIFA Congress.

35. SECRETARIAT

1. The FIFA general secretariat provides the FIFA judicial bodies with a secretariat and the necessary support, infrastructure and staff at FIFA headquarters. The FIFA judicial bodies may be assisted by legal counsel or experts.
2. The secretariat takes charge of the administrative work and writes the decisions of the meetings.
3. The secretariat manages the case files. The decisions passed and the relevant files shall be kept for at least five years.
4. The secretariat keeps records of cautions, sendings-off and match suspensions, which are stored in FIFA's central data storage system. The secretariat of the Disciplinary Committee confirms them in writing to the association or club

concerned or, in the case of final competitions, to the head of the delegation concerned (or the person(s) indicated by the latter for each competition). To ensure that the relevant records are complete, the confederations shall inform FIFA of all sanctions that have been issued during their own competitions that are likely to be carried over to a FIFA competition or future competitions organised by the confederations.

5. The secretariat takes charge of the necessary investigation *ex officio*.

6. The general principles that will apply to investigations are the following:

   a) FIFA may investigate possible offences falling within the scope of this Code.

   b) In principle, when an investigation is initiated, the parties concerned are informed. This does not apply where such notification is not deemed appropriate. Such investigations are conducted by means of written inquiries, engaging with third parties, such as forensic companies and, where necessary, the questioning of individuals. Other investigative procedures may also be employed, including but not limited to on-site inspections, document requests and the procurement of expert opinions.

   An investigation may be reopened if new evidence or facts emerge which imply that an offence falling within the scope of this Code may have been committed.

36. DISCIPLINARY AND ETHICS PROSECUTORS

1. The secretariat may appoint a Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor to support the necessary investigations into potential breaches of FIFA regulations. A Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor shall always be appointed in cases concerning potential breaches of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

2. The appointed Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor may request the opening of disciplinary proceedings and propose that disciplinary measures be imposed on member associations, clubs and individuals.

3. The Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor shall remain impartial and fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the FIFA Governance Regulations. The requirements and conditions of their appointment as well as of their role are set in accordance with the relevant circular letter on this subject. The term of a Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor shall last four years. The secretariat establishes a list of Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutors.

37. EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY

Except in the case of gross culpability, neither the members of the FIFA judicial bodies nor the secretariat may be held liable for any deeds or omissions relating to any disciplinary procedure.

38. TIME LIMITS

1. Time limits shall commence the day after the notification of the relevant document. Time limits are deemed to have been complied with if the relevant action has been completed by midnight (Eastern Standard Time) at the latest on the last day of the stipulated deadline.
2. Official holidays and non-working days are included in the calculation of time limits. Time limits are paused from 20 December to 5 January inclusive, with the exception of time limits established under article 60 of this Code regarding appeals to the Appeal Committee, which stay unaffected.
3. Time limits to which parties and legal representatives shall adhere commence on the day after notification of the document by FIFA.
4. When a deadline expires on a Saturday, Sunday or a federal holiday in the United States of America, where FIFA's Legal & Compliance Division is located, it is carried forward to the next working day.
5. If a time limit is not observed, the defaulter loses the procedural right in question.
6. Unless otherwise established in this Code, time limits laid down by this Code may not be extended. Time limits set by the secretariat to the FIFA judicial bodies may be extended upon substantiated request submitted before the expiry of the relevant time limit.

39. EVIDENCE, EVALUATION OF EVIDENCE AND STANDARD OF PROOF

1. Any type of proof may be produced.
2. The competent judicial body has absolute discretion regarding the evaluation of evidence.
3. The standard of proof to be applied in FIFA disciplinary proceedings is the comfortable satisfaction of the competent judicial body.

40. MATCH OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Facts contained in match officials' reports and in any additional reports or correspondence submitted by the match officials are presumed to be accurate. Proof of their inaccuracy may be provided.

41. BURDEN OF PROOF

1. The burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on the FIFA judicial bodies.

2. Any party claiming a right on the basis of an alleged fact shall carry the burden of proof of this fact. During the proceedings, the party shall submit all relevant facts and evidence of which the party is aware at that time, or of which the party should have been aware by exercising due care.

3. For anti-doping rule violations, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations apply.

42. WITNESSES

1. Witnesses shall tell the absolute and whole truth and shall answer the questions put to them to the best of their knowledge and judgement.

2. It is the responsibility of the parties to ensure the appearance of the witnesses requested by them and to pay all costs and expenses in connection with their appearance.

43. ANONYMOUS PARTICIPANTS IN PROCEEDINGS

1. When a person's testimony in proceedings conducted in accordance with this Code could lead to threats to them or put them or any person particularly close to them in physical danger, the chairperson of the competent judicial body or the deputy chairperson may order, inter alia, that:

   a) the person not be identified in the presence of the parties;

   b) the person not appear at the hearing;

   c) the person's voice be distorted;

   d) the person be questioned outside the hearing room;

   e) the person be questioned in writing;

   f) all or some of the information that could be used to identify the person be included only in a separate, confidential case file.

2. If no other evidence is available to corroborate the testimony provided by the person concerned, such testimony may only be used in the context of imposing sanctions under this Code if:

   a) the parties and their legal representatives had the opportunity to pose questions to the person concerned in writing; and

b) the members of the judicial body had the opportunity to interview the person concerned directly and in full awareness of their identity and to assess their identity and record in full.

3. Disciplinary measures shall be imposed on anyone who reveals the identity of any person granted anonymity under this provision or any information that could be used to identify such person.

44. IDENTIFICATION OF ANONYMOUS PARTICIPANTS IN PROCEEDINGS

1. To ensure their safety, persons granted anonymity shall be identified behind closed doors in the absence of the parties. This identification shall be conducted by the chairperson of the competent judicial body alone, the deputy chairperson and/or the members of the competent judicial body present and shall be recorded in minutes containing the relevant person's personal details.

2. These minutes shall not be communicated to the parties.

3. The parties shall receive a brief notice which:

   a) confirms that the person concerned has been formally identified; and

   b) contains no details that could be used to identify such person.

45. REPRESENTATION AND ASSISTANCE

1. Subject to article 46 of this Code, the parties are free to have legal representation at their own cost, in which case a specific, recent and duly signed power of attorney must be submitted.

2. If they are not required to appear personally, they may be represented.

46. LEGAL AID

1. In order to guarantee their rights, individuals bound by this Code who have insufficient financial means may request legal aid from FIFA for the purpose of proceedings before the FIFA judicial bodies.

2. Applicants for legal aid must submit reasoned requests and supporting documents.

3. The secretariat establishes a list of pro bono counsel.

4. According to each applicant's needs, and subject to prior written confirmation by FIFA, legal aid may be provided as follows:

   a) The applicant may be released from having to pay the costs of proceedings.

b) Pro bono counsel may be selected by the applicant from the list provided by the secretariat.

c) The applicant's own reasonable travel and accommodation costs and those of witnesses and experts they call to testify may be covered by FIFA, including the travel and accommodation costs of any pro bono counsel selected from the list provided by the secretariat.

5. The chairperson of the corresponding judicial body decides on requests for legal aid. Such decisions are final.

6. Further conditions and requirements associated with legal aid and pro bono counsel may be communicated by circular letter.

47. LANGUAGE USED IN PROCEEDINGS

1. The languages used in proceedings are English, French and Spanish. The FIFA judicial bodies and the parties may choose to communicate in any of these languages.

2. Decisions are passed in any of the aforementioned languages.

3. If the language used in a decision is not the mother tongue of the person concerned, the association to which the person belongs will be responsible for translating it.

48. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PARTIES

1. All of the parties shall be notified of the decision.

2. All communications between FIFA and the party concerned during proceedings before the FIFA judicial bodies shall be sent exclusively through the FIFA Legal Portal. Communications through the FIFA Legal Portal are valid and binding means of communication and are sufficient to establish time limits and their observance.

3. The parties and member associations must ensure that their contact details (including their address, telephone number and email address) are valid and kept up to date at all times.

4. Decisions and other documents intended for players and officials are addressed to the association or club concerned on condition that it immediately forwards the documents to the parties concerned. Associations shall also immediately forward correspondence intended for their affiliated clubs. Failure by the association or club to comply with the instructions contained in this article may result in disciplinary proceedings in accordance with this Code.

5. In the event that an association or club acts on behalf of the party concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee upon notification of the association or club concerned in line with article 38.3 of this Code.

6. In the event that the email address of the ultimate addressee is unknown and the association or club is not acting on their behalf, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four days after the notification of the document to the respective association or club.

49. COSTS AND EXPENSES

1. As a general rule and except for protest cases, proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee are free of charge. Should there be costs associated with the proceedings, they shall be borne by the sanctioned party. In protest cases, the costs shall be borne by the defeated party.

2. The costs of proceedings before the Appeal Committee shall be borne by the sanctioned party. If no sanction is imposed, the costs shall be allocated considering the degree of success of the appeal.

3. Should a party generate unnecessary costs on account of its conduct, costs may be imposed upon it, irrespective of the outcome of the proceedings.

4. The relevant judicial body decides how costs and expenses shall be allocated. This decision is not subject to appeal.

5. Each party shall bear its own costs, including the costs of its own witnesses, representatives, legal advisers, interpreters and counsel, subject to article 46.

50. EFFECTS OF DECISIONS

1. Decisions come into force as soon as they are notified.

2. Cautions, sendings-off and automatic match suspensions have an immediate effect on subsequent matches even if the notification reaches the association, club or head of delegation concerned later.

51. PROVISIONAL MEASURES

1. The chairperson of the competent judicial body, or their nominee, is entitled to issue provisional measures where these are deemed necessary to ensure the proper administration of justice, to maintain sporting discipline or to avoid irreparable harm, or for reasons of safety and security. They are not obliged to hear the parties.

2. Provisional measures issued by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee or their nominee may be appealed against in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Code. However, the appeal must reach FIFA in writing via the FIFA Legal Portal and with grounds within three days of notification of the contested measure, without the condition of payment of any appeal fee. The chairperson of the Appeal Committee, or their nominee, decides on such appeals as a single judge. Such decisions are final.

3. A provisional measure may apply for up to 90 days. The duration of any such measure may be deducted from the final disciplinary sanction. The chairperson of the competent judicial body, or their nominee, may exceptionally extend the validity of a provisional measure by up to 90 days.

52. COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)

Decisions passed by the Disciplinary and Appeal Committees may be appealed against before CAS, subject to the provisions of this Code and articles 49 and 50 of the FIFA Statutes.

CHAPTER 2. DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

53. CONVOCATION, RIGHTS OF THE PARTIES, HEARINGS, DECISIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

1. As a general rule, there are no oral statements and the FIFA judicial bodies decide on the basis of the file.

2. At the motivated request of one of the parties or at the discretion of the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or the competent single judge, a hearing may be arranged to be held, to which all the parties shall be summoned.

3. Unless this Code specifies otherwise, the parties are entitled to submit written statements, examine the case file and order copies of the case file before any decision is reached.

4. Hearings are recorded and archived. Parties are not given access to recordings of hearings; however, if a party claims that procedural rules in its favour have been breached during a hearing, the chairperson of the competent judicial body, or their nominee, may allow that party to have access to the recording. Recordings are destroyed after five years.

5. The FIFA judicial bodies may hold hearings and take decisions in the absence of one or all of the parties.

6. If different proceedings are opened against the same association, club or individual, the competent judicial body may combine the cases and issue one comprehensive decision.

7. Hearings of the FIFA judicial bodies are not open to the public, except in cases of anti-doping rule violations by individuals if duly requested by the defendant and approved by the chairperson of the relevant judicial body or their nominee. In cases of match manipulation, the relevant chairperson or their nominee will decide about a public hearing. The chairperson or their nominee decides at their own discretion if and under what conditions a public hearing may take place.

8. At any time prior to the meeting set up to decide the case by the relevant judicial body, a party may accept responsibility and request the FIFA judicial bodies to impose a specific sanction. The FIFA judicial bodies may decide on the basis of such request or render a decision which it considers appropriate in the context of this Code.

9. All communications concerning an association, club or individual (including notifications of proceedings against them and the issuing of the decisions taken by the FIFA judicial bodies) are addressed to the association or club concerned, which must then, if applicable, inform the club or the individual in person. All such communications by FIFA or the FIFA judicial bodies shall be sent by the secretariat via the FIFA Legal Portal.

10. Written communications to FIFA by an association, club or individual shall be submitted via the FIFA Legal Portal.

54. DECISIONS

1. Decisions are passed by a single judge or by a simple majority of the members present. If votes are equal, the chairperson has the casting vote.

2. The FIFA judicial bodies may take decisions via personal meetings, telephone conference, video conference or any other similar method.

3. In principle, the FIFA judicial bodies issue the terms of decisions without grounds, and only these terms of the decision are notified to the parties, who are informed that they have ten days from that notification to request, in writing via the FIFA Legal Portal, a motivated decision. Failure to make such a request results in the decision becoming final and binding and the parties being deemed to have waived their right to lodge an appeal.

4. A motivated decision shall include at least:

   a) a brief summary of the facts, which does not need to include every single contention;

   b) the article(s) infringed;

   c) the considerations that are relevant to the potential breach of the FIFA regulations; and

   d) the criteria used to determine the possible sanction.

5. If the motivated decision is requested within the time limit stipulated in paragraph 3 above, the time limit for lodging an appeal begins only on notification of the motivation. Only the parties to which a decision is addressed can request the motivation.

6. Any appeal lodged before notification of the motivated decision is regarded exclusively as a request for motivation.

7. Doping-related decisions are issued with grounds. In case of urgency, or under any other special circumstances, the relevant judicial body may notify the party of only the terms of the decision, which become immediately applicable. The full, written decision shall then be notified within 60 days.

8. The FIFA secretariat publishes decisions issued by the FIFA judicial bodies. Where such a decision contains confidential information, FIFA may decide, *ex officio* or at the request of a party, to publish an anonymised or a redacted version.

9. The request for a motivated decision does not affect the enforcement of the decision, which shall take effect as soon as it is notified, with the exception of orders to pay a sum of money.

10. The competent judicial body may rectify any mistakes in calculation or any other obvious errors in the decision at any time.

CHAPTER 3. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

55. COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Proceedings are opened by the secretariat of the Disciplinary Committee:

   a) on the basis of match officials' reports;

   b) where a protest has been lodged;

   c) at the request of the FIFA Council;

   d) at the request of the Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor;

   e) at the request of the Ethics Committee;

   f) on the basis of a report filed by a FIFA body, committee, subsidiary, instance or by the FIFA administration;

   g) on the basis of article 21 of this Code;

   h) on the basis of documents received from a public authority;

   i) *ex officio*.

2. Any person or body may report any conduct that is considered incompatible with FIFA regulations to the FIFA judicial bodies. Such complaints shall be made in writing. FIFA may initiate investigations and appoint a Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor to investigate any such complaint.

56. JURISDICTION

1. The Disciplinary Committee is competent to sanction any breach of FIFA regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body.

2. The Disciplinary Committee is, in particular, responsible for:

   a) sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention;

   b) rectifying obvious errors in the referee's disciplinary decisions;

   c) extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by a sending-off;

   d) pronouncing additional sanctions.

3. If deemed appropriate, the chairperson or their deputy may refer a case, regardless of the matter involved, directly to the Appeal Committee for consideration and decision. Cases concerning anti-doping rule violations shall always be referred directly to the Appeal Committee for adjudication.

57. JURISDICTION OF THE SINGLE JUDGES OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. The chairperson can rule alone as a single judge and may delegate their functions to another member of the Disciplinary Committee. The chairperson or their nominee acting as a single judge may take decisions with respect to any matters provided for in this Code.

2. The secretariat, under the guidance of the chairperson or the deputy chairperson, is responsible for assigning the relevant cases to single judges. The proceedings before a single judge shall be conducted in accordance with this Code. A panel shall decide on matters involving discrimination or match manipulation, unless they are deemed urgent, in which case paragraph 1 applies.

58. PROPOSAL BY THE SECRETARIAT

In matters reserved for the single judge, the secretariat may propose a sanction on the basis of the existing file. The party concerned may reject the proposed sanction and submit its position before the relevant judicial body by the stipulated deadline, in the absence of which the proposed sanction will become final and binding.

59. CLOSURE OF PROCEEDINGS

Proceedings may be closed when:

a) the parties reach an agreement;

b) a party is under insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings pursuant to the relevant national law and is legally unable to comply with an order;

c) a club is disaffiliated from an association;

d) the alleged violation has not been proven.

CHAPTER 4. APPEAL COMMITTEE

60. JURISDICTION

1. The Appeal Committee is competent to decide on appeals against any of the Disciplinary Committee's decisions that FIFA regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body, as well as on cases referred by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee or their deputy for consideration and decision.
2. The Appeal Committee is also competent to decide directly on cases involving anti-doping rule violations.
3. Any party intending to lodge an appeal must inform the Appeal Committee of its intention to appeal, in writing via the FIFA Legal Portal, within three days of notification of the grounds of the decision.
4. Within five days of expiry of the time limit for submission of the intention to appeal, the appellant must file, in writing via the FIFA Legal Portal, the appeal brief. This must contain the appellant's requests, an account of the facts, evidence, a list of the proposed witnesses (with a brief summary of their expected testimony) and the appellant's conclusions. The appellant is not authorised to produce further written submissions or evidence after the deadline for filing the appeal brief.
5. In urgent cases and during final competitions, the chairperson may shorten the deadline for the submission of the above-mentioned documents. In exceptional circumstances and at the motivated request of the appellant, the time limit to file the appeal brief may be extended by the chairperson.
6. The appeal fee is USD 1,000, payable on submission of the appeal brief at the latest.
7. The appeal is not admissible if any deadline and/or any of the above-mentioned requirements are not met.

61. ADMISSIBILITY OF APPEALS

1. An appeal may be lodged with the Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee, unless the disciplinary measure issued is:

   a) a warning;

   b) a reprimand;

   c) a suspension of up to two matches or of up to two months;

   d) a fine of up to USD 15,000 imposed on an association or a club or of up to USD 7,500 in other cases;

   e) decisions passed in compliance with articles 21, 23.2, 23.3 or 23.4 of this Code.

2. Only the motivated decision can be appealed against.

3. If the Disciplinary Committee combines disciplinary measures, an appeal is admissible if at least one of the disciplinary measures imposed exceeds the above limits.

62. STANDING TO APPEAL

1. Anyone who has been a party to the proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee may lodge an appeal with the Appeal Committee, provided this party has a legally protected interest in filing the appeal.

2. Member associations and clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their players, officials or members.

63. DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS

1. The Appeal Committee deliberates behind closed doors.

2. Within the framework of the appeal proceedings, the Appeal Committee has full power to review the facts and the law.

3. The decision by the Appeal Committee upholds, amends or overturns the contested decision. In the case of a fundamental mistrial, the Appeal Committee can overturn the contested decision and refer the case back to the Disciplinary Committee for reassessment.

4. If the accused is the only party to have lodged an appeal, the sanction cannot be increased.

5. If new disciplinary offences come to light while appeal proceedings are pending, they may be judged in the course of the same proceedings. In such a situation, the sanction can be increased.

64. JURISDICTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON RULING ALONE

The chairperson (or in their absence, respectively the deputy chairperson and the longest-serving member available) of the Appeal Committee may take decisions alone:

a) on a preliminary procedural issue related to the appeal, including the admissibility of the appeal;

b) in urgent or protest cases;

c) on an appeal against a decision to extend a sanction;

d) to resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeal Committee;

e) on appeals against provisional decisions passed by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee;

f) to issue, alter and annul provisional measures;

g) in cases where the sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Committee is a fine of up to USD 500,000 or a suspension from playing or carrying out a function for up to five matches or a period of time up to 12 months; and/or

h) at the request of the parties.

65. EFFECTS OF APPEAL

1. The appeal does not have a suspensive effect except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.

2. The chairperson, the deputy chairperson or, in their absence, the longest-serving member available, may, on receipt of a reasoned request, award a stay of execution.

IV.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

66. EXPULSION AND MATCH SUSPENSION

1. A player who has been sent off:

   a) shall stay in the team dressing room or the doping control room, accompanied by a chaperone, until the names of the players selected for the doping test are communicated. The player may be allowed to sit in the stands, provided their integrity and security are safeguarded, they are not picked for doping control and are no longer wearing their football equipment;

   b) is not entitled to attend the post-match press conference or any other media activity held in the stadium.

2. A player who is serving a match suspension:

   a) may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided their security and integrity are safeguarded;

   b) shall not enter the dressing room, tunnel or technical area, before or during the match, attend the warm-up, or sit on the team bench. After the final whistle, a suspended player may join their team in the dressing room;

   c) is not entitled to attend the post-match press conference or any other media activity held in the stadium.

3. An official who has been sent off or is serving a match suspension:

   a) may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided their security and integrity are safeguarded;

   b) shall not enter the dressing room, tunnel or technical area, or communicate with or contact any person involved in the match – in particular, players or technical staff – by any means whatsoever prior to or during the match;

   c) is not entitled to attend the post-match press conference or any other media activity held in the stadium.

4. A sending-off automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match. The FIFA judicial bodies may impose additional match suspensions and other disciplinary measures.

5. The automatic match suspension and any additional match suspension must be served, even if the sending-off is imposed in a match that is later abandoned, annulled, forfeited and/or replayed.

6. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited (except for a violation of article 19), a suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the circumstances that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the match.

7. A match suspension is regarded as no longer pending if a match is retroactively forfeited because a player took part in a match despite being ineligible. This also applies to the match suspension imposed on the player who took part in the match despite being ineligible.

67. CARRYING OVER CAUTIONS

1. If a person receives a caution in two separate matches of the same FIFA competition, they are automatically suspended from the next match in that competition. Such suspensions must be served before any other suspension. The Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from or amend this rule before the start of a particular competition. Any such decision reached by the Disciplinary Committee is final and binding.
2. Cautions received during one competition are not carried over to another competition.
3. They are, however, carried over from one round to the next in the same competition. The Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from this rule before the start of a particular competition. This provision is subject to article 68 of this Code and to any derogating rules that FIFA may issue for a specific competition.
4. If a person is sent off as a result of a direct red card, any other caution they have previously received in the same match is upheld.

68. CANCELLATION OF CAUTIONS

1. The Disciplinary Committee may, at its own discretion and on its own initiative or upon the justified and reasonable request of a confederation, cancel cautions that have not resulted in a sending-off or a suspension by means of a decision not subject to appeal.
2. When evaluating the cancellation of cautions, the Disciplinary Committee must take into account, among other general principles, the impact on the integrity of the competition, and the equal treatment between participants.

69. CARRYING OVER MATCH SUSPENSIONS

1. As a general rule, every match suspension (of players and other persons) is carried over from one round to the next in the same competition.
2. Match suspensions imposed in terms of matches in relation to a sending-off issued against a player outside of a competition (separate match[es]) or not served during the competition for which they were intended (elimination or the last match in the competition) are carried over as follows:

a) FIFA World Cup™ and FIFA Women's World Cup™: carried over to the representative team's next official match;

b) competitions subject to an age limit: carried over to the representative team's next official match in the same age group. Where the suspension cannot be served in the same age group, it shall be carried over to the next-highest age category, unless the person concerned is eligible to participate in a match in the next-lowest age group and the said match is to be played before that of the next-highest age group; in that case, the suspension shall be carried over to the next official match of the next-lowest age group;

c) FIFA club competitions: carried over to the club's next official match;

d) Women's Olympic Football Tournament: carried over to the representative team's next official match;

e) Men's Olympic Football Tournament: for players who meet the age limit, carried over to the representative team's next official match in the same age group. Where the suspension cannot be served in the same age group, it shall be carried over to the next-highest age category. For players who do not meet the age limit, it shall be carried over to the representative team's next official match;

f) confederation competitions for representative teams: carried over to the representative team's next official match;

g) competitions in which teams have been chosen in accordance with certain criteria (cultural, geographical, historical, etc.): unless the regulations of these competitions specifically stipulate otherwise, the suspension is carried over to the representative team's next official match;

h) friendly matches: carried over to the representative team's next friendly match.

3. If a representative team is hosting a final competition and is consequently not required to participate in qualifying matches to reach the final competition of this tournament and its next official match is in that final competition, any match suspension shall be carried over to the representative team's next friendly match.

4. In no case may match suspensions resulting from several cautions issued to a player in different matches of the same competition be carried over to another competition.

5. Officials of a club or an association shall serve a match suspension with any club or association of which the official is an official.

6. Match suspensions that have to be carried over to another competition must be served by the person concerned, regardless of whether the status of that person has changed in the meantime, including from player to official or vice versa.

70. EXTENDING SANCTIONS TO HAVE WORLDWIDE EFFECT

1. If the infringement is serious, in particular but not limited to discrimination, manipulation of football matches and competitions, misconduct against match officials, or forgery and falsification, as well as sexual abuse or harassment, the member associations, confederations, and other organising sports bodies shall request that the Disciplinary Committee extend the sanctions they have imposed so as to have worldwide effect (worldwide extension).

2. Any doping-related legally binding sanction imposed by another national or international sports association, national anti-doping organisation or any other state body that complies with fundamental legal principles shall automatically be adopted by FIFA and, provided that the requirements described hereunder and in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations are met, shall be automatically recognised by all confederations and member associations.

3. The request shall be submitted in writing via the FIFA Legal Portal and enclose the following:

   a) a true copy of the decision;

   b) the name, email address, nationality and date of birth of the person who has been sanctioned, or the name, postal address and email address of the club that has been sanctioned;

   c) the name of the association concerned;

   d) the start and end date of the sanction which is to be submitted for a worldwide extension;

   e) evidence that the party concerned has been cited properly and has had the opportunity to state its case (with the exception of provisional measures);

   f) evidence that the decision has been duly communicated to the party concerned; and

   g) evidence that the party concerned has been informed that the sanction will be submitted for a worldwide extension.

4. If the Disciplinary Committee discovers that member associations, confederations and other sports organisations have not requested a decision to be extended to have worldwide effect, a decision may still be passed *ex officio*.

5. A worldwide extension will be approved if the request fulfils the requirements set forth in paragraph 3 above, the decision is compatible with the regulations of FIFA and extending the sanction does not conflict with public order or with accepted standards of behaviour.

6. The chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee takes their decision, in principle, without deliberations or orally hearing any of the parties, using only the file.

7. The chairperson may exceptionally decide to summon the parties concerned.

8. The chairperson is restricted to ascertaining that the conditions of this article have been fulfilled. They may not review the substance of the decision.

9. The chairperson shall either grant or refuse to grant the request to have the sanction extended.

10. A sanction imposed by an association or a confederation has the same effect in each association of FIFA, in each confederation and in FIFA itself as if the sanction had been imposed by any one of them.

11. If a decision that is not yet final in a legal sense is extended to have worldwide effect, any decision regarding extension shall follow the outcome of the association's or confederation's current decision.

71. REVIEW

1. A review may be requested before the competent judicial body after a legally binding decision has been passed if a party discovers facts or proof that would have resulted in a more favourable decision and that, even with due diligence, could not have been produced sooner.

2. A request for review shall be made within ten days of discovering the reasons for review.

3. The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one year after the decision has become final and binding.

V.

FINAL PROVISIONS

72. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

1. This Code exists in English, French and Spanish.
2. In the event of any discrepancy between the three texts, the English version is authoritative.

73. GENDER AND NUMBER

Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice versa.

74. SPECIFIC DISCIPLINARY RULES

Specific disciplinary rules may be introduced for the duration of a FIFA final competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the participating member associations/clubs before the first match of the final competition at the latest.

75. MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS' DISCIPLINARY CODES

1. The member associations are obliged to adapt their own disciplinary provisions to the general principles of this Code for the purpose of harmonising disciplinary measures. Article 15 (except paragraph 7 a)) and article 66 paragraph 4 of this Code are considered mandatory in domestic competitions.
2. Upon FIFA's request, the member associations must provide FIFA with a copy of their updated regulations.
3. All member associations shall also ensure that no one is involved in the management of clubs or the association itself who is under prosecution for action unworthy of such a position or who has been convicted of a criminal offence in the past five years.

76. ADOPTION AND ENFORCEMENT

This Code was approved by the Bureau of the Council on 10 June 2026 and comes into force on 1 January 2027.

Zurich, 10 June 2026

For FIFA:



President

Gianni Infantino



Secretary General

Mattias Grafström

ANNEXE

ANNEXE 1: LIST OF DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Article 6 of this Code establishes the list of disciplinary measures which may be imposed by FIFA's judicial bodies on natural and legal persons.

This annexe is aimed at providing a list of specific disciplinary measures which may be taken into consideration by the relevant judicial body when deciding on a specific case.

For the sake of good order, it is to be noted that the list of disciplinary measures developed in the present annexe is not exhaustive, nor binding, and is without prejudice to the general principles established under article 25 of this Code. As a matter of fact, the decisions are rendered on a case-by-case basis and the type and extent of the disciplinary measures are determined by the relevant judicial body in accordance with the objective and subjective elements of the offence, taking into account both aggravating and mitigating circumstances.

I. FAILURE TO RESPECT FINANCIAL DECISIONS (ART. 21 OF THIS CODE)

<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Amount due (in USD)</th><th rowspan="2">Fine (in USD)</th><th rowspan="2">Final deadline to comply with the relevant decision</th><th colspan="3">Further disciplinary measures in case of failure to comply by the final deadline</th></tr>
<tr><th>In the case of clubs</th><th>In the case of member associations</th><th>In the case of natural persons</th></tr>
<tr><td>0-10,000</td><td>1,000</td><td rowspan="11">30 days</td><td rowspan="11">Imposition of a ban on registering new players until the complete amount due is paid[1]</td><td rowspan="11">Additional disciplinary measures</td><td rowspan="11">Imposition of a ban on any football-related activity[2]</td></tr>
<tr><td>10,001-20,000</td><td>2,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>20,001-50,000</td><td>5,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>50,001-75,000</td><td>7,500</td></tr>
<tr><td>75,001-100,000</td><td>10,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>100,001-250,000</td><td>15,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>250,001-500,000</td><td>20,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>500,001-750,000</td><td>25,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>750,001-1,500,000</td><td>30,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>1,500,001-3,000,000</td><td>30,000</td></tr>
<tr><td>> 3,000,000</td><td>30,000</td></tr>
</table>

[1] A deduction of points or relegation to a lower division may also be ordered in addition to a transfer ban in the event of persistent failure, repeated offences or serious infringements or if no full transfer ban could be imposed or served for any reason.

[2] Other disciplinary measures may also be imposed.

II. ORDER AND SECURITY AT MATCHES (ART. 17 OF THIS CODE)

A. Host clubs' and member associations' responsibilities

Offence	Sanction for first offence	Sanction for second offence	Sanction for further offences
Failure to assess the degree of risk posed by the match and notify the FIFA bodies of those that are especially high-risk	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	USD 15,000
Failure to comply with and implement existing safety rules and take every safety precaution demanded by the circumstances in and around the stadium before, during and after the match and if incidents occur	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	USD 15,000
Failure to ensure the safety of the match officials and the players and officials of the visiting team during their stay	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	USD 15,000
Failure to keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	USD 15,000
Failure to ensure that law and order are maintained in and around the stadiums and that matches are organised properly	USD 10,000	USD 15,000	USD 30,000

B. Member associations' and clubs' responsibilities for inappropriate behaviour of their supporters

Offence	Sanction for first offence	Sanction for second offence	Sanction for further offences
Invasion or attempted invasion of the field of play	USD 5,000 *(less than 5 persons)* USD 7,500 *(between 5 and 10)* USD 10,000 *(between 10 and 20)* USD 20,000 *(more than 20)*	USD 7,500	Previous fine increased by 100%
Throwing of objects	No. of objects x USD 500	No. of objects x USD 750	No. of objects x USD 1,000
Lighting of fireworks or any other objects	No. of fireworks x USD 500 *With a minimum of USD 1,000*	No. of fireworks x USD 750 *With a minimum of USD 1,500*	No. of fireworks x USD 1,000 *With a minimum of USD 2,000*
Use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	Previous fine increased by 100%
Use of gestures, words, objects or any other means to transmit a message that is not appropriate for a sports event	USD 5,000 *(low severity)* USD 10,000 *(high severity)*	USD 10,000 *(low severity)* USD 20,000 *(high severity)*	Previous fine increased by 100%
Acts of damage	USD 5,000 + damages	USD 7,500 + damages	Previous fine increased by 100%
Causing a disturbance during national anthems	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	Previous fine increased by 100%
Drone	USD 15,000 *(if no match interruption/no impact on the match)* USD 25,000 *(if impact on the match – interruption or delay)*	-	-

III. MISCONDUCT OF PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS (ART. 14 OF THIS CODE)

FIFA tournament	Fine			
	Yellow card (caution)	Indirect red card	Direct red card	Team misconduct[3]
FIFA World Cup™ and men's club competitions	USD 10,000	USD 15,000	USD 20,000	USD 15,000
FIFA Women's World Cup™ and women's club competitions	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	USD 10,000	USD 7,500
FIFA Arab Cup™ and FIFA ASEAN Cup™	USD 2,500	USD 5,000	USD 7,500	USD 5,000
FIFA U-20 World Cup™	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup™	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
FIFA U-17 World Cup™	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup™	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup™	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
FIFA Futsal World Cup™ and FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup™	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
Men's Olympic Football Tournament	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
Women's Olympic Football Tournament	USD 500	USD 1,000	USD 1,500	USD 1,000
Men's Youth Olympic Futsal Tournament	N/A	N/A	N/A	USD 500
Women's Youth Olympic Futsal Tournament	N/A	N/A	N/A	USD 500

[3] Such fine would be imposed in addition to the individual fines in case individual disciplinary sanctions are imposed by the referee on five or more players of the team during the relevant match.

IV. OTHER MATCH-RELATED ISSUES

FIFA Equipment Regulations

Offence	Sanction for first offence	Sanction for second offence[4]	Sanction for further offences[5]
Infringement of the FIFA Equipment Regulations	Warning	USD 5,000	Previous fine increased by 50%

FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations

Offence	Sanction for first offence	Sanction for second offence[6]	Sanction for further offences[7]
Unapproved advertisement on equipment in controlled areas	Warning	USD 5,000	Previous fine increased by 50%
Consumption of competing beverage brands in controlled areas	Warning	USD 500	Previous fine increased by 50%
Unapproved advertisement on the official training sites	Warning	USD 5,000	Previous fine increased by 50%
Failure to comply with media activity obligations in controlled areas	Warning	USD 2,000	Previous fine increased by 50%
Display and/or distribution of promotional materials in controlled areas	Warning	USD 1,000	Previous fine increased by 50%
Unapproved use of FIFA competition marks	Warning	USD 2,000	Previous fine increased by 50%

Others

Offence	Sanction for first offence	Sanction for second offence	Sanction for further offences
Late kick-off	Warning	USD 10,000	Previous fine increased by 100%

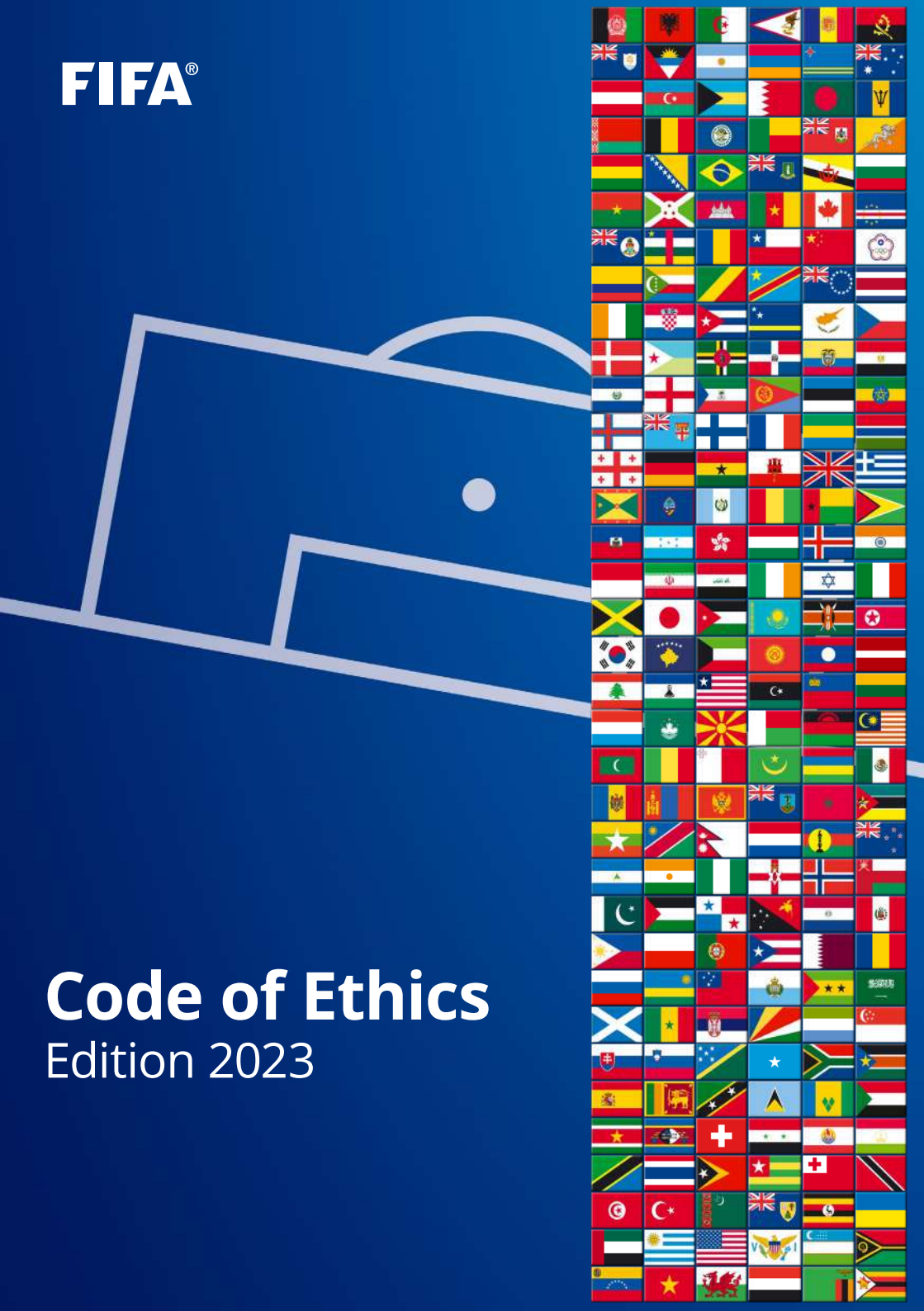
4 The below amounts should be reduced to 20% for youth tournaments, futsal tournaments and beach soccer tournaments.

5 The below amounts should be reduced to 20% for youth tournaments, futsal tournaments and beach soccer tournaments.

6 The below amounts should be reduced to 20% for youth tournaments, futsal tournaments and beach soccer tournaments.

7 The below amounts should be reduced to 20% for youth tournaments, futsal tournaments and beach soccer tournaments.

FIFA®



Code of Ethics

Edition 2023

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DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Code, the terms set out below are defined as follows:

1. **FIFA:** Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
2. **Official:** any board member (including the members of the Council), committee member, referee, assistant referee, coach, trainer or any other person responsible for technical, medical or administrative matters in FIFA, a confederation, a member association, a league or a club as well as all other persons obliged to comply with the FIFA Statutes (except players, match agents licensed by FIFA, and football agents).
3. **Match agent licensed by FIFA:** as per the FIFA Match Agent Regulations.
4. **Football agent:** as per the definition contained in the FIFA Football Agents Regulations.
5. **Player:** any football player licensed by an association.
6. **Related party:** any party related to persons bound by the Code shall be considered a related party if they fulfil one or more of the following criteria:

   a) representative or employee;

   b) spouse or domestic partner;

   c) individual sharing the same household, regardless of the personal relationship;

   d) other family member with whom they have a close relationship within a third degree;

   e) legal entity, partnership or any other fiduciary institution, if the person bound by this Code or the person receiving an undue advantage alternatively:

      i) holds a management position within that entity, partnership or fiduciary institution;

      ii) directly or indirectly controls the entity, partnership or fiduciary institution;

      iii) is a beneficiary of the entity, partnership or fiduciary institution;

      iv) performs services on behalf of such entity, partnership or fiduciary institution, regardless of the existence of a formal contract.

7. **FIFA events:** any event, including but not limited to FIFA Congress, Council or committee meetings, FIFA competitions, as well as any other event that is within FIFA's authority or organised by FIFA.

8. **Ethics Committee:** references to the Ethics Committee in this Code shall include the investigatory and/or adjudicatory chamber.

NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

The definitions section in the FIFA Statutes shall also apply.

I.

SCOPE OF APPLICATION

1. Scope of applicability

1. This Code shall apply to any conduct, other than those specifically provided by other regulations and connected to the field of play that damages the integrity and reputation of football and in particular to illegal, immoral and unethical behaviour of the persons covered under article 2 of this Code.

2. The rules of conduct defined under part II, section 5 (articles 14 to 30) of this Code shall be included within their respective applicable regulations by the confederations and member associations unless such rules of conduct are already included within their respective regulations currently in place. The principles of the sanctioning system referred to under part II, section 5 (articles 14 to 30) of this Code shall be used as a minimum requirement guidance by the confederations and member associations.

2. Persons covered

1. This Code shall apply to all officials and players as well as match agents licensed by FIFA and football agents, under the conditions of article 1 of this Code.

2. The Ethics Committee is entitled to investigate and judge the conduct of persons who were bound by this or another applicable Code at the time the relevant conduct occurred, regardless of whether the person remains bound by the Code at the time proceedings commence or any time thereafter.

3. Applicability in time

This Code applies to conduct whenever it occurred, including before the enactment of this Code. An individual may be sanctioned for a breach of this Code only if the relevant conduct contravened the Code applicable at the time it occurred. The sanction may not exceed the maximum sanction available under the then-applicable Code.

4. Scope of the Code, omissions, custom, doctrine and jurisprudence

1. This Code governs every subject to which the text or the meaning of its provisions refers.

2. If there are any omissions in this Code with respect to procedural rules, and in case of doubts regarding the interpretation of the Code, the Ethics Committee shall decide in accordance with FIFA custom.

3. During all its operations, the Ethics Committee may draw on precedents and principles already established by sports doctrine and jurisprudence.

5. Division of the Ethics Committee, division of proceedings

1. The Ethics Committee shall be composed of an investigatory chamber and an adjudicatory chamber.

2. Ethics Committee proceedings shall be made up of an investigation and an adjudicatory process.

II.

SUBSTANTIVE LAW

SECTION 1: BASIS FOR SANCTIONS

6. Basis for sanctions

1. The Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in this Code, the FIFA Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Statutes.

2. Unless otherwise specified, breaches of this Code shall be subject to the sanctions set forth in this Code, whether acts of commission or omissions, whether they have been committed deliberately or negligently, whether or not the breach constitutes an act or attempted act, and whether the parties acted as principal, accomplice or instigator.

SECTION 2: DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

7. Type of sanctions

1. The following sanctions may be imposed for breaches of this Code or any other FIFA rules and regulations:

   a) warning;
   b) reprimand;
   c) compliance training;
   d) return of awards;
   e) fine;
   f) community football service;
   g) match suspension;
   h) ban from dressing rooms and/or team bench;
   i) ban on entering a stadium;
   j) ban on taking part in any football-related activity.

2. The specifications in relation to each sanction in the FIFA Disciplinary Code shall also apply.

8. Suspension of sanctions

1. Upon request from the relevant party, the adjudicatory chamber can decide to suspend the sanction provided for by article 7 paragraph 1 (j) of this Code. The probationary period shall consist of anything from one to five years.

2. If the person benefiting from a suspended sanction commits any other breach of this Code during the probationary period, the suspension shall automatically be revoked and the original sanction fully applied and added to the sanction imposed for the new breach.

SECTION 3: DETERMINING THE SANCTION

9. General rules

1. When imposing a sanction, the Ethics Committee shall take into account all relevant factors in the case, including the nature of the offence; the substantial interest in deterring similar misconduct; the offender's assistance to and cooperation with the Ethics Committee; the motive; the circumstances; the degree of the offender's guilt; the extent to which the offender accepts responsibility, and whether the person mitigated their guilt by returning the advantage received, where applicable.
2. In case of mitigating circumstances, and if deemed appropriate taking into account all circumstances of the case, the Ethics Committee may go below the minimum sanction and/or decide to hand down alternative sanctions as provided under article 7, paragraph 1.
3. Unless this Code mentions otherwise, the Ethics Committee shall decide the scope and duration of any sanction.
4. Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of match or competition.
5. The Ethics Committee may directly share, or otherwise order the responsible FIFA body to share information on a case with the appropriate public authorities without prejudice to the relevant laws and existing legal channels.

10. Concurrent breaches

1. Where more than one breach has been committed, the sanction other than monetary sanctions shall be based on the most serious breach.
2. Concurrent breaches shall be considered aggravating circumstances.

11. Repeated breaches

1. Repeated breaches shall be considered aggravating circumstances. In such circumstances, the Ethics Committee may go beyond the maximum sanction provided for a violation of the relevant rule, as specified in this Code.
2. Repeated breaches occurs if another offence of a similar nature and gravity is committed repeatedly over a period of time. The limitation period for prosecution shall only apply as from the date the most recent offence has been committed and shall therefore apply to all previous breaches.

12. Recidivism

1. Recidivism shall be considered aggravating circumstances. In such circumstances, the Ethics Committee may go beyond the maximum sanction provided for a violation of the relevant rule, as specified in this Code.
2. Recidivism occurs if another offence of a similar nature and gravity is committed within fifteen years of notification of a decision sanctioning a previous offence.

SECTION 4: LIMITATION PERIOD

13. Limitation period for prosecution

1. As a general rule, breaches of the provisions of this Code may no longer be prosecuted after five years have elapsed.
2. Offences relating to bribery and corruption (article 28), as well as to misappropriation and misuse of funds (article 29) may no longer be prosecuted after ten years have elapsed.
3. Offences relating to threats, the promise of advantages, coercion and all forms of sexual abuse, harassment and exploitation (article 24) are not subject to such limitation period.
4. The limitation period, when applicable, shall be extended by half its length if a formal investigation is opened before its expiration.
5. The limitation period, when applicable, shall be interrupted where criminal proceedings are formally opened against a person bound by this Code during such proceedings.
6. In case of repeated breaches, the limitation period as described above shall start only after the last of the repeated breaches has ended.

SECTION 5: RULES OF CONDUCT

Subsection 1: Duties

14. General duties

1. Persons bound by this Code shall be aware of the importance of their duties and concomitant obligations and responsibilities. In particular, persons bound by this Code shall fulfil and exercise their duties and responsibilities diligently, especially with regard to finance-related matters.
2. Persons bound by this Code shall respect FIFA's regulatory framework to the extent applicable to them.

3. Persons bound by this Code shall appreciate the impact their conduct may have on FIFA's reputation, and shall therefore behave in a dignified and ethical manner and act with complete credibility and integrity at all times.

4. Persons bound by this Code must refrain from any activity or behaviour or any attempted activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of improper conduct as described in the sections that follow.

5. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years.

15. Duty of neutrality

1. In dealings with government institutions, national and international organisations, associations and groupings, persons bound by this Code shall, in addition to observing the basic rules of article 14, remain politically neutral, in accordance with the principles and objectives of FIFA, the confederations, associations, leagues and clubs, and generally act in a manner compatible with their function and integrity.

2. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years.

16. Duty of loyalty

1. Persons bound by this Code shall have a fiduciary duty to FIFA, the confederations, associations, leagues or clubs. A breach of fiduciary duty occurs when, *inter alia*, someone who is placed in a position of responsibility or trust acts in a way that is detrimental to the interests of FIFA, the confederations, associations, leagues or clubs or is likely to damage their reputation.

2. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years.

17. Duty of confidentiality

1. Depending on their function, information of a confidential nature divulged to persons bound by this Code while performing their duties shall be treated as confidential or secret by them, if the information is given with the understanding or communication of confidentiality and is consistent with FIFA principles.

2. The obligation to respect confidentiality survives the termination of any relationship which makes a person subject to this Code.

3. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years.

18. Duty to report

1. Persons bound by this Code who become aware of any infringements of this Code shall inform, in writing, the secretariat and/or chairperson of the investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee directly.

2. Failure to report such infringements shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years.

19. Duty to cooperate

1. Persons bound by this Code shall assist and cooperate truthfully, fully and in good faith with the Ethics Committee at all times, regardless of whether they are involved in a particular matter as a party, as a witness, or in any other role. This requires, *inter alia*, full compliance with Ethics Committee requests, including without limitation requests to clarify facts; provide oral or written testimony; submit information, documents or other material; and disclose details regarding income and finances, if the Ethics Committee deems it to be necessary.

2. Persons bound by this Code who are required to cooperate with the Ethics Committee in a specific case, regardless of whether they are involved as a party, as a witness, or in any other role, shall treat the information provided and their involvement strictly confidentially, unless otherwise instructed by the Ethics Committee.

3. Persons bound by this Code shall not take any action actually or apparently intended to obstruct, evade, prevent, or otherwise interfere with any actual or potential Ethics Committee proceedings.

4. In connection with any actual or potential Ethics Committee proceedings, persons bound by this Code shall not conceal any material fact; make any materially false or misleading statement or representation; or submit any incomplete, materially false or misleading information or other material.

5. Persons bound by this Code shall not harass, intimidate, threaten or retaliate against someone for any reason related to that person's actual, potential or perceived assistance to or cooperation with the Ethics Committee.

6. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years.

Subsection 2: Conflicts of interest, financial benefits and protection of personal rights

20. Conflicts of interest

1. Persons bound by this Code shall not perform their duties (in particular, preparing or participating in the taking of a decision) in situations in which an existing or potential conflict of interest might affect such performance.

   A conflict of interest arises if a person bound by this Code has, or appears to have, secondary interests that could influence their ability to perform their duties with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Secondary interests include, but are not limited to, gaining any possible advantage for the persons bound by this Code themselves or related parties as defined in this Code.

2. Before being elected, appointed or employed, persons bound by this Code shall disclose any relations and interests that could lead to situations of conflicts of interest in the context of their prospective activities.

3. Persons bound by this Code shall not perform their duties (in particular preparing, or participating in, the taking of a decision) in situations in which there is a danger that a conflict of interest might affect such performance. Any such conflict shall be immediately disclosed and notified to the organisation for which the person bound by this Code performs their duties.

4. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years. In serious cases and/or in the case of repetition, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity may be pronounced for a maximum of five years.

21. Offering and accepting gifts or other benefits

1. Persons bound by this Code may only offer or accept gifts or other benefits to and from persons within or outside FIFA, or in conjunction with intermediaries or related parties as defined in this Code, where such gifts or benefits:

   a) have symbolic or trivial value;

   b) are not offered or accepted as a way of influencing persons bound by this Code to execute or omit an act that is related to their official activities or falls within their discretion;

   c) are not offered or accepted in contravention of the duties of persons bound by this Code;

   d) do not create any undue pecuniary or other advantage; and

   e) do not create a conflict of interest.

   Any gifts or other benefits not meeting all of these criteria are prohibited.

2. If in doubt, gifts or other benefits shall not be accepted, given, offered, promised, received, requested or solicited. In all cases, persons bound by this Code shall not accept, give, offer, promise, receive, request or solicit from anyone within or outside FIFA, or in conjunction with intermediaries or related parties as defined in this Code, cash in any amount or form. If declining the gift or benefit would offend the giver on the grounds of cultural norms, persons bound by this Code may accept the gift or benefit on behalf of their respective organisation and shall report it and hand it over, where applicable, immediately thereafter to the competent body.

3. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years. Any amount unduly received shall be included in the calculation of the fine. In addition to the fine, the gift or benefit unduly received should be returned, if applicable. In serious cases and/or in the case of repetition, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity may be pronounced for a maximum of five years.

22. Commission

1. Unless covered by a genuine commercial agreement, persons bound by this Code shall not accept, give, offer, promise, receive, request or solicit commission for themselves or third parties for negotiating deals or conducting other business in connection with their duties.

2. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years. Any amount unduly received shall be included in the calculation of the fine. In serious cases and/or in the case of repetition, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity may be pronounced for a maximum of five years.

23. Discrimination and defamation

1. Persons bound by this Code shall not offend the dignity or integrity of a country, a person or group of people through contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words or actions on account of race, skin colour, ethnicity, nationality, social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status or any other reason.

2. Persons bound by this Code are forbidden from making any public statements of a defamatory nature towards FIFA and/or towards any other person bound by this Code in the context of FIFA events.

3. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years. In serious cases and/or in the case of repetition, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity may be pronounced for a maximum of five years.

24. Protection of physical and mental integrity

1. Persons bound by this Code shall protect, respect and safeguard the integrity and personal dignity of others.
2. Persons bound by this Code shall not use offensive gestures and language in order to insult someone in any way or to incite others to hatred or violence.
3. Persons bound by this Code must refrain from all forms of physical or mental abuse, all forms of harassment, and all other hostile acts intended to isolate, ostracise or harm the dignity of a person.
4. Threats, the promise of advantages, coercion and all forms of sexual abuse, harassment and exploitation are particularly prohibited.
5. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of two years. In cases of sexual exploitation or abuse, or in serious cases and/or in the case of repetition, a ban on taking part in any football- related activity may be pronounced for a minimum of ten years.
6. Persons bound by this Code who may have been the victim of potential sexual abuse or harassment may appeal before CAS against the decision rendered by the adjudicatory chamber in the related proceedings in accordance with the procedure defined in this Code. They will, in particular, be provided with the decision, the final report of the investigatory chamber, as well as with any document or evidence produced by the parties before the adjudicatory chamber. Their deadline to appeal the relevant decision before CAS shall commence on the day of notification of those documents.
7. Confederations and associations shall immediately notify FIFA of any decision taken by their respective bodies sanctioning a person for conduct described in this article.

Subsection 3: Forgery and falsification, abuse of position, betting and gambling

25. Forgery and falsification

1. Persons bound by this Code are forbidden from forging a document, falsifying an authentic document or using a forged or falsified document.
2. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of two years.

26. Abuse of position

1. Persons bound by this Code shall not abuse their position in any way, especially to take advantage of their position for private aims or gains.

2. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of two years. The sanction shall be increased accordingly where the person holds a high position in football, as well as in relation to the relevance and amount of the advantage received.

27. Involvement with betting, gambling or similar activities

1. Persons bound by this Code shall be forbidden from participating in, either directly or indirectly, betting, gambling, lotteries or similar events or transactions related to football matches or competitions and/or any related football activities.

2. Persons bound by this Code shall not have any direct or indirect financial interest (through or in conjunction with third parties) in activities, such as betting, gambling, lotteries or similar events or transactions connected with football matches and competitions. Interests include gaining any possible advantage for the persons bound by this Code themselves and/or related parties.

3. Provided that the relevant conduct does not constitute another violation of this Code, violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 100,000 and a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of three years. Any amount unduly received shall be included in the calculation of the fine.

Subsection 4: Bribery and corruption, misappropriation and misuse of funds, and manipulation of football matches or competitions

28. Bribery and corruption

1. Persons bound by this Code shall not accept, give, offer, promise, receive, request or solicit any personal or undue pecuniary or other advantage in order to obtain or retain business or any other improper advantage to or from anyone within or outside FIFA. Such acts are prohibited regardless of whether carried out directly or indirectly through, or in conjunction with, third parties. In particular, persons bound by this Code shall not accept, give, offer, promise, receive, request or solicit any personal or undue pecuniary or other advantage for the execution or omission of an act that is related to their official activities and is contrary to their duties or falls within their discretion.

2. Persons bound by this Code shall refrain from any activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of a breach of this article.

3. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 100,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of five years. Any amount unduly received shall be included in the calculation of the fine. The sanction shall be increased accordingly where the person holds a high position in football, as well as in relation to the relevance and amount of the advantage received.

29. Misappropriation and misuse of funds

1. Persons bound by this Code shall not misappropriate or misuse funds of FIFA, the confederations, associations, leagues or clubs, whether directly or indirectly through, or in conjunction with, third parties.

2. Persons bound by this Code shall refrain from any activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of a breach of this article.

3. Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 100,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of five years. The amount of misappropriated funds shall be included in the calculation of the fine. The sanction shall be increased accordingly where the person holds a high position in football, as well as in relation to the relevance and amount of the funds concerned or of the advantage received.

30. Manipulation of football matches or competitions

1. Persons bound by this Code are forbidden from being involved in the manipulation of football matches and competitions, and shall immediately report to the Ethics Committee any approach in connection with activities and/or information directly or indirectly related to the possible manipulation of a football match or competition.

2. The competence to adjudicate on all conduct related to the manipulation of football matches or competitions, both on and off the field of play, remains reserved for the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

3. The investigatory chamber shall transfer to the Disciplinary Committee any information obtained during its investigatory activity that might be related to conduct committed by any persons bound by this Code in violation of this article.

III.

ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURE

CHAPTER I: ORGANISATION

SECTION 1: COMPETENCE OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

31. Competence of the Ethics Committee

1. The Ethics Committee has the exclusive competence to investigate and judge the conduct of all persons bound by this Code where such conduct:

   a) has been committed by an individual who was elected, appointed or assigned by FIFA to exercise a function;

   b) directly concerns their FIFA-related duties or responsibilities; or

   c) is related to the use of FIFA funds.

2. The Ethics Committee is competent to decide on matters affecting players, coaches or any other official bound by this Code where said conduct does not fall under the competence of any confederation or member association, where no formal investigation has been initiated by the competent confederation or member association 90 days after the matter became known to FIFA, or where the relevant confederation or member association agrees with FIFA to confer the competence regarding the relevant matter on FIFA.

SECTION 2: COMMON RULES FOR THE INVESTIGATORY AND ADJUDICATORY CHAMBERS

32. Composition of the investigatory and adjudicatory chambers

The composition of the investigatory and the adjudicatory chambers shall be in accordance with the FIFA Statutes.

33. Deputising

If the chairperson of either chamber is prevented from acting (whether due to personal or factual circumstances), one of the deputy chairpersons shall replace them. In the event that the deputy chairpersons are also prevented from acting, a member of the relevant chamber, on the basis of seniority, shall act as chairperson.

34. Secretariats

1. The general secretariat of FIFA shall provide both the investigatory and adjudicatory chambers with a secretariat with the necessary staff under the responsibility of the Director of the Secretariat to the Independent Committees. The secretariat of each chamber shall take care of the respective filing of the case files, which must be kept for at least ten years.

2. The secretariat of the investigatory chamber, under the authority of the chairperson of the investigatory chamber or under the authority of the chief of the investigation, shall take charge of the administrative and legal work related to proceedings and provide support to the investigatory chamber for the completion of its tasks; in particular, it shall draft the minutes, final reports and any other document required by the members of the investigatory chamber.

3. The secretariat of the adjudicatory chamber, under the authority of the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber, shall take charge of the administrative and legal work related to proceedings and provide support to the adjudicatory chamber for the completion of its tasks; in particular, it shall draft the minutes and any other document required by the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber.

35. Independence

1. The members of the Ethics Committee shall manage their investigations and proceedings and render their decisions entirely independently and impartially and shall avoid any third-party influence.

2. The members of the Ethics Committee and their immediate family members shall not belong to any other judicial body within FIFA, to the FIFA Council or to any standing committee of FIFA.

3. The members of the Ethics Committee shall not belong to any body or carry out any position with regard to FIFA, a confederation or a member association, other than being member of a judicial body at FIFA, confederation or national level.

36. Withdrawal and challenges

1. A member of the Ethics Committee shall decline to participate in any investigation or adjudicatory proceedings concerning a matter where there are legitimate grounds for questioning their independence or impartiality and/or if there is a conflict of interest. They shall disclose any circumstance which may give rise to any such ground.

2. The foregoing shall apply, *inter alia*, in the following cases:

   a) if the member in question has a direct interest in the outcome of the matter;

   b) if the member has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party; or personal, first-hand knowledge of disputed evidentiary facts material to the proceedings; or has expressed an opinion, other than as part of the proceedings in question, concerning the outcome of the proceedings; or when the immediate family of the member is a party to the subject matter in controversy, is a party to the proceedings or has any other interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the proceedings and their impartiality;

c) if the member has the same nationality as the party implicated;

d) if the member has already dealt with the case in a different function other than their function as a member of the Ethics Committee.

3. Members who decline to participate shall notify the chairperson immediately.

4. An objection against a member of the Ethics Committee believed not to be independent or impartial must be submitted within five days following the identification of the grounds for non-participation, failing which, such objection shall be deemed waived.

The claim must cite the grounds and, if possible, be substantiated.

5. The chairperson of the relevant chamber shall decide whether any such claim is valid if the member in question has not declined to participate of their own accord. If the objection is against the chairperson, the chairperson or the deputy chairperson of the FIFA Appeal Committee shall decide.

37. Confidentiality

1. The members of the Ethics Committee and the members of the secretariats shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential, in particular, deliberations and private personal data in compliance with the FIFA Data Protection Regulations.

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, the investigatory chamber or the adjudicatory chamber may, if deemed necessary and in an appropriate form, inform the public about or confirm ongoing or closed proceedings, and rectify information that is wrong or rumours. Any release of such information shall respect the presumption of innocence and the personality rights of those concerned.

3. The investigatory chamber or the adjudicatory chamber may, in an appropriate form and/or via the website FIFA.com, inform the public about the reasons for any decision and/or the closure of any investigation. In particular, the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber may decide to publish the decision taken, partly or in full, provided that the names mentioned in the decision (other than the ones related to the party) and any other information deemed sensitive by the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber, are duly anonymised.

4. In the event of a breach of this article by a member of the Ethics Committee, the relevant member shall be suspended by a decision taken by the majority of the other members of the respective chamber until the next FIFA Congress.

CHAPTER II: PROCEDURE

SECTION 1: PROCEDURAL RULES

Subsection 1: General rules

38. Parties

Only the accused are deemed to be parties.

39. Representation

1. During any dealings with the Ethics Committee, parties and other persons bound by this Code may have legal representation at their own cost and expense.
2. The parties and other persons bound by this Code are free to choose their own legal counsel or representation.
3. The Ethics Committee may request that the representatives of parties and other persons bound by this Code submit a duly signed power of attorney.
4. The Ethics Committee may limit the number of legal representatives of a party if deemed excessive.

40. Legal aid

1. In order to guarantee their rights, individuals bound by this Code and with insufficient financial means may request legal aid from FIFA for the purpose of proceedings before the Ethics Committee.
2. Applicants for legal aid must submit reasoned requests and supporting documents.
3. The secretariat establishes a list of pro bono counsel.
4. According to each applicant's needs, and subject to prior written confirmation by FIFA, legal aid may be provided as follows:
   a) The applicant may be released from having to pay the costs of proceedings.
   b) Pro bono counsel may be selected by the applicant from the list established by the secretariat.
   c) The applicant's own reasonable travel and accommodation costs and those of witnesses and experts they call to testify may be covered by FIFA, including the travel and accommodation costs of any pro bono counsel selected from the list established by the secretariat.

5. The chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber of the Ethics Committee decides on requests for legal aid. Such decisions are final.

6. Further conditions and requirements associated with legal aid and pro bono counsel may be communicated by circular letter.

7. In cases where the party could not been reached, the adjudicatory chamber may appoint a pro bono counsel *in absentia* who will act on their behalf. The absence of the party is established when the adjudicatory chamber has tried to submit the final report by email through the member association and no response has been received 15 days following the notification to the member association in accordance with article 43 of this Code.

41. Failure to cooperate

1. If the parties or other persons bound by this Code fail to cooperate in any manner or are dilatory in responding to any request from the Ethics Committee, the chairperson of the appropriate chamber issuing the request may, after warning them, charge them with a violation of article 19 of this Code.

2. To the extent the parties fail to cooperate, the investigatory chamber, in preparing a final report based on the file in its possession, and the adjudicatory chamber, in reaching a decision based on the file in its possession, may take into account that behaviour and add the failure to cooperate as an additional charge for violation of article 19 of this Code.

42. Languages used in proceedings

1. The languages used in proceedings shall be English, French and Spanish. The Ethics Committee and parties may choose any of these languages.

2. FIFA may, if necessary, use the services of an interpreter.

3. Decisions shall be taken in the language used during the relevant proceedings. Efforts will be made to use the parties' language, wherever possible.

43. Notification of decisions and other documents

1. Decisions and other documents shall be communicated and notified by email, and may be followed by registered letter.

2. All of the parties shall be notified of the decisions.

3. Decisions and other documents intended for persons bound by this Code may be addressed to the person directly and/or to the association concerned on condition that it forwards the documents to the intended recipient. In the event that the documents were not also or solely sent to the party concerned, these documents shall be considered to have

been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four days after communication of the documents to the association. The time limit shall commence at midnight (Central European Time) the day after the communication of the document in question.

4. Notification of a decision shall be effected by publication on the FIFA webpage where:

   a) the whereabouts of the party are unknown and cannot be ascertained despite making reasonable enquiries;

   b) service is impossible or would lead to exceptional inconvenience; or

   c) a party has not provided a means of contact despite being instructed to do so.

5. Notification via the FIFA webpage is deemed accomplished on the day of publication.

44. Effect of decisions

1. Decisions passed by the Ethics Committee shall come into force as soon as they are communicated.

2. The Ethics Committee may rectify any obvious errors at any time.

Subsection 2: Proof

45. Various types of proof

1. Any type of proof may be produced.

2. Types of proof include, in particular:

   a) documents;

   b) reports from officials;

   c) declarations from the parties;

   d) declarations from witnesses;

   e) audio and video recordings;

   f) expert opinions;

   g) all other proof that is relevant to the case.

3. During the investigation, where oral testimony is given, such testimony may be given in person, by telephone or via video.

46. Anonymous participants in proceedings

1. When a person's testimony in ethics proceedings conducted in accordance with this Code could lead to threats to them or put them or any person particularly close to them in physical danger, the chairperson of the competent chamber or their deputy may order, *inter alia*, that:

   a) the person not be identified in the presence of the parties;

   b) the person not appear at the hearing;

   c) the person's voice be distorted;

   d) the person be questioned outside the hearing room;

   e) the person be questioned in writing through the chairperson of the competent chamber or their deputy;

   f) all or some of the information that could be used to identify the person be included only in a separate, confidential case file.

2. If no other evidence is available to corroborate the testimony provided by the person concerned, such testimony may only be used in the context of imposing sanctions under this Code if:

   a) the parties as well as their legal representatives had the opportunity to pose questions to the person concerned at least in writing; and

   b) the members of the judicial body had the opportunity to interview the person concerned directly and in full awareness of their identity and to assess their identity and record in full.

3. Disciplinary measures shall be imposed on anyone who reveals the identity of any person granted anonymity under this provision or any information that could be used to identify such person.

47. Identification of anonymous participants in proceedings

1. To ensure their safety, persons granted anonymity under article 46 shall be identified behind closed doors in the absence of the parties. This identification shall be conducted by the chairperson of the competent chamber alone, their deputy or all the members of the competent chamber together, and shall be recorded in minutes containing the relevant person's personal details.

2. These minutes shall not be communicated to the parties.

3. The parties shall receive a brief notice which:

   a) confirms that the person concerned has been formally identified; and

   b) contains no details that could be used to identify such person.

48. Inadmissible evidence

Proof that has been obtained by means or ways involving violations of human dignity or that obviously does not serve to establish relevant facts shall be rejected.

49. Evaluation of proof

The Ethics Committee shall have absolute discretion regarding proof.

50. Standard of proof

The members of the Ethics Committee shall judge and decide on the basis of their comfortable satisfaction.

51. Burden of proof

The burden of proof regarding breaches of provisions of the Code rests on the Ethics Committee.

Subsection 3: Time limits

52. Beginning and end of time limit

1. Time limits notified directly to the party or to a representative appointed by the party shall commence at midnight (Central European Time) the day after receipt of the notification.
2. Where a document is sent to a person through the respective member association and is not also sent to the person concerned or their legal representative, the time limit shall commence at midnight (Central European Time) four days after receipt of the document by the association responsible for forwarding it. Where the document was also sent to the person concerned or their legal representative, the time limit shall commence at midnight (Central European Time) the day after receipt of the document in question.
3. If the last day of the time limit coincides with a public holiday in the place of domicile of the person required to comply with the document by a certain deadline, the time limit shall expire on the next working day.
4. Time limits are deemed to have been complied with if the relevant action has been completed by midnight (Central European Time) at the latest on the last day of the stipulated deadline.

53. Compliance

1. The time limit has been met only if the action required has been carried out before expiry of the time limit.
2. The document must be submitted by email, to the email address indicated in the correspondence sent from the respective secretariat, to the relevant body no later than midnight on the last day of the time limit.
3. Costs and fees payable are considered to have been paid in time if the payment has irreversibly been made to FIFA's account by midnight on the last day of the time limit.

54. Extension

1. Time limits set forth in this Code may not be extended.
2. Time limits set by the Ethics Committee may be extended upon reasoned request. A time limit may only be extended for a second time in exceptional circumstances.
3. If an extension of the time limit is refused, two extra days may be granted. In emergencies, the refusal to grant the extension may be announced orally.

Subsection 4: Suspension of proceedings

55. Suspension or continuation of proceedings

1. In the event that a person bound by this Code ceases to serve in their function during proceedings, the Ethics Committee shall remain competent to continue investigatory proceedings and/or render a decision.
2. In the event that a person bound by this Code ceases to serve in their function, the investigatory chamber may initiate and conduct the investigation, create a final report and hand it over to the adjudicatory chamber. The adjudicatory chamber may suspend the proceedings or take a decision as to the substance and impose appropriate sanctions.

Subsection 5: Procedural costs

56. Procedural costs

The procedural costs are made up of the Ethics Committee's costs and expenses incurred in connection with the investigation and adjudicatory proceedings.

57. Procedural costs in case of closure of proceedings or acquittal

1. Except as otherwise provided herein, in the event of closure of proceedings or acquittal, the procedural costs shall be borne by FIFA.
2. A party may be ordered to pay the procedural costs in part or in full in the event of closure of proceedings or acquittal if they culpably caused the proceedings to be initiated or hindered the conduct of the proceedings.

58. Procedural costs if sanctions are imposed

1. Procedural costs shall be borne by the party that has been sanctioned.
2. If more than one party is sanctioned, the procedural costs shall be assessed proportionally in accordance with the degree of guilt of the parties.
3. Part of the procedural costs, in particular the costs of the investigation proceedings, may be borne by FIFA, as appropriate in respect of the imposition of sanctions.
4. The procedural costs may be reduced or waived in exceptional circumstances, in particular taking into account the party's financial circumstances.

59. Procedural compensation

No procedural compensation shall be awarded in proceedings conducted by the Ethics Committee.

SECTION 2: INVESTIGATION PROCEEDINGS

Subsection 1: Preliminary proceedings

60. Right to submit complaints

1. Any person may file a complaint regarding potential breaches of this Code with the secretariat of the investigatory chamber. Complaints must be submitted in writing, including available evidence. The secretariat shall inform the chairperson of the investigatory chamber of the complaints and act upon their instructions.
2. There is no entitlement for proceedings to be opened following submission of a complaint.
3. Any person bound by this Code who lodges a complaint against a person whom they know to be innocent or in any other way takes malicious steps related to the initiation of proceedings under this Code shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of two years.

61. Preliminary investigations

1. Upon the instruction of the chairperson of the investigatory chamber, the secretariat of the investigatory chamber shall carry out an initial evaluation of the documents submitted with the complaint.

2. The secretariat of the investigatory chamber may initiate preliminary investigations into a potential breach of this Code based on a filed complaint and shall act upon the instructions of the chairperson of the investigatory chamber. This may include, in particular, engaging third parties – under the leadership of the chairperson – with investigative duties, appointing an integrity expert (cf. article 36 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code), collecting written information, requesting documents and obtaining witness statements.

3. The chairperson of the investigatory chamber may initiate preliminary investigations at their own discretion and at any time.

62. Opening of investigation proceedings

1. If the preliminary investigation is found to establish a prima facie case, the chairperson of the investigatory chamber shall open investigation proceedings. The chamber shall examine aggravating and mitigating circumstances equally.

2. The parties shall be notified of the opening of investigation proceedings and the possible rule violation. Limited exceptions to this rule may be made for safety and security reasons or if such disclosure would interfere with the conduct of the investigation.

3. The chairperson of the investigatory chamber shall report to the investigatory chamber regularly on non-opened cases.

Subsection 2: Initiation and conduct of investigation proceedings

63. Initiation of investigation

1. The chairperson of the investigatory chamber shall decide on the initiation of investigation proceedings.

2. Grounds do not need to be given for the initiation of investigation proceedings and the decision may not be contested.

64. Duties and competences of the investigatory chamber

1. The investigatory chamber may investigate potential breaches of provisions of this Code on its own initiative or based on complaints at its full and independent discretion.

2. If the investigatory chamber deems that there is no prima facie case, it shall not open any investigation proceedings and it shall close the case. In addition to the internal closure of the proceedings, the investigatory chamber may (i) send a closing letter to the interested party reminding them of their duties, and/or (ii) send a closing letter to the interested party informing them that no breaches of the Code have been found. The investigatory chamber may communicate in this respect where deemed relevant.

3. Once the investigation has been completed, the investigatory chamber shall prepare a final report on the investigation proceedings stating the relevant rules that have been breached for which they require a judgment by the adjudicatory chamber. The report, together with the related investigation files, shall be forwarded to the adjudicatory chamber. Should a hearing be conducted, one or more members of the investigatory chamber may present the case before the adjudicatory chamber.

4. As part of the investigatory process, the investigatory chamber may also investigate breaches of provisions of the FIFA Disciplinary Code which concern immoral or unethical conduct.

65. Conduct of proceedings

The chairperson of the investigatory chamber may lead the investigation proceedings themselves as the chief of the investigation or may assign this role formally to the deputy chairperson or a member of the investigatory chamber. This person shall be designated the chief of the investigation.

66. Competences of the chief of the investigation

1. With the assistance of the secretariat, the chief of the investigation shall investigate by means of written enquiries and written or oral questioning of the parties and witnesses. The chief of the investigation may also undertake any further investigative measures relevant to the case; in particular, they may verify the authenticity of documents relevant to the investigation by procuring affidavits.

2. If the chairperson of the investigatory chamber is acting as the chief of the investigation, they may ask another member of the investigatory chamber to assist them. In cases where the chairperson is not acting as the chief of the investigation, they may ask the chairperson of the investigatory chamber to assign additional members of the investigatory chamber to conduct the investigation alongside them. The chairperson may, where that is the case, also assign additional members at their own discretion.

3. If the chairperson is acting as the chief of the investigation, they may, in complex cases, engage third parties – under the leadership of the chief of the investigation – with investigative duties. The enquiries to be made by such third parties must be clearly defined. Where the chairperson is not acting as the chief of the investigation, the chief of the investigation may submit the respective request to the chairperson.

4. If the parties and the other persons bound by this Code fail to cooperate in establishing the facts of the case, the chief of the investigation may request the chairperson of the investigatory chamber to impose a warning, and in case of recurrence, to impose disciplinary measures, including a ban on taking part in any football-related activity of up to 90 days. If the chairperson is acting as the chief of the investigation, the deputy chairperson shall decide.

Subsection 3: Conclusion of investigation proceedings

67. Conclusion of investigation proceedings

1. If the chief of the investigation considers the investigation to be adequate, they shall inform the parties that the investigation proceedings have been concluded and provide them with a copy of the investigation files, including a brief summary of the main potential charges. The parties will then have ten days from that notification to submit any observation or comment.
2. If the chief of the investigation considers that there are sufficient grounds to establish that rules have been breached, they shall forward the final report together with the investigation files to the adjudicatory chamber. The chief of the investigation may also inform the adjudicatory chamber that other allegations, which might be contained in the file, may still be under investigation.
3. If the chief of the investigation considers that there are no sufficient grounds to establish that rules have been breached, they shall close the case. In addition to the internal closure of the proceedings, the investigatory chamber shall send a closing letter to the party reminding them of their duties, as well as informing them of the outcome of the investigations and that any ongoing provisional sanction is lifted.
4. If proceedings have been closed, the investigatory chamber may reopen the investigation if new facts or evidence suggesting a potential breach come to light.

68. Final report

1. The final report shall contain all the relevant facts and relevant evidence gathered and mention the possible rule violation.
2. The final report shall be signed by the chairperson of the investigatory chamber. If the chairperson did not act as the chief of the investigation, the chief of the investigation shall also sign the final report.

69. Plea bargain (application of a sanction by mutual consent)

1. At any time during the investigation, but at the latest when the case is about to be decided by the adjudicatory chamber or before the hearing as provided for by article 76 of this Code, the parties may enter into an agreement with the chairperson of the investigatory chamber for the application of a sanction by mutual consent.

2. Should the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber consider that the agreement complies with this Code and the sanction settled is correctly applied, the agreement becomes immediately effective and the settled sanction becomes final and binding, and is not subject to any further appeal.

3. Should any monetary sanction provided by the plea agreement not be fully executed by the party concerned within 15 days of the date of the decision, the agreement is automatically revoked.

4. Should any compliance training and/or community football service provided by the plea agreement not be fully executed by the party concerned within the terms established within the agreement, the agreement is automatically revoked.

5. Whenever a plea agreement is revoked, the adjudicatory chamber shall decide the case within the 60 days that follow on the basis of the file, and no further plea agreement will be allowed between the parties concerned and the chairperson of the investigatory chamber.

6. No plea agreement shall be allowed concerning sanctions related to the protection of physical and mental integrity, or related to offences of bribery and corruption, misappropriation and misuse of funds, and manipulation of football matches or competitions, unless the party concerned provides substantial assistance. Substantial assistance may be considered where the relevant party:

   a) fully disclosed in a signed written statement or recorded interview all the information they possess in relation to the infringement(s); and

   b) fully cooperated with the investigation and adjudication of any case or matter related to the information provided, including but not limited to, presenting a testimony at a hearing if requested to do so by FIFA or the relevant deciding panel;

   c) provided credible information which constitutes a significant part of a case or proceeding subsequently initiated or, at least, which would have provided a sufficient basis on which to initiate a case or proceeding.

   Notwithstanding the above, in cases of sexual abuse, no plea agreement shall be allowed with the principal actors or any other person directly participating in such conduct.

SECTION 3: ADJUDICATORY PROCEEDINGS

Subsection 1: Initiation and conduct of proceedings

70. Duties and competences of the adjudicatory chamber

1. The chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber shall examine the final report and investigation files with the assistance of the secretariat.
2. If the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber deems that there is insufficient evidence to proceed, they may close the case and shall inform the party accordingly.
3. If the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber deems that the matter should be adjudicated, they shall proceed with the adjudicatory proceedings and request that the secretariat send a copy of the final report and investigation files to the parties concerned.
4. The adjudicatory chamber may gather evidence, documents or information or request clarification at any time prior to the hearing or the deliberations on the matter.

71. Adjudicatory proceedings

1. The chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber shall inform all the parties concerned that the case shall be decided either on the basis of the report of the investigatory chamber together with the investigation files or – upon the request of any party concerned – of a hearing to be scheduled.
2. If there is no request for a hearing, the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber shall inform the parties of the proceedings and the investigatory chamber that the case shall be decided on the basis of the existing documents and submissions and shall establish a final deadline to file their respective final requests.
3. Should a hearing be held, the secretariat of the adjudicatory chamber shall inform all the parties concerned and shall forward to them a procedural order, with the rules of the hearing, established by the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber.
4. All the parties in the proceedings and their representatives, subject to article 39 paragraph 4, as well as the representatives of the investigatory chamber are entitled to attend the hearing to discuss and submit orally their respective requests.
5. As part of the adjudicatory process, the adjudicatory chamber may also rule on breaches of provisions of the FIFA Disciplinary Code which concern immoral or unethical conduct.

72. Jurisdiction of the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber ruling alone

1. The chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber may take decisions alone in cases related to breaches sanctioned only with monetary sanctions or when the sanction to be imposed is a warning, reprimand or compliance training.

2. The chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber is also responsible for ratifying the plea agreement entered into between the parties and the investigatory chamber, where applicable.

73. Right to be heard

Before the adjudicatory chamber issues any final decision, the parties are entitled to submit their position, to present evidence and to inspect evidence to be considered by the adjudicatory chamber in reaching its decision. These rights may be restricted in exceptional circumstances, such as when confidential matters need to be safeguarded, witnesses need to be protected or if it is required to establish the elements of the proceedings.

74. Rejection of motions for the admission of evidence

1. In accordance with articles 48 and 49 and other relevant provisions of the Code, the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber may reject the substantiated motions for the admission of evidence submitted by the parties.

2. The parties shall be informed if their motion has been rejected with a brief outline of the grounds of the decision. The rejection may not be contested.

Subsection 2: Composition, hearings

75. Composition of the panel

1. The chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber shall decide the composition and number of members in the panel and shall provide them with the relevant files. The parties shall be informed of the composition of the panel.

2. Without prejudice to article 72, the panel's decisions shall be deemed to be legally valid if at least three members are present.

76. Hearings, principles

1. Hearings shall be conducted behind closed doors and in the presence in situ of the requesting party.

2. Hearings of the adjudicatory chamber are not open to the public, except in cases when it has been duly requested by the defendant. The chairperson or their nominee decides, at their own discretion, under what conditions a public hearing may take place.

3. Misconduct by the party that took place after the submission of the final report may be addressed by the investigatory chamber during its closing statement. In this sense, the investigatory chamber may present the relevant facts and evidence, mention the possible rule violation and submit a recommendation to the adjudicatory chamber on the appropriate measures. The party shall have the right to respond to these new charges during the hearing. In the absence of a hearing, the investigatory chamber may submit its recommendation within two days after the party´s position, who will have then the right to reply in written form in compliance with the deadline granted by the adjudicatory chamber.

4. If there is no hearing, the chairperson shall schedule the deliberations and decide on the number of members and the composition of the panel. The parties shall be informed to this effect.

77. Hearings, procedure

1. The chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber shall conduct the hearing in whatever manner they deem appropriate, provided it is consistent with this Code.

2. It is the responsibility of the parties to ensure the appearance of the witnesses requested by them and to pay all costs and expenses associated with the parties' and the witnesses' appearance.

3. Witnesses called by the parties and/or by the investigatory chamber shall, in principle, appear in person. The chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber or their deputy may, however, decide to hear the parties by video conference, which shall be conducted under the specific conditions set by the chairperson or their deputy/acting chairperson.

4. Wherever possible, the hearing shall proceed according to the following sequence:

   a) testimony of any witnesses called by the accused and approved by the adjudicatory chamber;

   b) testimony of any witnesses called by the investigatory chamber and approved by the adjudicatory chamber;

   c) testimony of any witnesses called by the adjudicatory chamber;

   d) closing statement by the investigatory chamber;

   e) closing statement by a legal representative, if any, of the accused;

   f) rebuttal statement by the investigatory chamber and the parties, if applicable;

   g) final opportunity for the accused to speak.

5. Exceptionally, the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber (or the deputy/acting chairperson in the respective proceedings) may decide to organise a hearing by means of video-conference.

Subsection 3: Deliberations, decisions

78. Deliberations

1. After the hearing, the adjudicatory chamber shall withdraw to deliberate on its decision in private.
2. If circumstances permit, the deliberations and decision-taking may be conducted via telephone conference, video conference or any other similar method.
3. Deliberations shall be conducted without interruption, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
4. The chairperson shall decide in which order the various questions will be submitted for deliberation.
5. The adjudicatory chamber is not bound by the legal assessment of the facts submitted by the investigatory chamber. In particular, the adjudicatory chamber may extend or limit the rule violations pointed out by the investigatory chamber.
6. The members present shall express their opinions in the order set out by the chairperson, who always speaks last.
7. A member of the secretariat shall be present during the deliberations.

79. Taking the decision

1. Decisions shall be taken by the majority of the members present.
2. Every member present shall vote.
3. In the event of a tied vote, the chairperson shall have the casting vote.

80. Grounds of decision

1. The adjudicatory chamber shall communicate its decision in full, written form.
2. In case of urgency, or under any other special circumstances, the adjudicatory chamber may notify only the terms of the decision to the party, which become immediately applicable. The full, written decision shall then be notified within the next 60 days.

81. Form and content of the decision

1. The decision shall contain:
   a) the composition of the panel;
   b) the names of the parties;
   c) the date of the decision;

d) a summary of the facts;

e) the grounds of the decision;

f) the provisions on which the decision was based;

g) the terms of the decision;

h) notice of the channels for appeal.

2. The decision shall be signed by the chairperson and transmitted by the secretariat.

82. Enforcement of decisions

It is the responsibility of the member associations, as well as of the relevant football officials, to make sure that the decisions taken and notified by the Ethics Committee are properly implemented, as required by the FIFA Statutes.

SECTION 4: APPEAL AND REVIEW

83. Appeal Committee

1. An appeal may be lodged by the party concerned, having a legally protected interest justifying amendment or cancellation of the decision, to the Appeal Committee against any decision taken by the Disciplinary Committee which relates to infringements of article 30 of this Code.

2. Further provisions relating to lodging an appeal and proceedings before the Appeal Committee are set out in the FIFA Disciplinary Code (cf. article 60 ff.).

84. Court of Arbitration for Sport

1. Decisions taken by the adjudicatory chamber are final, subject to appeals lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FIFA Statutes.

2. The aforementioned decisions may also be appealed at CAS by the chief of the investigation.

85. Review

1. The investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee may reopen a case that has been closed following a legally binding decision if a party discovers significant new facts or proof that, despite the investigation, could not have been produced sooner and would have resulted in a more favourable decision. In case of such reopening, the provisions regarding investigation proceedings shall apply.

2. A request for review shall be made by the party concerned within ten days of discovering the reasons for review, or it will not be admitted.

3. The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one year after the enforcement of the decision.

SECTION 5: PROVISIONAL SANCTIONS

86. Provisional sanction

1. At any time during an investigation, the chairperson of the investigatory chamber or the chief of the investigation may request that the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber impose provisional sanctions in order to ensure that investigation proceedings are not interfered with or when a breach of this Code appears to have been committed and a decision on the merits of the case may not be taken early enough.

2. The interested party may file their position against the request for provisional sanctions with the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber within five days of the notification of the request for provisional sanctions.

3. The chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber shall decide without delay based on the file or they may decide to hear the interested parties or their representatives.

4. A provisional sanction shall start on the date on which it is notified (or deemed to be notified) by the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber and shall end with the final decision of the adjudicatory chamber, unless lifted earlier in accordance with article 67 of this Code. The period of the provisional sanction shall however not exceed the maximum length of the sanction that may be imposed with regard to the related breach(es).

5. The duration of provisional sanctions shall be taken into account in the final decision.

IV.

FINAL PROVISIONS

87. Exemption from liability

Except in the case of gross negligence or malicious intent, neither the members of the Ethics Committee nor the secretariat staff may be held personally liable for any deeds relating to any procedure.

88. Official languages

1. This Code exists in English, French and Spanish.
2. In the event of any discrepancy between the three texts, the English version shall be authoritative.

89. Adoption and enforcement

1. The FIFA Council adopted this Code on 16 December 2022.
2. This Code comes into force on 1 February 2023.
3. The procedural rules enacted in this Code shall come into force immediately, and apply to all proceedings for which adjudicatory proceedings have not been formally opened, on the date stipulated paragraph 2 of the present article.

Doha, 16 December 2022

For the FIFA Council

President	Secretary General
Gianni Infantino	Fatma Samoura

FIFA®



Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

incl. interim regulatory framework

JULY 2025

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DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these regulations, the terms set out below are defined as follows:

1. Former association: the association to which the former club is affiliated.

2. Former club: the club that the player is leaving.

3. New association: the association to which the new club is affiliated.

4. New club: the club that the player is joining.

5. Official matches: matches played within the framework of organised football, such as national league championships, national cups and international championships for clubs, but not including friendly and trial matches.

6. Organised football: association football organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations and the associations, or authorised by them.

7. Protected period: a period of three entire seasons or three years, whichever comes first, following the entry into force of a contract, where such contract is concluded prior to the 28th birthday of the professional, or two entire seasons or two years, whichever comes first, following the entry into force of a contract, where such contract is concluded after the 28th birthday of the professional.

8. Registration period: a period fixed by the relevant association in accordance with article 6.

9. Season: a consecutive 12-month period fixed by an association during which its official competitions, such as national league championships and national cup competitions, occur.

10. Training compensation: the payments made in accordance with Annexe 4 to cover the development of young players.

11. Minor: a player who has not yet reached the age of 18.

12. Academy: an organisation or an independent legal entity whose primary, long-term objective is to provide players with long-term training through the provision of the necessary training facilities and infrastructure. This shall primarily include, but not be limited to, football training centres, football camps, football schools, etc.

13. Transfer matching system (TMS): a web-based data information system with the primary objective of simplifying the process of international player transfers as well as improving transparency and the flow of information.

14. Third party: a party other than the player being transferred, the two clubs transferring the player from one to the other, or any previous club, with which the player has been registered.

15. Eleven-a-side football: football played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as authorised by the International Football Association Board.

16. Futsal: football played in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game that have been drawn up by FIFA in collaboration with the Sub-Committee of the International Football Association Board.

17. Registration: the act of making a written record containing details of a player that include:

a) the start date of the registration (format: dd/mm/yyyy);

b) the full name (first, middle and last names) of the player;

c) the date of birth, gender, nationality, status as an amateur or a professional (as per article 2 paragraph 2 of these regulations), and nature of the registration (on a permanent basis or on loan);

d) the type(s) of football the player will play (eleven-a-side football/futsal/beach soccer);

e) the name of the club at the association where the player will play (including the FIFA ID of the club);

f) the training categorisation of the club at the moment of the registration;

g) the FIFA ID of the player;

h) the FIFA ID of the association.

18. Electronic player registration system: an online electronic information system with the ability to record the registration of all players at their association. The electronic player registration system must be integrated with the FIFA Connect ID Service and the FIFA Connect Interface in order to exchange information electronically. The electronic player registration system must provide all registration information for all players from the age of 12 through the FIFA Connect Interface and, in particular, must assign each player a FIFA ID utilising the FIFA Connect ID Service.

19. FIFA Connect ID Service: a service provided by FIFA assigning globally valid unique identifiers (the FIFA ID) to individuals, organisations, and facilities, providing duplicate information in case of a second registration of the same entity, and keeping a central record of the current registration(s) of all entities with an assigned FIFA ID.

20. FIFA ID: the worldwide unique identifier given by the FIFA Connect ID Service to each club, association, player and football agent.

21. International transfer: the movement of the registration of a player from one association to another association.

22. National transfer: the movement of the registration of a player at an association from one club to another within the same association.

23. Electronic domestic transfer system: an online electronic information system with the ability to administer and monitor all national transfers within an association, in line with the principles of the model implemented at international level through the transfer matching system (cf. Annexe 3). At a minimum, the system must collect the full name, gender, nationality, date of birth and FIFA ID of the player, the status (amateur or professional as per article 2 paragraph 2 of these regulations), the name and FIFA ID of the two clubs involved in the national transfer, as well as any payments between the clubs, if applicable. The electronic domestic transfer system must be integrated with the electronic registration system of the association and with the FIFA Connect Interface in order to exchange information electronically.

24. Bridge transfer: any two consecutive transfers, national or international, of the same player connected to each other and comprising a registration of that player with the middle club to circumvent the application of the relevant regulations or laws and/or defraud another person or entity.

25. Purely amateur club: a club with no legal, financial or de facto links to a professional club that:

    i. is only permitted to register amateur players; or

    ii. has no registered professional players; or

    iii. has not registered any professional players in the three years prior to a particular date.

26. FIFA Connect Interface: a technical interface provided by FIFA within the FIFA Connect Programme, used to exchange electronic end-to-end encrypted messages between member associations, and between member associations and FIFA.

27. Training rewards: the mechanisms which compensate training clubs for their role in the training and education of young players, namely training compensation (cf. article 20) and the solidarity mechanism (cf. article 21).

28. Coach: an individual employed in a football-specific occupation by a professional club or association whose:

    i. employment duties consist of one or more of the following: training and coaching players, selecting players for matches and competitions, making tactical choices during matches and competitions; and/or

    ii. employment requires the holding of a coaching licence in accordance with a domestic or continental licensing regulation.

29. Professional club: a club that is not a purely amateur club.

30. Maternity leave: a minimum period of 14 weeks' paid absence granted to a female player/coach due to her pregnancy, of which a minimum of eight weeks must occur after the birth of the child.

31. Club-trained player: a player who, between the age of 15 (or the start of the season during which he turns 15) and 21 (or the end of the season during which he turns 21), and irrespective of his nationality and age, registered with his current club for a period, continuous or not, of three entire seasons or of 36 months.

32. Trial: a temporary period during which a player that is not registered with a club is evaluated by that club.

33. FIFA Clearing House: the entity that acts as an intermediary in relation to processing certain payments made in the football transfer system.

34. Electronic Player Passport (EPP): an electronic document containing consolidated registration information of a player throughout their career, including the relevant member association, their status (amateur or professional), the type of registration (permanent or loan), and the club(s) (including training category) with which they have been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday.

35. Transfer Compensation: a compensation which a new club of a player pays, or commits to pay to a player's former club, in exchange for the former club's acceptance to release the player from a binding contractual relationship. Compensation for breach of contract pursuant to article 17 herein is not considered transfer compensation.

36. Matching Exception: the status of an international transfer in TMS when both clubs have entered the basic information correctly (player, clubs and transfer instruction), but there are still transfer details (payment details or loan dates) that do not match in both transfer instructions. This mismatch prevents the transfer from proceeding.

37. TMS User: an individual trained and authorised to access TMS on behalf of a club or association. All TMS users have their own unique login credentials.

38. TMS Manager: the main TMS user and point of contact for a club or association with access to TMS.

39. Transfer Instruction: the information entered in TMS to transfer a player from one club to another. The transfer instruction type is defined by the information entered: (i) "engage" or "release"; (ii) "permanently" or "on loan"; (iii) "professional player" or "amateur player"; (iv) with transfer agreement" or "without transfer agreement"; (v) "against payment" or "free of payment".

40. Validation Exception: an issue relating to an international transfer in TMS that prevents it from proceeding to the next status, thus requiring FIFA's intervention.

41. Competition period: the period starting with the first official match of the national league championship or national cup competition, whichever comes first, and ending with the last official match played within those competitions.

42. Adoption leave: a minimum period of eight weeks' paid absence granted to a female player/coach in case of the adoption of a child who is younger than the age of two. The period of paid absence is reduced to four weeks for a child between two and four years of age and to two weeks for a child who is older than the age of four. The adoption leave must be taken within six months of the date of the formal adoption and cannot be accumulated with family leave for the same child.

43. Family leave: a minimum period of eight weeks' paid absence granted to a female player/coach other than the biological mother following the birth of the child. The family leave must be taken within six months of the date of birth of the child and cannot be accumulated with adoption leave for the same child.

Reference is also made to the Definitions section in the FIFA Statutes.

NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

01.

INTRODUCTORY PROVISION

1. Scope

1. These regulations lay down global and binding rules concerning the status of players, their eligibility to participate in organised football, and their transfer between clubs belonging to different associations.

2. The transfer of players between clubs belonging to the same association is governed by specific regulations issued by the association concerned in accordance with article 1 paragraph 3 below, which must be approved by FIFA. Such regulations shall lay down rules for the settlement of disputes between clubs and players, in accordance with the principles stipulated in these regulations. Such regulations should also provide for a system to reward clubs affiliated to the relevant association investing in the training and education of young players.

   The use of an electronic domestic transfer system is a mandatory step for all national transfers of professional and amateur players (both male and female) within the scope of eleven-a-side football. A national transfer must be entered in the electronic domestic transfer system each time a player is to be registered with a new club within the same association. Any registration of a player for a new club without the use of the electronic domestic transfer system will be invalid.

3.

   a) The following provisions are binding at national level and must be included without modification in the association's regulations: articles 2-8, 10 (subject to article 1 paragraph 3 b) below), 11, 12bis, 18, 18 paragraph 7, 18bis, 18ter, 18quater, 18quinquies, 19 and 19bis.

      In relation to articles 18 paragraph 7, 18quater and 18quinquies, where a validly negotiated collective bargaining agreement contains provisions related to female professional football, the respective provisions of the collective bargaining agreement shall prevail in their totality, and a clear reference to the collective bargaining agreement shall be included in the association's regulations. Where no collective bargaining agreement exists, but where more favourable conditions are stipulated pursuant to national law, these more favourable conditions shall be included in the association's regulations.

   b) Associations are given three years from 1 July 2022 to implement, in agreement with domestic football stakeholders, rules on a domestic loan system which are in line with the principles of integrity of competitions, youth development, and the prevention of hoarding players. For the avoidance of doubt, the limitation on the number of loans at national level may differ from article 10 as long as it is consistent with these principles.

c) Each association shall include in its regulations appropriate means to protect contractual stability, paying due respect to mandatory national law and collective bargaining agreements. In particular, the following principles must be considered:

- article 13: the principle that contracts must be respected;
- article 14: the principle that contracts may be terminated by either party without consequences where there is just cause;
- article 15: the principle that contracts may be terminated by professionals with sporting just cause;
- article 16: the principle that contracts cannot be terminated during a competition period;
- article 17 paragraphs 1 and 2: the principle that in the event of termination of contract without just cause, compensation shall be payable and that such compensation may be stipulated in the contract;
- article 17 paragraphs 3-5: the principle that in the event of termination of contract without just cause, sporting sanctions shall be imposed on the party in breach.

4. These regulations also govern the release of players to association teams in accordance with the provisions of Annexe 1. These provisions are binding for all associations and clubs.

5. These regulations also include rules concerning contracts between coaches and professional clubs or associations (cf. Annexe 2).

6. These regulations also include temporary rules addressing the exceptional situation deriving from the war in Ukraine (cf. Annexe 7).

02

STATUS OF PLAYERS

2. Status of players: amateur and professional players

1. Players participating in organised football are either amateurs or professionals. No other status shall be recognised.

2. A professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more for his footballing activity than the expenses he effectively incurs. All other players are considered to be amateurs.

3. Reacquisition of amateur status

1. A player registered as a professional may not re-register as an amateur until at least 30 days after his last match as a professional.

2. No compensation is payable upon reacquisition of amateur status. If a player re-registers as a professional within 30 months of being reinstated as an amateur, his new club shall pay training compensation in accordance with article 20.

4. Termination of activity

1. Professionals who end their careers upon expiry of their contracts and amateurs who terminate their activity shall remain registered at the association of their last club for a period of 30 months.

2. This period begins on the day the player made his last appearance for the club in an official match.

03

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

5. Registration

1. Each association must have an electronic player registration system, which must assign each player a FIFA ID when the player is first registered. A player must be registered at an association to play for a club as either a professional or an amateur in accordance with the provisions of article 2. With the exception of players participating in friendly matches during a trial, only electronically registered players identified with a FIFA ID are eligible to participate in organised football. By the act of registering or accepting to be on trial a player agrees to abide by the statutes and regulations of FIFA, the confederations and the associations.

2. A player may only be registered with a club for the purpose of playing organised football. As an exception to this rule, a player may have to be registered with a club for mere technical reasons to secure transparency in consecutive individual transactions (see Annexe 3). A player that is on trial (see article 19ter) does not need to be registered to participate in friendly matches played in the context of a trial.

3. A player may only be registered with one club at a time.

4. Players may be registered with a maximum of three clubs during one season. During this period, a player is only eligible to play official matches for two clubs. As an exception to this rule, a player moving between two clubs belonging to associations with overlapping seasons (i.e. start of the season in summer/autumn as opposed to winter/spring) may be eligible to play in official matches for a third club during the relevant season, provided they have fully complied with their contractual obligations towards their previous clubs, and provided that the provisions relating to registration periods (article 6) and the minimum length of a contract (article 18 paragraph 2) are respected. Limitations as per this paragraph do not apply if a player wishes to be registered based on the exception as per article 6 paragraph 3 a). Competition Regulations for the FIFA Club World Cup™ may establish further exceptions.

5. Under all circumstances, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the competition. In particular, a player may not play official matches for more than two clubs competing in the same national championship or cup during the same season, subject to stricter individual competition regulations of member associations.

6. In relation to the FIFA ID of a player and the integration of their electronic player registration systems, member associations shall:

a) assign a FIFA ID to all players already registered at the member association who have not been assigned a FIFA ID at the point in time when the electronic player registration system is integrated with the FIFA Connect ID Service;

b) where a FIFA ID has already been assigned to a player, as indicated by the FIFA Connect ID Service, ensure the same FIFA ID is used to register the player in its electronic player registration system;

c) if the FIFA Connect ID Service determines that a player is, or appears to be, registered in more than one electronic player registration system, resolve the matter within five (5) days of it becoming aware, and update the FIFA Connect ID Service without delay; and

d) provide the relevant personal information about a player to other member associations' electronic player registration systems through the FIFA Connect Interface, when requested for the purpose of registration and the determination of the FIFA ID of the player.

5bis Bridge transfer

1. No club or player shall be involved in a bridge transfer.

2. It shall be presumed, unless established to the contrary, that if two consecutive transfers, national or international, of the same player occur within a period of 16 weeks, the parties (clubs and player) involved in those two transfers have participated in a bridge transfer.

3. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee, in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code, will impose sanctions on any party subject to the FIFA Statutes and regulations involved in a bridge transfer.

6. Registration periods

1. Players may only be registered during one of the two annual registration periods fixed by the relevant association. Associations may fix different registration periods for their male and female competitions.

2. The first registration period may begin as early as on the first day after the day on which the competition period of the previous season ended, and at the latest on the first day of the new season. This first registration period shall not be shorter than eight weeks or longer than 12 weeks. The second registration period shall occur in the middle of the season and shall not be shorter than four weeks or longer than eight weeks. The cumulative total of both registration periods may not exceed 16 weeks. The dates of the competition period and the two registration periods for the season shall be entered into TMS at least 12 months before they come into force (cf. Annexe 3). All transfers, whether a national transfer or an international transfer, shall only occur within these registration periods, subject to the exceptions in article 6 as per paragraph 3 hereinafter. FIFA shall determine the dates for any association that fails to communicate them on time.

3. Member associations are authorised to exceptionally register players outside a registration period in the following circumstances:

   a) A professional who has unilaterally terminated their contract with just cause, or whose contract has been unilaterally terminated without just cause by their club, may be registered outside a registration period. Upon receipt of the ITC request, the FIFA general secretariat shall expeditiously assess on a *prima facie* basis whether the unilateral termination occurred with or without just cause and permit or deny the registration accordingly. Such *prima facie* assessment is without prejudice to a decision of the Football Tribunal about the consequences of the termination of contract.

   b) A professional whose contract has naturally expired or has been mutually terminated prior to the end of the registration period applicable to the engaging club may be registered with the engaging club also after expiry of the respective registration period.

   c) A female player may be registered outside a registration period to temporarily replace another female player that has exercised her rights linked to pregnancy, adoption or family leave. The period of the contract of the temporary replacement player shall, unless otherwise mutually agreed, be from the date of registration until the day prior to the start of the first registration period after the return of the female player that has taken the relevant leave.

   d) A female player may be registered outside a registration period upon completion of her family, adoption or maternity leave or recovery related to her pregnancy (cf. article 18 paragraph 7 and article 18quater) subject to her contractual status.

e) A professional whose contract has expired or been terminated as a result of COVID-19 has the right to be registered outside a registration period, regardless of the date of expiry or termination.

f) Competition Regulations for the FIFA Club World Cup™ may establish further exceptions.

4. Whenever allowing a registration outside a registration period, member associations shall pay due consideration to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may define the criterion of sporting integrity in more detail.

5. In cases where the FIFA general secretariat allows a registration outside a registration period based on the exception in paragraph 3 a), any domestic regulatory provision or contractual agreement requiring the consent of the former club to register the player shall be null and void. In cases where a player's employment contract has expired, consent of the former club shall never be required to register the player.

6. With respect to the exceptions in paragraph 3 c) and d), associations shall adapt their domestic rules accordingly. However, priority shall be given to ensuring that a female player that has returned from maternity leave is eligible to participate in domestic competitions, as well as the sporting integrity of the relevant competition.

7. Players may only be registered, subject to the exceptions provided for in article 6 paragraph 3, upon submission through the electronic player registration system of a valid application from the club to the relevant association during a registration period.

8. The provisions concerning registration periods do not apply to competitions in which only amateurs participate. The relevant association shall specify the periods when players may be registered for such competitions provided that due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition.

7. Player passport

1. For entitlements related to training rewards that are not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, existing obligations related to player passports shall remain unchanged, i.e. the registering association is obliged to provide the club with which the player is registered with a player passport containing the relevant details of the player. The player passport shall indicate the club(s) with which the player has been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday.

2. For entitlements related to training rewards that are governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, an EPP shall be generated and used as set forth below.

3. The Electronic Player Passport is an electronic document containing consolidated registration information of a player throughout their career, including the relevant member association, their status (amateur or professional), the type of registration (permanent or loan), and the club(s) (including training category) with which they have been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday. It shall be generated in circumstances as defined in the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

4. For the purpose of creating the EPP, member associations shall ensure that reliable, accurate and complete player registration information is made available electronically to FIFA through the FIFA Connect Interface, whenever requested by FIFA through such interface.

8. Application for registration

The application for registration of a professional must be submitted together with a copy of the player's contract. The relevant decision-making body has discretion to take account of any contractual amendments or additional agreements that have not been duly submitted to it.

9. International Transfer Certificate

1. Players registered at one association may only be registered at a new association once the latter has received an International Transfer Certificate (hereinafter: ITC) from the former association. The ITC shall be issued free of charge without any conditions or time limit. Any provisions to the contrary shall be null and void. The association issuing the ITC shall lodge a copy with FIFA. The administrative procedures for issuing the ITC are contained in Annexe 3 of these regulations.

2. Associations are forbidden from requesting that an ITC be issued in order to allow a player to participate in friendly matches in the context of a trial.

3. Except for cases governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, the new association shall inform the association(s) of the club(s) that trained and educated the player between the ages of 12 and 23 (cf. article 7) in writing of the registration of the player as a professional after receipt of the ITC.

4. An ITC is not required for a player under the age of ten years.

10. Loan of professionals

1. A professional may be loaned for a predetermined period by their club ("former club") to another club ("new club") on the basis of a written agreement. The following rules apply to the loan of professionals:

   a) The clubs shall conclude a written agreement defining the terms of the loan ("loan agreement"), in particular, its duration and financial conditions. The professional may also be a party to the loan agreement

   b) The professional and the new club shall sign a contract covering the duration of the loan. This contract shall acknowledge that the professional is on loan.

   c) During the agreed duration of the loan, the contractual obligations between the professional and the former club shall be suspended unless otherwise agreed in writing.

   d) Subject to article 5 paragraph 4, a loan agreement may be concluded for a minimum duration of the time between two registration periods and a maximum duration of one year. The end date shall fall within one of the registration periods of the association of the former club. Any clause referring to a longer duration of the loan shall not be recognised.

   e) A loan agreement may be extended, subject to the above minimum and maximum durations, with the written consent of the professional.

   f) A new club is prohibited from sub-loaning or permanently transferring a professional to a third club.

2. Loan agreements with a duration of more than one year which predate the entering into force of these regulations may continue until their contractual expiration. They may be extended only in accordance with article 10 paragraph 1 e).

3. The loan of a professional is subject to the administrative procedures provided in articles 5-9 and Annexe 3.

4. Where the contract between a professional and the new club has been unilaterally terminated prior to the completion of the duration agreed in the loan agreement:

   a) the professional has the right to return to the former club;

   b) the professional must immediately inform the former club of the premature termination and whether they intend to return to the former club;

   c) if the professional decides to return to the former club, the former club must reintegrate the professional immediately. The contract which was suspended during the loan shall be reinstated from the date of reintegration, and in particular, the former club must remunerate the professional;

   d) rules governing registration at national level must be determined by the association in agreement with domestic football stakeholders.

5. The terms of article 10 paragraph 4 are without prejudice to:

a) the operation of article 17 relating to termination of the contract between the professional and the new club;

b) the operation of article 17, should the former club fail to reintegrate the professional immediately; and

c) the right of the former club to seek compensation resulting from its obligation to reintegrate the professional. The minimum compensation payable shall be the amount the former club must pay the professional between the date of reintegration and the original completion date of the loan agreement.

6. The following limitations apply from 1 July 2024:

a) a club may have a maximum of six professionals loaned out at any given time during a season;

b) a club may have a maximum of six professionals loaned in at any given time during a season.

7. The loan of a professional will be exempt from the above limitations if:

a) the loan occurs before the end of the season of the former club in which the professional turns 21; and

b) the professional is a club-trained player with the former club.

8. The following restrictions apply irrespective of age or club-trained status:

a) a club may have a maximum of three professionals loaned out to a specific club at any given time during a season;

b) a club may have a maximum of three professionals loaned in from a specific club at any given time during a season.

9. The following transition period shall apply for the limitations in article 10 paragraph 6:

a) from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023: a maximum of eight professionals for each limitation;

b) from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024: a maximum of seven professionals for each limitation.

11. Unregistered players

Any player not registered at an association who appears for a club in any official match shall be considered to have played illegitimately. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and/or the club. The right to impose such sanctions lies in principle with the association or the organiser of the competition concerned.

12. Enforcement of disciplinary sanctions

1. Any disciplinary sanction of up to four matches or up to three months that has been imposed on a player by the former association but not yet (entirely) served by the time of the transfer shall be enforced by the new association at which the player has been registered in order for the sanction to be served at domestic level. When issuing the ITC, the former association shall notify the new association via TMS of any such disciplinary sanction that has yet to be (entirely) served.

2. Any disciplinary sanction of more than four matches or more than three months that has not yet been (entirely) served by a player shall be enforced by the new association that has registered the player only if the FIFA Disciplinary Committee has extended the disciplinary sanction to have worldwide effect. Additionally, when issuing the ITC, the former association shall notify the new association via TMS of any such pending disciplinary sanction.

12bis Overdue payables

1. Clubs are required to comply with their financial obligations towards players and other clubs as per the terms stipulated in the contracts signed with their professional players and in the transfer agreements.

2. Any club found to have delayed a due payment for more than 30 days without a *prima facie* contractual basis may be sanctioned in accordance with paragraph 4 below.

3. In order for a club to be considered to have overdue payables in the sense of the present article, the creditor (player or club) must have put the debtor club in default in writing and have granted a deadline of at least ten days for the debtor club to comply with its financial obligation(s).

4. Within the scope of its jurisdiction (cf. article 22 to 24), the Football Tribunal may impose the following sanctions:

   a) a warning;

   b) a reprimand;

   c) a fine;

   d) a ban from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, for one or two entire and consecutive registration periods.

5. The sanctions provided for in paragraph 4 above may be applied cumulatively.

6. A repeated offence will be considered an aggravating circumstance and lead to a more severe penalty.

7. The terms of the present article are without prejudice to the application of further measures in accordance with article 17 in the event of unilateral termination of the contractual relationship.

04

MAINTENANCE OF CONTRACTUAL STABILITY BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS AND CLUBS

13. Respect of contract

A contract between a professional and a club may only be terminated upon expiry of the term of the contract or by mutual agreement.

14. Terminating a contract with just cause

1. A contract may be terminated by either party without consequences of any kind (either payment of compensation or imposition of sporting sanctions) where there is just cause. In general, just cause shall exist in any circumstance in which a party can no longer reasonably and in good faith be expected to continue a contractual relationship.

2. Any abusive conduct of a party aiming at forcing the counterparty to terminate or change the terms of the contract shall entitle the counterparty (a player or a club) to terminate the contract with just cause.

14bis Terminating a contract with just cause for outstanding salaries

1. In the case of a club unlawfully failing to pay a player at least two monthly salaries on their due dates, the player will be deemed to have a just cause to terminate his contract, provided that he has put the debtor club in default in writing and has granted a deadline of at least 15 days for the debtor club to fully comply with its financial obligation(s). Alternative provisions in contracts existing at the time of this provision coming into force may be considered.

2. For any salaries of a player which are not due on a monthly basis, the pro-rata value corresponding to two months shall be considered. Delayed payment of an amount which is equal to at least two months shall also be deemed a just cause for the player to terminate his contract, subject to him complying with the notice of termination as per paragraph 1 above.

3. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may deviate from the principles stipulated in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. The terms of such an agreement shall prevail.

15. Terminating a contract with sporting just cause

An established professional who has, in the course of the season, appeared in fewer than ten per cent of the official matches in which his club has been involved may terminate his contract prematurely on the ground of sporting just cause. Due consideration shall be given to the player's circumstances in the appraisal of such cases. The existence of sporting just cause shall be established on a case-by-case basis. In such a case, sporting sanctions shall not be imposed, though compensation may be payable. A professional may only terminate his contract on this basis in the 15 days following the last official match of the season of the club with which he is registered.

16. Restriction on terminating a contract during the competition period

A contract cannot be unilaterally terminated during a competition period.

17. Consequences of terminating a contract without just cause

The following provisions apply if a contract is terminated without just cause:

1. In all cases, the party that has suffered as a result of a breach of contract by the counterparty shall be entitled to receive compensation. Subject to the provisions of article 20 and Annexe 4 in relation to training compensation, and unless otherwise provided for in the contract, compensation for the breach shall be calculated taking into account the damage suffered, according to the "positive interest" principle, having regard to the individual facts and circumstances of each case, and with due consideration for the law of the country concerned.

   Bearing in mind the aforementioned principles, compensation due to a player shall be calculated as follows:

   i. In case the player did not sign any new contract following the termination of his previous contract, as a general rule, the compensation shall be equal to the residual value of the contract that was prematurely terminated.

   ii. In case the player signed a new contract by the time of the decision, the value of the new contract for the period corresponding to the time remaining on the prematurely terminated contract shall be deducted from the residual value of the contract that was terminated early (the "Mitigated Compensation"). Furthermore, and subject to the early termination of the contract being due to overdue payables, in addition to the Mitigated Compensation, the player shall be entitled to an amount corresponding to three monthly salaries (the "Additional Compensation"). In case of egregious circumstances, the Additional Compensation may be increased

up to a maximum of six monthly salaries. The overall compensation may never exceed the rest value of the prematurely terminated contract.

iii. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may deviate from the principles stipulated in the points i. and ii. above. The terms of such an agreement shall prevail.

2. Entitlement to compensation cannot be assigned to a third party. A player's new club shall be held jointly liable to pay compensation if, having regard to the individual facts and circumstances of each case, it can be established that the new club induced the player to breach their contract.

3. In addition to the obligation to pay compensation, sporting sanctions shall also be imposed on any player found to be in breach of contract during the protected period. This sanction shall be a four-month restriction on playing in official matches. In the case of aggravating circumstances, the restriction shall last six months. These sporting sanctions shall take effect immediately once the player has been notified of the relevant decision. The sporting sanctions shall remain suspended in the period between the last official match of the season and the first official match of the next season, in both cases including national cups and international championships for clubs. This suspension of the sporting sanctions shall, however, not be applicable if the player is an established member of the representative team of the association he is eligible to represent, and the association concerned is participating in the final competition of an international tournament in the period between the last match and the first match of the next season. Unilateral breach without just cause or sporting just cause after the protected period shall not result in sporting sanctions. Disciplinary measures may, however, be imposed outside the protected period for failure to give notice of termination within 15 days of the last official match of the season (including national cups) of the club with which the player is registered. The protected period starts again when, while renewing the contract, the duration of the previous contract is extended.

4. A sporting sanction shall be imposed (i) on any club found to be in breach of contract during the protected period or (ii) on a player's new club if, having regard to the individual facts and circumstances of each case, it can be established that the new club induced the player to breach the contract during the protected period. The club shall be banned from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, for two entire and consecutive registration periods. The club shall be able to register new players, either nationally or internationally, only as of the next registration period following the complete serving of the relevant sporting sanction. In particular, it may not make use of the exceptions stipulated in article 6 paragraph 3 of these regulations in order to register players at an earlier stage.

5. Any person subject to the FIFA Statutes and regulations who acts in a manner designed to induce a breach of contract between a professional and a club in order to facilitate the transfer of the player shall be sanctioned.

18. Special provisions relating to contracts between professionals and clubs

1. Any employment contract that is concluded following the provision of football agent services shall specify the football agent's name, their client, their FIFA licence number and their signature, in accordance with the FIFA Football Agent Regulations.

2. The minimum length of a contract shall be from its effective date until the end of the season, while the maximum length of a contract shall be five years. Contracts of any other length shall only be permitted if consistent with national laws. Players under the age of 18 may not sign a professional contract for a term longer than three years. Any clause referring to a longer period shall not be recognised.

3. A club intending to conclude a contract with a professional must inform the player's current club in writing before entering into negotiations with him. A professional shall only be free to conclude a contract with another club if his contract with his present club has expired or is due to expire within six months. Any breach of this provision shall be subject to appropriate sanctions.

4. The validity of a contract may not be made subject to a successful medical examination and/or the grant of a work permit.

5. If a professional enters into more than one contract covering the same period, the provisions set forth in Chapter IV shall apply.

6. Contractual clauses granting the club additional time to pay to the professional amounts that have fallen due under the terms of the contract (so-called "grace periods") shall not be recognised. Grace periods contained in collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law shall, however, be legally binding and recognised. Contracts existing at the time of this provision coming into force shall not be affected by this prohibition.

7. Female players are entitled to maternity, adoption and family leave during the term of their contract, paid at the equivalent of two thirds of their contracted salary. Where a validly negotiated collective bargaining agreement contains provisions related to maternity, adoption and/or family leave, the respective provisions of the collective bargaining agreement shall prevail. Where no collective bargaining agreement exists, but where more favourable conditions are stipulated pursuant to national law, these more favourable conditions shall prevail.

05

THIRD-PARTY INFLUENCE AND OWNERSHIP OF PLAYERS' ECONOMIC RIGHTS

18bis Third-party influence on clubs

1. No club shall enter into a contract which enables the counter club/counter clubs, and vice versa, or any third party to acquire the ability to influence in employment and transfer-related matters its independence, its policies or the performance of its teams.

2. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs that do not observe the obligations set out in this article.

18ter Third-party ownership of players' economic rights

1. No club or player shall enter into an agreement with a third party whereby a third party is being entitled to participate, either in full or in part, in compensation payable in relation to the future transfer of a player from one club to another, or is being assigned any rights in relation to a future transfer or transfer compensation.

2. The interdiction as per paragraph 1 comes into force on 1 May 2015.

3. Agreements covered by paragraph 1 which predate 1 May 2015 may continue to be in place until their contractual expiration. However, their duration may not be extended.

4. The validity of any agreement covered by paragraph 1 signed between 1 January 2015 and 30 April 2015 may not have a contractual duration of more than one year beyond the effective date.

5. By the end of April 2015, all existing agreements covered by paragraph 1 need to be recorded within TMS. All clubs that have signed such agreements are required to upload them in their entirety, including possible annexes or amendments, in TMS, specifying the details of the third party concerned, the full name of the player as well as the duration of the agreement.

6. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs or players that do not observe the obligations set out in this article.

06.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO FEMALE PLAYERS

18quater Special provisions relating to pregnancy, adoption and family leave

Validity of an employment contract

1. The validity of a contract may not be made subject to the taking of, or the result of, a pregnancy test, the player being or becoming pregnant during its term, being on maternity, adoption or family leave, or utilising rights related to maternity, adoption or family leave in general.

Terminating a contract without just cause and consequences

2. If a club unilaterally terminates a contract on the grounds of a player refusing to take a pregnancy test, being or becoming pregnant, being on maternity, adoption or family leave, or utilising rights related to maternity, adoption or family leave in general, the club will be deemed to have terminated the contract without just cause.

   a) It shall be presumed, unless proven to the contrary, that the unilateral termination of a contract by a club during a pregnancy or maternity, adoption or family leave occurred as a result of a player being or becoming pregnant, adopting a child or utilising rights related to family leave.

3. Where a contract has been terminated on the grounds stipulated above, as an exception to article 17 paragraph 1:

   a) compensation due to a player shall be calculated as follows:

      i. in case the player did not sign any new contract following the termination of her previous contract, as a general rule, the compensation shall be equal to the residual value of the contract that was prematurely terminated;

      ii. in case the player signed a new contract by the time of the decision, the value of the new contract for the period corresponding to the time remaining on the prematurely terminated contract shall be deducted from the residual value of the contract that was terminated early;

      iii. in either case described above, the player shall be entitled to additional compensation corresponding to six monthly salaries of the prematurely terminated contract;

      iv. collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may deviate from the principles stipulated above. The terms of such an agreement shall prevail;

b) in addition to the obligation to pay compensation, sporting sanctions shall be imposed on any club found to have unilaterally terminated a contract on the grounds of a player being or becoming pregnant, being on maternity, adoption or family leave, or utilising rights related to maternity, adoption or family leave in general. The club shall be banned from registering any new female players, either nationally or internationally, for two entire and consecutive registration periods. The club shall be able to register new players, either nationally or internationally, only as of the next registration period following the complete serving of the relevant sporting sanction. In particular, it may not make use of the exception and measures stipulated in article 6 paragraph 3 c) of these regulations in order to register players at an earlier stage;

c) the sanction provided for in b) above may be applied cumulatively with a fine.

Rights relating to pregnancy, adoption and family leave

4. Where a player becomes pregnant during the term of her contract, the following shall apply:

a) The player has the right to continue providing sporting services to her club (i.e. playing and training). The club has an obligation to respect the decision and formalise a plan for her continued sporting participation in a safe manner, prioritising her health and that of the unborn child. The player shall be entitled to receive her full remuneration, until such time that she utilises maternity leave.

b) Should the player deem that it is not safe for her to continue providing sporting services, or should she choose not to exercise her right to continue providing sporting services, the club shall offer the player the possibility to provide employment services in an alternative manner. If she renders employment services in an alternative manner, or if the club is unable to offer alternative employment services that can reasonably be expected in the context of the ongoing contract, the player shall be entitled to receive her full remuneration, until such time that she utilises her maternity leave.

c) If, for medical reasons related to a pregnancy, a player is unable to provide sporting or employment services in an alternative manner, then the player is entitled to medical leave, subject to the production of a valid medical certificate issued by her personal gynaecologist or specialist medical practitioner. The player shall be entitled to full remuneration, until such time that she utilises maternity leave.

5. A pregnant player, adoptive parent or a player utilising rights related to family leave has the right, during the term of her contract, to:

a) independently determine the commencement date of her maternity, adoption or family leave, taking into consideration the minimum periods provided (cf. Definitions). Any club that pressures or forces a player to take maternity, adoption or family leave at a specific time shall be sanctioned by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee;

b) return to football activity after the completion of her maternity, adoption or family leave. For a player completing maternity leave, the club has an obligation to reintegrate her into footballing activity (cf. article 6 paragraph 3 d)), agree together with the player on a postpartum plan and provide adequate ongoing medical support.

The player shall be entitled to receive her full remuneration following her return to football activity.

Breastfeeding

6. A player shall be provided the opportunity to breastfeed an infant and/or express breast milk whilst providing sporting services to her club. Clubs shall provide suitable facilities in accordance with applicable national legislation in the country of a club's domicile or a collective bargaining agreement. The player's reduced working hours for these reasons will be considered justified, without any reduction in salary.

18quinquies Menstrual health

Clubs shall at all times respect the needs of female players related to their menstrual cycle and menstrual health. Subject to the production of a valid medical certificate issued by her personal gynaecologist or specialist medical practitioner, a female player shall be entitled to be absent from training or matches whenever her menstrual health so requires. The player shall be entitled to receive her full remuneration when exercising these rights related to menstrual health.

07.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS INVOLVING MINORS

19. Protection of minors

1. International transfers of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18.

2. The following five exceptions to this rule apply:

a) The player's parents move to the country in which the new club is located for reasons not linked to football.

b) The player is aged between 16 and 18 and:

i. the transfer takes place within the territory of the European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA); or

ii. the transfer takes place between two associations within the same country.

The new club must fulfil the following minimum obligations:

iii. It shall provide the player with an adequate football education and/or training in line with the highest national standards (cf. Annexe 4, article 4).

iv. It shall guarantee the player an academic and/or school and/or vocational education and/or training, in addition to his football education and/or training, which will allow the player to pursue a career other than football should he cease to play professional football.

v. It shall make all necessary arrangements to ensure that the player is looked after in the best possible way (optimum living standards with a host family or in club accommodation, appointment of a mentor at the club, etc.).

vi. It shall, on registration of such a player, provide the relevant association with proof that it is complying with the aforementioned obligations.

c) The player lives no further than 50km from a national border and the club with which the player wishes to be registered in the neighbouring association is also within 50km of that border. The maximum distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters shall be 100km. In such cases, the player must continue to live at home and the two associations concerned must give their explicit consent.

d) The player is at least temporarily permitted to reside in the country of arrival and/or is recognised by the competent state authorities as vulnerable and requiring state protection by the country of arrival after fleeing their country of origin (or previous country of domicile) for humanitarian reasons, without their parents, due to either of the following:

i. their life or freedom being threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, belonging to a particular social group, or political opinion; or

ii. any other circumstances where their survival is seriously threatened.

If the minor has been formally recognised as a refugee or a protected person, they may be registered with a professional club or purely amateur club. There are no restrictions on any subsequent national transfer of the minor prior to their turning 18.

If the minor has been formally recognised as asylum seeker or has been recognised by the competent state authorities as vulnerable in accordance with article 19 paragraph d) above, they may only be registered with a purely amateur club. They may be the subject of a subsequent national transfer, but are not permitted to register with a professional club until they turn 18.

e) The player is a student and moves without his parents to another country temporarily for academic reasons in order to undertake an exchange programme. The duration of the player's registration for the new club until he turns 18 or until the end of the academic or school programme cannot exceed one year. The player's new club may only be a purely amateur club without a professional team or without a legal, financial or de facto link to a professional club.

3. The provisions of this article shall also apply to any player who has never previously been registered with a club, is not a national of the country where the association at which he wishes to be registered for the first time is domiciled, and has not lived continuously for at least the last five years in said country.

4. Where a minor player is at least ten years old, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal must approve:

a) their international transfer according to paragraph 2;

b) their first registration according to paragraph 3; or

c) their first registration, where the minor player is not a national of the country where the association at which they wish to be registered is domiciled and has lived continuously for at least the last five years in that country.

5. Approval pursuant to paragraph 4 is required prior to any request for an ITC and/or a first registration by an association.

6. Where a minor player is under ten years old, it is the responsibility of the association that intends to register the player – as per the request of its affiliated club – to verify and ensure that the circumstances of the player fall, beyond all doubt, under one of the exceptions provided for in paragraph 2, 3, or 4 c). Such verification shall be made prior to any registration.

7. An association may apply to the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal for a limited minor exemption ("LME").

a) An LME, if granted, relieves an association, under specific terms and conditions and solely for amateur minor players who are to be registered with purely amateur clubs, from the application obligations set out in paragraph 4.

b) In such a case, prior to any request for an ITC and/or a first registration, the association concerned is required to verify and ensure that the circumstances of the player fall, beyond all doubt, under one of the exceptions provided for in paragraph 2, 3, or 4 c).

8. A club that has registered a minor player following a national transfer, international transfer or first registration shall:

- owe a duty of care to the minor;
- take any reasonable measures to protect and safeguard the minor from any possible abuse; and
- ensure that the minor is provided with an opportunity to obtain an academic education (according to the highest national standards) that allows them to pursue a career other than football.

9. The procedures for applying to the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal for the matters described in this article are contained in the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal.

19bis Registration and reporting of minors at academies

1. Clubs that operate an academy (within their own structure and/or through a separate entity with legal, financial or de facto links to the club) are obliged to report all minors who attend the academy (registered with the club or not) to the association with which the club concerned is affiliated. When an academy is operated outside the territory of the club's respective association, the reporting shall be made by the club to the association on whose territory the academy operates

2. Each association shall request all academies without legal, financial or de facto links to a club (private academies) operating on its territory to report all minors who attend the academy to the association. Each association shall report any wrongdoing occurring at private academies of which it becomes aware to the relevant authorities, taking all necessary measures to protect and safeguard minors from potential abuse.

3. Each association shall keep a register of players, comprising at least the following information: full name (first, middle and last names), nationality, date of birth, country of origin (or previous country of domicile), agent (if any) and club operating the respective academy, regarding the minors who have been reported to it by clubs or academies.

4. A club that wishes to collaborate with a private academy shall:

   i. report such collaboration to the association with which the club is affiliated;

   ii. ensure that the private academy reports its players to the association where the academy operates;

   iii. before entering into a contract with a private academy, ensure that the private academy takes proper measures to protect and safeguard minors; and

   iv. report any wrongdoing of which it may become aware to the relevant authorities, taking all necessary measures to protect and safeguard minors from potential abuse.

5. Through the act of reporting, academies and players undertake to practise football in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, and to respect and promote the ethical principles of organised football.

6. Associations shall report to FIFA each minor that attends an academy within the territory they govern where the minor:

   i. is not a national of the country where the association is domiciled; and

   ii. has not lived continuously for at least the last five years in that country.

   Such reports shall contain a *prima facie* assessment of whether the minor meets the requirements of article 19.

7. Any violations of this provision will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

19ter Trials

General conditions for all triallists

1. A club may invite a player to trial with it for a defined period of time. A professional (within the meaning of art. 2 herein) may only trial with another club with the express written permission of their current club.

2. The club and the invited player shall agree on the conditions of the trial (e.g. payment for accommodation, travel, meals and daily expenses) on the FIFA Trial Form before the trial commences. A complete and duly signed FIFA Trial Form must be lodged in FIFA TMS by the club at the latest ten days before the trial commences.

3. During a trial, the club owes a duty of care to the triallist. In particular, the club shall provide the triallist with, and cover the cost of, any necessary medical treatment for injuries sustained while performing activities within the trial.

4. The maximum duration of a trial for players aged 21 and below shall be eight weeks, consecutive or non-consecutive, per club in any one season. The maximum duration of a trial for players over the age of 21 shall be three weeks, consecutive or non-consecutive, per club in any one season.

5. A player on trial is only permitted to participate in friendly matches and any activity that does not fall within the scope of organised football. Such friendly matches must take place during the duration of the relevant trial.

6. Any person subject to the FIFA Statutes is prohibited from requesting, offering and/or receiving any payment whatsoever connected to a trial, without prejudice to the agreement between the club and the triallist on the conditions of the trial, according to paragraph 2 above.

7. Clubs having a player on trial are not entitled to receive training rewards for the period during which a player is on trial with that club.

Conditions specific to minor triallists

8. In addition to the general conditions, a minor may only trial with a club provided that:

   a) the date the trial period begins occurs during the season of:

      i. the minor triallist's 16th birthday; or

      ii. the minor triallist's 15th birthday if both the minor's and the club's domicile are located in Europe;

   b) the club obtains express written permission from the minor triallist's parents;

   c) the club designates an employee within the club to be the point of contact for the minor triallist;

   d) the club ensures that the minor triallist is provided with optimum accommodation and living standards and adequate coverage of expenses; and

   e) for amateur minor players below the age of 16, the current club of the minor is informed of the trial and provided with the complete and duly signed FIFA Trial Form.

9. A minor may only attend two trials per calendar year, each of them subject to the maximum duration stipulated in article 19ter paragraph 4.

Other matters

10. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level, in accordance with national law, may deviate from the minimum standards stipulated above and/or establish additional conditions when a player may leave his current club to attend a trial.

Sanctions

11. Any failure to fulfil a condition agreed in a FIFA Trial Form or to upload a complete and duly signed FIFA Trial Form and/or any violation of this provision will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code. In such proceedings, both the triallist and the club concerned will have the procedural status of a party before the Disciplinary Committee.

08

TRAINING COMPENSATION AND SOLIDARITY MECHANISM

20. Training compensation

Training compensation shall be paid to a player's training club(s): (1) when a player is registered for the first time as a professional, and (2) each time a professional is transferred until the end of the calendar year of his 23rd birthday. The obligation to pay training compensation arises whether the transfer takes place during or at the end of the player's contract. The provisions concerning training compensation are set out in Annexe 4 of these regulations. The principles of training compensation shall not apply to women's football.

21. Solidarity mechanism

If a professional is transferred before the expiry of his contract, any club that has contributed to his education and training shall receive a proportion of the compensation paid to his former club (solidarity contribution). The provisions concerning solidarity contributions are set out in Annexe 5 of these regulations.

09.

JURISDICTION

22. Competence of FIFA

1. Without prejudice to the right of any player, coach, association, or club to seek redress before a civil court for employment-related disputes, FIFA is competent to hear:

a) disputes between clubs and players in relation to the maintenance of contractual stability (articles 13-18) where there has been an ITC request and a claim from an interested party in relation to said ITC request, in particular regarding the issue of the ITC, sporting sanctions or compensation for breach of contract;

b) employment-related disputes between a club and a player of an international dimension; the aforementioned parties may, however, explicitly opt in writing for such disputes to be decided by a national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC), or a national dispute resolution body operating under an equivalent name, that has been officially recognised by FIFA in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles. Any such jurisdiction clause must be exclusive and included either directly in the contract or in a collective bargaining agreement applicable to the parties;

c) employment-related disputes between a club or an association and a coach of an international dimension; clubs and coaches may, however, explicitly opt in writing for disputes between them to be decided by an NDRC, or a national dispute resolution body operating under an equivalent name, that has been officially recognised by FIFA in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles. Any such jurisdiction clause must be exclusive and included either directly in the contract or in a collective bargaining agreement applicable to the parties;

d) disputes relating to training compensation (article 20) and the solidarity mechanism (article 21) between clubs belonging to different associations, that are not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations;

e) disputes relating to training compensation (article 20) and the solidarity mechanism (article 21) between clubs belonging to the same association provided that the transfer of a player at the basis of the dispute occurs between clubs belonging to different associations, that are not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations;

f) matters of legal or factual complexity in an EPP review process in accordance with article 10 paragraph 3 of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations and disputes between clubs in accordance with article 18 paragraph 2 of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations; and

g) disputes between clubs belonging to different associations that do not fall within the cases provided for in a), d), e) and f).

2. FIFA is competent to decide regulatory applications made pursuant to these regulations or any other FIFA regulations.

23. Football Tribunal

1. The Dispute Resolution Chamber of the Football Tribunal shall adjudicate on any of the cases described in article 22 paragraphs 1 a), b), d), e) and f).

2. The Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal shall adjudicate on any of the cases described in article 22 paragraphs 1 c) and g), and 2.

3. The Football Tribunal shall not hear any case subject to these regulations if more than two years have elapsed since the event giving rise to the dispute. Application of this time limit shall be examined *ex officio* in each individual case.

4. The procedures for lodging claims in relation to the disputes described in article 22 are contained in the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal.

24. Consequences for failure to pay relevant amounts in due time

1. When:

   a) the Football Tribunal orders a party (a club or a player) to pay another party (a club or a player), the consequences of the failure to pay the relevant amounts in due time shall be included in the decision;

   b) parties to a dispute accept (or do not reject) a proposal made by the FIFA general secretariat pursuant to the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal, the consequences of the failure to pay the relevant amounts in due time shall be included in the confirmation letter.

2. Such consequences shall be the following:

   a) Against a club: a ban from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, up until the due amounts are paid. The overall maximum duration of the registration ban shall be of up to three entire and consecutive registration periods, subject to paragraph 7 below;

   b) Against a player: a restriction on playing in official matches up until the due amounts are paid. The overall maximum duration of the restriction shall be of up to six months on playing in official matches, subject to paragraph 7 below.

3. Such consequences may be excluded where the Football Tribunal has:

   a) imposed a sporting sanction on the basis of article 12bis, 17 or 18quater in the same case; or

   b) been informed that the debtor club was subject to an insolvency-related event pursuant to the relevant national law and is legally unable to comply with an order.

4. Where such consequences are applied, the debtor must pay the full amount due (including all applicable interest) to the creditor within 45 days of notification of the decision.

5. The 45-day time limit shall commence from notification of the decision or confirmation letter.

   a) The time limit is paused by a valid request for the grounds of the decision. Following notification of the grounds of the decision, the time limit shall recommence.

   b) The time limit is also paused by an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

6. The debtor shall make full payment (including all applicable interest) to the bank account provided by the creditor, as set out in the decision or confirmation letter.

7. Where the debtor fails to make full payment (including all applicable interest) within the time limit, and the decision has become final and binding:

   a) the creditor may request that FIFA enforce the consequences;

   b) upon receipt of such request, FIFA shall inform the debtor that the consequences shall apply;

   c) the consequences shall apply immediately upon notification by FIFA, including, for the avoidance of doubt, if they are applied during an open registration period. In such cases, the remainder of that registration period shall be the first "entire" registration period for the purposes of paragraph 2 a);

   d) the consequences may only be lifted in accordance with paragraph 8 below.

8. Where the consequences are enforced, the debtor must provide proof of payment to FIFA of the full amount (including all applicable interest), in order for them to be lifted.

   a) Upon receipt of the proof of payment, FIFA shall immediately request that the creditor confirm receipt of full payment (including all applicable interest) within five days.

   b) Upon receipt of confirmation from the creditor, or after expiry of the time limit in the case of no response, FIFA shall notify the parties that the consequences are lifted.

   c) The consequences shall be lifted immediately upon notification by FIFA.

   d) Notwithstanding the above, where full payment (including all applicable interest) has not been made, the consequences shall remain in force until their complete serving.

25. Implementation of decisions and confirmation letters

1. The sporting successor of a debtor shall be considered the debtor and be subject to any decision or confirmation letter issued by the Football Tribunal. The criteria to assess whether an entity is the sporting successor of another entity are, among others, its headquarters, name, legal form, team colours, players, shareholders or stakeholders or ownership and the category of competition.

2. Where a debtor is instructed to pay a creditor a sum of money (outstanding amounts or compensation) by the Football Tribunal:

   a) payment is made when the debtor pays the full amount instructed (including any applicable interest) to the creditor;

   b) payment is not deemed to have been made where the debtor makes any unilateral deduction from the full amount instructed (including any applicable interest).

3. The following actions do not contravene a registration ban described in article 12bis, 17, 18quater or 24:

   a) the return from loan of a professional, solely where the loan agreement expires naturally;

   b) the extension of the loan of a professional, beyond the natural expiry of the loan agreement;

   c) the definitive engagement of a professional who was temporarily registered for the club directly prior to the registration ban being imposed;

   d) the registration of a professional who was already registered with the club as an amateur directly prior to the registration ban being imposed.

10.

FINAL PROVISIONS

26. Transitional measures

1. Any case that has been brought to FIFA before these regulations come into force shall be assessed according to the previous regulations.

   a) Any case that has been brought to FIFA for which a decision is still pending as at 1 October 2021 from the Players' Status Committee, Dispute Resolution Chamber, or any of their sub-committees, shall be decided by the relevant chamber of the Football Tribunal in accordance with the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal.

   b) The transitory provisions of the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal shall apply to those cases.

   c) Article 22 paragraph 1 b) and c) shall apply only to cases brought to FIFA as from 1 January 2025. Any other case shall be assessed according to the previous regulations.

   d) The principles for women's football in relation to the release of players to association teams, as established in article 1bis of Annexe 1, shall only apply as of 1 January 2026. Until then, the applicable principles for the release of players in women's football are those established in the February 2024 version of these regulations, which were approved by the FIFA Council on 17 December 2023.

2. As a general rule, other cases shall be assessed according to these regulations with the exception of the following:

   a) disputes regarding training compensation;

   b) disputes regarding the solidarity mechanism.

   Any cases not subject to this general rule shall be assessed according to the regulations that were in force when the contract at the centre of the dispute was signed, or when the disputed facts arose.

3. Member associations shall amend their regulations in accordance with article 1 to ensure that they comply with these regulations and shall submit them to FIFA for approval. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each member association shall implement article 1 paragraph 3 a).

27. Matters not provided for

Any matters not provided for in these regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by the FIFA Council whose decisions are final.

28. Official languages

In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English, French or Spanish texts of these regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.

29. Enforcement

These regulations were approved by the Bureau of the FIFA Council on 30 June 2025 and come into force on 1 July 2025. They shall apply to cases pending before the Football Tribunal and to any new case brought before the Football Tribunal as from 1 January 2025.

A

ANNEXES

ANNEXE

Release of players to association teams

01

1. Principles for men's football

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™, the FIFA Confederations Cup and 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 (subject to the temporary exceptions below), which is reserved for representative teams' activities. During any international window a maximum of two matches may be played by each representative team (subject to the temporary exceptions below), 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).

i. The international window of September-October as from 2026 shall consist of a period of 16 days, during which a maximum of four matches may be played by each representative team.

5. Representative teams shall play the pertinent matches within an international window on the territory of the same confederation, with the only exception of intercontinental 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 Council 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 the request of his club, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal may 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. In the event of a repeated violation of these provisions, at the request of his club, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal may decide to:

a) issue a fine;

b) further reduce the period of release;

c) ban the association from calling up the player(s) for subsequent representative-team activities.

12. Competition Regulations for the FIFA Club World Cup™ may establish exceptions.

1bis Principles for women's football

1. Clubs are obliged to release their registered players to the representative teams of their country for which the player is eligible to play on the basis of her nationality if they are called up by the association concerned. Any agreement between the 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 women's international match calendar (cf. paragraphs 3 and 4 below) as well as for the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament, the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations, subject to the relevant association being a member of the organising confederation, and the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament.

3. After consultation with the relevant stakeholders, FIFA publishes the women's international match calendar for a period of four years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph 4 below), as well as blocked periods for the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament and the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations, as well as for the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament. Following the publication of the women's international match calendar, only the specific dates for the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament and the

championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations, as well as the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament, will be added within the respective blocked periods. The final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament and the championships for the women's "A" representative teams of the confederations, as well as the final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament must be played within the respective stipulated blocked periods and confederations are required to notify FIFA of the dates, in writing, at the latest two years in advance of the respective championships for women's "A" representative teams or final-round tournaments.

4. There are two types of international windows, both of which are reserved for representative teams' activities:

a) Type I is defined as a period of nine days starting on a Monday morning and ending on a Tuesday night the following week. During the type I 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 on any day as from Wednesday during the international window, provided that a minimum of two full calendar days are left between matches (e.g. Thursday/Sunday or Saturday/Tuesday).

b) Type II is defined as a period of 12 days starting on a Tuesday morning and ending on Saturday night the following week. During the type II international window, a maximum of three matches may be played by each representative team. The pertinent matches can be scheduled on any day as from Thursday during the international window, provided that a minimum of two full calendar days are left between matches (e.g. Thursday/Sunday/Wednesday or Friday/Monday/Thursday).

5. It is not compulsory to release players outside an international window or outside the competitions listed in paragraph 2 above that are included in the women's international match calendar.

6. For the type I international window, 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 the type II international window, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than Tuesday morning and must start the travel back to their club no later than the next Sunday morning following the end of the international window.

For the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than Monday morning before the opening match of the qualification tournament and must be released by the association on the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.

For these qualification tournaments, the maximum total period of release (between leaving Monday morning and the day of release back to the club by the association) is 16 days. For the other final competitions in the sense of paragraphs 2 and 3 above, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team no later than the Monday morning of the week preceding the week when the relevant final competition starts, and must be released by the association on the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.

7. The clubs and associations concerned may agree a longer period of release or different arrangements with regard to paragraph 6 above.

8. 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.

9. If a player does not resume duty with her club by the deadline stipulated in this article, at the request of her club, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal may decide that the next time the player is called up by her 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.

10. In the event of a repeated violation of these provisions, at the request of her club, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal may decide to:

a) issue a fine;

b) further reduce the period of release;

c) ban the association from calling up the player(s) for subsequent representative-team activities.

11. As of the final stages of the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament and the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations, the association(s) are encouraged to provide a family-friendly environment for female players with children.

1ter Principles for futsal

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 futsal international match calendar (cf. paragraphs 3 and 4 below) as well as for the final competitions of the FIFA Futsal World Cup and of 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 futsal international match calendar for the period of four years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph 4 below). Following the publication of the futsal international match calendar, only the final competitions of the FIFA Futsal World Cup and of the championships for "A" representative teams of the confederations will be added.

4. There are two types of international windows:

a) Type I is defined as a period of ten days starting on a Monday morning and ending on Wednesday night the following week, which is reserved for representative teams' activities. During a Type I international window, a maximum of four matches may be played by each representative team, irrespective of whether these matches are qualifying matches for an international tournament or friendlies. Representative teams can play the maximum of four matches within an international window of Type I in no more than two confederations.

b) Type II is defined as a period of four days starting on a Sunday morning and ending on Wednesday night the following week, which is reserved for representative teams' activities. During a Type II 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. Representative teams shall play the maximum of two matches within an international window of Type II on the territory of the same confederation.

5. It is not compulsory to release players outside an international window or outside the final competitions as per paragraph 2 above included in the futsal international match calendar.

6. For both types of international windows, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than the first morning of the window (i.e. Sunday or Monday, respectively), and must start the travel back to their club no later than the Thursday morning following the end of the international window. For a final competition of the championships for "A" representative teams of the confederations, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team in the morning 12 days before 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. For the FIFA Futsal World Cup, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team in the morning 14 days before the World Cup starts and must be released by the association in the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament

7. The clubs and associations concerned may agree a longer period of release or different arrangements with regard to paragraph 6 above.

8. 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.

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

a) international windows: by two days;

b) final competition of an international tournament: by five days.

10. In the event of a repeated violation of these provisions, at the request of his club, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal may decide to:

a) issue a fine;

b) further reduce the period of release;

c) ban the association from calling up the player(s) for subsequent representative-team 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 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, temporarily 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. 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. Injured players

A player who due to injury or illness is unable to comply with a call-up from the association that he is eligible to represent on the basis of his nationality shall, if the association so requires, agree to undergo a medical examination by a doctor of that association's choice. If the player so wishes, such medical examination shall take place on the territory of the association at which he is registered.

5. Restrictions on playing

A player who has been called up by his association for one of its representative teams is, unless otherwise agreed by the relevant association, not entitled to play for the club with which he is registered during the period for which he has been released or should have been released pursuant to the provisions of this annexe, plus an additional period of five days.

6. Disciplinary measures

Violations of any of the provisions set forth in this annexe shall result in the imposition of disciplinary measures to be decided by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee based on the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

ANNEXE

Rules for the employment of coaches

02

1. Scope

1. This annexe lays down rules concerning contracts between coaches and professional clubs or associations.

2. This annexe applies to coaches that are:

   a) paid more for their coaching activity than the expenses they effectively incur; and

   b) employed by a professional club or an association.

3. This annexe applies equally to football and futsal coaches.

4. Each association shall include in its regulations appropriate means to protect contractual stability between coaches and clubs or associations, paying due respect to mandatory national law and collective bargaining agreements.

5. The following provisions relating to female players equally apply to female coaches: articles 18 paragraph 7 and 18quater [with the exception of paragraph 4 a) and b)].

2. Employment contract

1. A coach must have a written contract with a club or an association, executed on an individual basis.

2. A contract shall include the essential elements of an employment contract, such as *inter alia* the object of the contract, the rights and obligations of the parties, the status and occupation of the parties, the agreed remuneration, the duration of the contract and the signatures of each party.

3. Any employment contract that is concluded following the provision of football agent services shall specify the football agent's name, their client, their FIFA licence number and their signature, in accordance with the FIFA Football Agent Regulations.

4. The validity of a contract may not be made subject to:

a) the granting of a work or residence permit;

b) the requirement to hold a specific coaching licence; or

c) other requirements of an administrative or regulatory nature.

5. In their employment process, clubs and associations must act with due diligence in order to ensure that the coach meets the necessary requirements to be engaged (e.g. holding the required coaching licence) and performs their duties.

6. Contractual clauses granting the club or the association additional time to pay the coach amounts that have fallen due under the terms of the contract ("grace periods") shall not be recognised. Grace periods contained in collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law shall, however, be legally binding and recognised. Contracts existing at the time of this provision coming into force shall not be affected by this prohibition.

3. Respect of contracts

A contract may only be terminated upon expiry of its term or by mutual agreement.

4. Terminating a contract with just cause

1. A contract may be terminated by either party without the payment of compensation where there is just cause.

2. Any abusive conduct of a party aimed at forcing the counterparty to terminate or change the terms of the contract shall entitle the counterparty to terminate the contract with just cause.

5. Terminating a contract with just cause for outstanding salaries

1. In the case of a club or association unlawfully failing to pay a coach at least two monthly salaries on their due dates, the coach will be deemed to have a just cause to terminate their contract, provided that they have put the debtor club or association in default in writing and granted a deadline of at least 15 days for the debtor club or association to fully comply with its financial obligation(s). Alternative provisions in contracts existing at the time of this provision coming into force may be considered.

2. For any salaries of a coach which are not due on a monthly basis, the pro-rata value corresponding to two months shall be considered. Delayed payment of an amount which is equal to at least two months shall also be deemed a just cause for the coach to terminate their contract, subject to compliance with the notice of termination as per paragraph 1 above.

3. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may deviate from the principles stipulated in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. The terms of such an agreement shall prevail.

6. Consequences of terminating a contract without just cause

1. In all cases, the party in breach shall pay compensation.

2. Unless otherwise provided for in the contract, compensation for the breach shall be calculated as follows:

Compensation due to a coach

a) In case the coach did not sign any new contract following the termination of their previous contract, as a general rule, the compensation shall be equal to the residual value of the contract that was prematurely terminated.

b) In case the coach signed a new contract by the time of the decision, the value of the new contract for the period corresponding to the time remaining on the prematurely terminated contract shall be deducted from the residual value of the contract that was terminated early (the "Mitigated Compensation"). Furthermore, and subject to the early termination of the contract being due to overdue payables, in addition to the Mitigated Compensation, the coach shall be entitled to an amount corresponding to three monthly salaries (the "Additional Compensation"). In case of egregious circumstances, the Additional Compensation may be increased up to a maximum of six monthly salaries. The overall compensation may never exceed the residual value of the prematurely terminated contract.

c) Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may deviate from the principles stipulated above. The terms of such an agreement shall prevail.

Compensation due to a club or an association

d) Compensation shall be calculated taking into account the damage suffered, according to the "positive interest" principle, having regard to the individual facts and circumstances of each case, and with due consideration for the law of the country concerned.

3. Entitlement to compensation cannot be assigned to a third party.

4. Any person subject to the FIFA Statutes who acts in a manner designed to induce a breach of contract between a coach and a club or association shall be sanctioned.

7. Overdue payables

1. Clubs and associations are required to comply with their financial obligations towards coaches as per the terms stipulated in the contracts signed with their coaches.

2. Any club or association found to have delayed a due payment for more than 30 days without a *prima facie* contractual basis may be sanctioned in accordance with paragraph 4 below.

3. In order for a club or an association to be considered to have overdue payables in the sense of the present article, the creditor coach must have put the debtor club or association in default in writing and have granted a deadline of at least ten days for the debtor club or association to comply with its financial obligation(s).

4. Within the scope of its jurisdiction, the Football Tribunal may impose the following sanctions:

   a) a warning;

   b) a reprimand;

   c) a fine.

5. The sanctions provided for in paragraph 4 above may be applied cumulatively.

6. A repeated offence will be considered an aggravating circumstance and lead to a more severe penalty.

7. The terms of the present article are without prejudice to the payment of compensation in accordance with article 6 paragraph 2 above in the event of unilateral termination of the contractual relationship.

8. Consequences for failure to pay relevant amounts in due time

1. When:

   a) the Football Tribunal orders a party (a club, a coach or an association) to pay another party (a club, a coach or an association) a sum of money (outstanding amounts or compensation), the consequences of the failure to pay the relevant amounts in due time shall be included in the decision;

   b) parties to a dispute accept (or do not reject) a proposal made by the FIFA general secretariat pursuant to the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal, the consequences of the failure to pay the relevant amounts in due time shall be included in the confirmation letter.

2. Such consequences shall be the following:

   a) Against a club: a ban from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, up until the due amounts are paid. The overall maximum duration of the registration ban shall be of up to three entire and consecutive registration periods, subject to paragraph 7 below.

   b) Against an association: a restriction on receiving a percentage of development funding, up until the due amounts are paid, subject to paragraph 7 below.

   c) Against a coach: a restriction on any football-related activity up until the due amounts are paid. The overall maximum duration of the restriction shall be of up to six months, subject to paragraph 7 below.

3. Such consequences may be excluded where the Football Tribunal has been informed that the debtor club or association was subject to an insolvency-related event pursuant to the relevant national law and is legally unable to comply with an order.

4. Where such consequences are applied, the debtor must pay the full amount (including all applicable interest) due to the creditor within 45 days of notification of the decision.

5. The 45-day time limit shall commence from notification of the decision or confirmation letter.

   a) The time limit is paused by a valid request for grounds of the decision. Following notification of the grounds of the decision, the time limit shall recommence.

   b) The time limit is also paused by an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

6. The debtor shall make full payment (including all applicable interest) to the bank account provided by the creditor, as set out in the decision or confirmation letter.

7. Where the debtor fails to make full payment (including all applicable interest) within the time limit, and the decision has become final and binding:

a) the creditor may request that FIFA enforce the consequences;

b) upon receipt of such request, FIFA shall inform the debtor that the consequences shall apply;

c) the consequences shall apply immediately upon notification by FIFA, including, for the avoidance of doubt, if they are applied during an open registration period. In such cases, the remainder of that registration period shall be the first "entire" registration period for the purposes of paragraph 2 a);

d) the consequences may only be lifted in accordance with paragraph 8 below.

8. Where the consequences are enforced, the debtor must provide proof of full payment (including all applicable interest) to FIFA, for the consequences to be lifted.

a) Upon receipt of the proof of payment, FIFA shall immediately request that the creditor confirm receipt of full payment within five days.

b) Upon receipt of confirmation from the creditor, or after expiry of the time limit in the case of no response, FIFA shall notify the parties that the consequences are lifted.

c) The consequences shall be lifted immediately upon notification by FIFA.

d) Notwithstanding the above, where full payment (including all applicable interest) has not been made, the consequences shall remain in force until their complete serving.

9. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions set out in article 25 apply equally to this annexe.

ANNEXE

International transfer of players and transfer matching system

03

TITLE I. GENERAL RULES

1. Objectives

1. The transfer matching system (TMS) is designed to fulfil the objectives of the football transfer system.

2. TMS also has the following specific objectives:

   a) to monitor and regulate the procedure for the international transfers of players;

   b) to provide football authorities with information concerning the football transfer system;

   c) to increase the transparency, efficiency and credibility of the international football transfer system;

   d) to clearly distinguish between the different payments in relation to international player transfers; and

   e) to guarantee the protection of minors.

2. Scope

1. This annexe governs the procedure for the international transfer of players in TMS.

2. It is mandatory for associations and clubs to use TMS for the international transfer of professional and amateur players in eleven-a-side football.

3. FIFA provides free access to TMS to associations and clubs. No one shall be charged for any activity performed in TMS.

TITLE II. TMS USERS

3. General provisions

1. In the context of the international transfer of players, TMS users will be authorised to perform actions in TMS on behalf of a club or an association, in line with the permissions granted to each of them by FIFA.

2. The FIFA general secretariat is authorised to perform actions provided for in this annexe.

4. Procedure to obtain access to TMS

1. Only users authorised by FIFA shall have access to TMS.

Associations

2. To access TMS for the first time, an association shall appoint at least two TMS users, who shall undergo training provided by FIFA.

3. An association may appoint a new TMS user at any time. The new TMS user shall be trained by an existing authorised TMS user of the association. Upon completion of the training, the association shall submit a new user request via TMS.

Clubs

4. To access TMS for the first time, a club shall appoint at least one TMS user, who shall undergo training provided by the association to which the club is affiliated. Upon completion of the training, the association shall submit a new user request via TMS.

5. A club may appoint a new TMS user at any time. The new TMS user shall be trained by an existing authorised TMS user of the club, or in the absence of any existing TMS users, by the association to which the club is affiliated. Upon completion of the training, the association shall submit a new user request via TMS.

5. TMS user requirements

1. To be eligible as a TMS user, an individual:

   a) shall be a direct employee of the relevant club or association. In the absence of employees, a volunteer or executive member could be permissible;

   b) shall be trained to use TMS by a TMS user of the relevant association or club, or by completing the TMS e-learning training programme;

   c) shall have basic computer skills;

   d) shall have a good working knowledge of at least one of the following official FIFA languages: English, French or Spanish;

   e) shall pass a background check run by FIFA, ensuring in particular that the prospective user has never been convicted of a criminal charge regarding matters related to: organised crime, drug trafficking, corruption, bribery, money laundering, tax evasion, fraud, match manipulation, misappropriation of funds, conversion, breach of fiduciary duty, forgery, legal malpractice, sexual abuse, violent crimes, harassment, exploitation of child or vulnerable young adult trafficking, and/or similar;

   f) cannot be an active TMS user for more than one organisation at the same time;

   g) cannot hold any position or perform any activity that could generate a conflict of interest;

   h) cannot be a professional football player;

   i) cannot be a football agent;

   j) shall provide a personal email address (corporate if possible) that is not general or shared; and

   k) shall be 18 years of age or older.

2. An association may define additional minimum requirements for TMS users within its jurisdiction.

TITLE III. OBLIGATIONS

6. General obligations: clubs and associations

1. Clubs and associations are responsible for all actions undertaken by their respective appointed TMS users.

2. Clubs and associations shall always:

a) act in good faith;

b) abide by the FIFA Statutes and all FIFA regulations;

c) inform FIFA of any suspected breaches of FIFA regulations;

d) maintain confidentiality over all data in TMS, apply the highest degree of care to guarantee complete confidentiality and only use confidential data for the purpose of completing player transfers in which they are directly involved;

e) ensure that only their authorised TMS users may access TMS on their behalf;

f) check TMS at regular intervals to ensure they are in a position to comply with their obligations at all time;

g) perform pending actions in TMS without delay;

h) ensure that they have all of the necessary equipment, training and know-how to fulfil their obligations;

i) use TMS only for the purposes set out in the FIFA regulations;

j) ensure that the email address of any authorised TMS user is valid and always kept up to date;

k) request the deactivation of an account of an authorised TMS user who is no longer authorised to use TMS on their behalf;

l) ensure that all information entered is true and correct;

m) ensure that all documents uploaded in TMS are authentic, complete and legible. Documents uploaded shall conform to the type requested (e.g. an "employment contract" shall not be uploaded in the "transfer agreement" section). Documents shall be uploaded in PDF format; and

n) if requested by the FIFA general secretariat, upload a translation of a document (or an excerpt thereof) into one of the following official languages of FIFA: English, French or Spanish.

3. To ensure that clubs and associations are fulfilling their obligations in respect of this annexe, the FIFA general secretariat shall investigate matters in relation to international transfers. Clubs and associations shall collaborate in the event of an investigation being carried out by FIFA concerning international transfers of players and the clubs' and associations' use of TMS. In particular, they shall collaborate to establish the facts and comply, within the granted deadline, with requests for any documents, information or any other materials of any nature held by them or, if not held by them, which they are entitled to obtain within the time limits established by FIFA.

7. Specific obligations: clubs

Clubs with access to TMS shall:

a) always have at least one TMS user;

b) ensure that their contact details (postal address, telephone, and email address) are valid and always kept up to date;

c) ensure that their own bank account details are valid and always kept up to date;

d) enter and confirm transfer instructions and (where applicable) ensure that the required information matches (cf. art. 10 of this annexe); and

e) declare all payments made in the context of an international transfer.

8. Specific obligations: associations

1. Associations shall:

a) monitor the activity of their affiliated clubs in TMS to verify compliance with this annexe, and inform FIFA about any potential infringements;

b) always have at least two authorised TMS users;

c) provide their affiliated clubs with ongoing TMS training;

d) ensure that their contact details (postal address, telephone number and email address) and those of their affiliated clubs are valid and always kept up to date;

e) ensure that their bank account details are valid and always kept up to date;

f) enter the training category of their affiliated clubs;

g) ensure that their affiliated clubs and registered players are assigned a FIFA ID and, when required, resolve duplicate entries concerning their affiliated clubs and registered players without delay;

h) confirm or reject newly created players (cf. art. 13 of this annexe);

i) carry out the ITC procedure (cf. art. 11 of this annexe);

j) enter transfers of amateur players on behalf of affiliated clubs that do not have access to TMS (cf. art. 10 of this annexe); and

k) enter all required data related to dates of competitions periods, seasons and registration periods, as applicable (cf. article 6 of these regulations) at least 12 months before the first match of the relevant season in the following categories of competition, where applicable;

   i. Male professional competitions

   ii. Female professional competitions

   iii. Amateur competitions (female and male)

2. An association may modify in TMS the dates for a registration period that has already been entered in TMS prior to its commencement. The said modification shall be notified to FIFA. Once a registration period has commenced, no modification of its dates is permitted.

9. FIFA's role

The FIFA general secretariat is responsible for:

a) assisting TMS users with technical and regulatory issues;

b) managing the access of TMS users;

c) providing ongoing education and support to associations and clubs;

d) entering in TMS any sanctions against a club or association;

e) managing any special procedures identified in this annexe;

f) investigating possible infringements of FIFA regulations related to the use of TMS; and

g) imposing administrative sanctions for breaches of this annexe (cf. art. 17 of this annexe).

TITLE IV. PROCESS FOR TRANSFERRING A PLAYER

10. Clubs: creating transfer instructions

1. When creating a transfer instruction, clubs shall enter information and upload supporting documents concerning:

a) the instruction type;

b) the player being transferred;

c) the details of the transfer; and

d) the parties involved in the transfer.

2. Clubs shall indicate if the transfer instruction refers to:

a) engaging a player or releasing a player;

b) whether the transfer is permanent or a loan;

c) whether the player will be a professional or an amateur with the new club; and

d) if related to an earlier loan transfer instruction, whether there is:

i. a return from loan;

ii. a loan extension;

iii. a loan being converted into a permanent transfer; or

iv. a loan conclusion (i.e. the loan agreement between the clubs has ended and the player's employment contract with the former club has also ended).

3. Concerning the player being transferred, clubs shall enter the following information as applicable, depending on the transfer instruction type:

a) Status (amateur or professional) with the former club;

b) Name, nationality(ies), date of birth and gender;

c) For loans, whether the player is a club-trained player (cf. definition 31 of these regulations) and whether the loan occurs before the end of the season of the former club at which the professional turns 21;

d) Start and end dates of the employment contract with the former club;

e) Start and end dates of the employment contract with the new club;

f) Fixed remuneration set out in the employment contract with the new club; and

g) The reason for termination of the employment contract with the former club.

4. With respect to the details of the transfer, clubs shall enter the following information as applicable, depending on the transfer instruction type:

a) Whether there is a transfer agreement with the former club; for the avoidance of doubt, this includes any agreement where the former club waives its right to receive training rewards in exchange for another payment in line with art. 10. par. 4 d) of this annexe;

b) The date of execution of the transfer agreement;

c) The start and end dates of the loan agreement;

d) Whether the transfer is performed against any of the following types of payment:

i. fixed transfer fee, including the amount and date of instalments, if any;

ii. release (buy-out) fee, including the amount and date of instalments, if any;

iii. conditional transfer fee, including the amount and details of conditions; or

iv. sell-on fee, including the percentage.

e) Payment currency;

f) Club bank account details; and

g) A declaration on influence and third-party ownership of the player's economic rights (cf. arts. 18bis and 18ter of these regulations).

5. With respect to the parties involved in the transfer, clubs shall enter the following information as applicable:

a) the player's former club;

b) the player's former association;

c) the player's new club;

d) the player's new association;

e) the club football agent's name, service fee and any other fee paid to the football agent; and

f) the player's football agent's name.

6. Clubs are obliged to upload the following mandatory supporting documents regarding the information that has been entered in TMS as applicable, depending on the transfer instruction type:

a) The new club:

i. Proof of the player's identity (passport or national identity card).

ii. Proof of the end date of the player's last employment contract and the reason for its termination.

iii. The player's employment contract with the new club.

iv. The transfer agreement (whether permanent or loan) between the new club and the former club. Where applicable, a copy of any amendments shall be uploaded in TMS as soon as they have been concluded.

v. A copy of the representation agreement entered into with a football agent, if applicable, within 14 days of occurrence. Where applicable, a copy of any amendments shall be uploaded in TMS within 14 days of occurrence.

vi. A copy of any other agreement entered into with a football agent other than a representation agreement, if applicable, within 14 days of occurrence. Where applicable, a copy of any amendments shall be uploaded in TMS within 14 days of occurrence.

b) The former club:

i. Where third-party ownership of the player's economic rights has been declared (cf. article 10.4 g) of this annexe), the agreement with the third party.

ii. For loans, proof that the professional is a club-trained player (cf. art. 10 par. 3 c) of this annexe).

iii. A copy of the representation agreement signed with a football agent, if applicable, within 14 days of occurrence. Where applicable, a copy of any amendments shall be uploaded in TMS within 14 days of occurrence.

iv. A copy of any agreement entered into with a football agent other than a representation agreement, if applicable, within 14 days of occurrence. Where applicable, a copy of any amendments shall be uploaded in TMS within 14 days of occurrence.

7. Once all of the relevant information has been entered and the mandatory documents have been uploaded, the club(s) shall confirm the transfer in TMS without delay and before the end of the new association's registration period (subject to the exceptions in art. 6 of these regulations).

8. For international transfers with a transfer agreement (whether permanent or on loan), both clubs shall:

a) independently of each other, enter and confirm the transfer instruction as soon as the agreement has been concluded;

b) ensure that the required information matches; and

c) collaborate to resolve any matching exceptions.

9. This article also applies to associations entering the transfer of an amateur player on behalf of an affiliated club without access to TMS.

11. Associations: ITC procedure and player registration

1. Once a transfer instruction has been created (cf. art. 10 of this annexe) and (if applicable) the player has been confirmed (cf. art. 13 of this annexe):

a) the new association will be notified in TMS that the transfer instruction is awaiting an ITC request;

b) upon receipt of this notification, the new association will be able to request in TMS that the former association deliver an ITC for the player;

c) at the very latest, the ITC shall be requested on the last day of the new association's registration period for the transfer to occur during that registration period. An ITC requested after the close of the relevant registration period of the new association (subject to the exceptions in art. 6 of these regulations) will go into validation exception status (cf. art. 14 par. 1 c) of this annexe); and

d) for the international transfer of minors, an ITC may only be requested if the corresponding minor application has been approved by the Football Tribunal or if the player is being registered under a valid limited minor exemption (cf. art. 19 of these regulations).

2. Where the player was a professional at his former club, upon notification of the ITC request, the former association shall immediately request the former club to confirm whether or not:

   a) the employment contract has expired; or

   b) an early termination was mutually agreed.

3. Within 72 hours of the ITC request, the former association shall deliver the ITC to the new association.

4. When delivering an ITC, the former association shall upload a copy of any relevant documentation pertaining to disciplinary sanctions imposed on a player and, if applicable, their extension to have worldwide effect (cf. art. 12 of these regulations).

5. Upon delivery of the ITC, the new association shall confirm its receipt, enter the relevant player registration information in TMS and register the player in its electronic registration system without delay.

6. If the former association fails to respond to the ITC request within 72 hours, the new association will be able to register the player with the new club and enter the relevant player registration information in TMS. In exceptional circumstances, the player, the former association or the new association may request FIFA's intervention. In all cases, the issuance of an ITC is without prejudice to any contractual dispute between the player, their former club and/or their new club.

7. The new association shall only confirm the ITC receipt (cf. par. 5 above) or confirm registration in TMS (cf. par. 6 above) if the player is to be registered with the new club.

8. A player is not eligible to play for his new club until the new association has either:

   a) confirmed receipt of the ITC, entered the player registration information in TMS and registered the player in its electronic registration system; or

   b) registered the player in its electronic registration system and entered the player registration information in TMS in the absence of a response to the ITC request within 72 hours.

9. All registrations described in paragraph 8 above have the same effect and are equally valid.

12. Payments

1. Clubs shall declare all club-to-club payments made in the context of an international transfer (cf. art. 11 par. 4 of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations), including any amendments to the payment terms, which shall also be declared as soon as the amended terms have been agreed upon. When declaring the execution of a payment, the new club shall upload the relevant proof of payment in TMS within 30 days of each payment.

2. Where a club-to-club payment is no longer due, clubs shall request the forced closure of the transfer without delay.

3. Clubs shall declare any payments made in relation to any representation agreement entered into with a football agent. When declaring the execution of a payment, the relevant club shall upload the relevant proof of payment in TMS within 14 days of each payment.

4. Clubs shall declare any payments made in relation to any agreement entered into with a football agent other than a representation agreement. When declaring the execution of a payment, the relevant club shall upload the relevant proof of payment in TMS within 14 days of each payment.

TITLE V. SPECIAL PROCEDURES

13. Player confirmation

1. If the player being transferred does not exist in TMS, the club that first enters the transfer instruction in TMS shall create his profile. The same applies to associations entering transfer instructions of amateur players on behalf of their affiliated clubs that do not have access to TMS.

2. The ITC procedure will only be initiated once the newly created player details have been verified, corrected if required and confirmed by the former association. By confirming the player, the former association confirms that the player was last registered with it and that his identity details (name, nationality, date of birth and gender) are correct.

3. The former association shall reject the newly created player if the player is not registered with it at the time of the transfer.

4. The player confirmation procedure shall be carried out without delay.

14. Validation exceptions

1. A validation exception may be triggered in the following cases:

   a) the player is less than 18 years old and the corresponding minor application has not yet been accepted;

   b) the new club is serving a ban on registering new players;

   c) the new club and/or the former club has exceeded the loan limitations (cf. art. 10 of these regulations);

   d) the date of the ITC request is outside the new association's registration period, and no exception under art. 6 of these regulations applies; or

   e) the ITC request has been rejected by the former association and the rejection has been disputed by the new association.

2. Any requests for intervention in a validation exception shall be submitted via TMS. Upon request from the association concerned, the FIFA general secretariat will assess the request and, if necessary, refer the matter to the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal. Any such request and any supporting documentation shall be provided only in one of the following official languages of FIFA: English, French or Spanish. Each case is assessed individually on its own merits.

15. Cancellation

1. As a general rule, a transfer instruction containing incorrect information shall be cancelled.

2. The club(s), or the new association acting on behalf of a club in an amateur transfer, may cancel a transfer instruction prior to an ITC request.

3. Once an ITC has been requested, only the relevant association(s) may request the cancellation in TMS, indicate the reason for cancellation and specify the correct information.

4. In such a case, the counter association shall accept or dispute the cancellation request.

   a) If it accepts the request, the transfer will be cancelled; or

   b) If it disputes the request, the relevant association shall upload a supporting statement in TMS and contact the FIFA general secretariat to resolve the dispute.

TITLE VI. ENFORCEMENT

16. General

1. Sanctions shall be imposed on clubs and associations that violate the provisions contained in this annexe, including violations committed by their TMS users.

2. The FIFA general secretariat is responsible for investigating any violation of the provisions contained in this annexe.

3. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee is responsible for sanctioning violations of the provisions contained in this annexe in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

17. Administrative sanction procedure

1. Without prejudice to the competence of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, the FIFA general secretariat has the competence to impose sanctions within the administrative sanction procedure (ASP) as set out below.

2. The ASP deals with infringements of this annexe that are of a primarily technical or administrative nature.

3. If such an infringement is detected, the following procedure will take place:

a) The FIFA general secretariat will contact the association or club to identify the infringement, request a statement or any other relevant information within a defined deadline and, if applicable, request that the infringing behaviour be corrected.

b) Upon receipt of the statement or relevant information or upon expiry of the time limit to do so, the FIFA general secretariat may issue an administrative sanction letter containing a sanction, if applicable.

c) The party may accept the sanction or reject it and, in this case, request the opening of disciplinary proceedings before the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. If the party accepts the sanction, the latter will be enforceable from the date of acceptance.

d) If the party accepts the sanction, complies with it (where applicable) and corrects the infringing behaviour within the time limits to do so, the matter will be closed.

e) If the party fails to respond to the administrative sanction letter, responds inconsistently or incompletely and/or does not correct the infringing behaviour and/or does not comply with the sanction, the matter will be referred to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee for evaluation and decision.

4. Without prejudice to any further sanction imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, the sanctions that may be imposed through the ASP are:

a) a warning;

b) a reprimand; or

c) a fine of up to CHF 30,000.

18. Time limits and means of notification

Letters or decisions notified by the FIFA general secretariat to a party through TMS or to the email address provided by a party in TMS are considered a valid means of communication and are sufficient to establish time limits.

ANNEXE

Training compensation

04

1. Objective

1. A player's training and education takes place between the ages of 12 and 23. Training compensation shall be payable, as a general rule, up to the age of 23 for training incurred up to the age of 21, unless it is evident that a player has already terminated his training period before the age of 21. In the latter case, training compensation shall be payable until the end of the calendar year in which the player reaches the age of 23, but the calculation of the amount payable shall be based on the years between the age of 12 and the age when it is established that the player actually completed his training.

2. The obligation to pay training compensation is without prejudice to any obligation to pay compensation for breach of contract.

2. Payment of training compensation

1. Training compensation is due when:

   a) a player is registered for the first time as a professional; or

   b) a professional is transferred between clubs of two different associations (whether during or at the end of his contract) before the end of the calendar year of his 23rd birthday.

2. Training compensation is not due if:

a) the former club terminates the player's contract without just cause (without prejudice to the rights of the previous clubs); or

b) the player is transferred to a category 4 club; or

c) a professional reacquires amateur status on being transferred.

3. For cases governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, payment of training compensation shall be made in accordance with the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

3. Responsibility to pay training compensation

1. For cases not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, on registering as a professional for the first time, the club with which the player is registered is responsible for paying training compensation within 30 days of registration to every club with which the player has previously been registered (in accordance with the players' career history as provided in the player passport) and that has contributed to his training starting from the calendar year of his 12th birthday. The amount payable is calculated on a pro rata basis according to the period of training that the player spent with each club. In the case of subsequent transfers of the professional, training compensation will only be owed to his former club for the time he was effectively trained by that club.

2. In both of the above cases, for cases not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, the deadline for payment of training compensation is 30 days following the registration of the professional with the new association.

3. An association is entitled to receive the training compensation which in principle would be due to one of its affiliated clubs, if it can provide evidence that the club in question – with which the professional was registered and trained – has in the meantime ceased to participate in organised football and/or no longer exists due to, in particular, bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution or loss of affiliation. This compensation shall be reserved for youth football development programmes in the association(s) in question.

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).

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 calendar year of the player's 12th birthday to the calendar year 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 calendar years of their 12th to 15th birthdays (i.e. four calendar years) 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 calendar year of training may occur before the calendar year of the player's 21st birthday if it is established that the player completed his training before that time.

3. If the former club does not offer the player a contract, no training compensation is payable unless the former club can justify that it is entitled to such compensation. The former club must offer the player a contract in writing via registered post at least 60 days before the expiry of his current contract, subject to the temporary exception below. Such an offer shall furthermore be at least of an equivalent value to the current contract. This provision is without prejudice to the right to training compensation of the player's previous club(s).

   i. The contract offer may be made by electronic mail, provided that the former club obtains confirmation from the player that he has received a copy of said offer and can provide such confirmation in case of any dispute.

7. Disciplinary measures

The FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs or players that do not observe the obligations set out in this annexe.

ANNEXE

Solidarity mechanism

05

1. Solidarity contribution

1. If a professional moves during the course of a contract, 5% of any compensation paid within the scope of this transfer, not including training compensation paid to his former club, shall be deducted from the total amount of this compensation and distributed by the new club as a solidarity contribution to the club(s) involved in his training and education over the years. This solidarity contribution reflects the number of years (calculated pro rata if less than one year) he was registered with the relevant club(s) between the calendar years of his 12th and 23rd birthdays, as follows:

a) Calendar year of 12th birthday: 5% of 5% of any compensation

b) Calendar year of 13th birthday: 5% of 5% of any compensation

c) Calendar year of 14th birthday: 5% of 5% of any compensation

d) Calendar year of 15th birthday: 5% of 5% of any compensation

e) Calendar year of 16th birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

f) Calendar year of 17th birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

g) Calendar year of 18th birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

h) Calendar year of 19th birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

i) Calendar year of 20th birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

j) Calendar year of 21st birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

k) Calendar year of 22nd birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

l) Calendar year of 23rd birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

2. A training club is entitled to receive (a proportion of) the 5% solidarity contribution in the following cases:

a) a professional player is transferred, either on a definitive or loan basis, between clubs affiliated to different associations;

b) a professional player is transferred, either on a definitive or loan basis, between clubs affiliated to the same association, provided that the training club is affiliated to a different association.

2. Payment procedure

1. For cases not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, the new club shall pay the solidarity contribution to the training club(s) pursuant to the above provisions no later than 30 days after the player's registration or, in case of contingent payments, 30 days after the date of such payments.

2. For cases not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, it is the responsibility of the new club to calculate the amount of the solidarity contribution and to distribute it in accordance with the player's career history as provided in the player passport. The player shall, if necessary, assist the new club in discharging this obligation.

3. For cases governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, payment of solidarity contribution shall be made in accordance with the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

4. An association is entitled to receive the proportion of solidarity contribution which in principle would be due to one of its affiliated clubs, if it can provide evidence that the club in question – which was involved in the professional's training and education – has in the meantime ceased to participate in organised football and/or no longer exists due to, in particular, bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution or loss of affiliation. This solidarity contribution shall be reserved for youth football development programmes in the association(s) in question.

5. The Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs that do not observe the obligations set out in this annexe.

ANNEXE

Rules for the Status and Transfer of Futsal Players



1. Scope

1. The Rules for the Status and Transfer of Futsal Players are an integral part of these regulations.

2. These rules establish global and binding provisions concerning the status of futsal players, their eligibility to participate in organised futsal, and their transfer between clubs belonging to different associations.

3. These rules shall apply equally to men, women, amateurs and professionals unless expressly provided for otherwise in this annexe.

4. The transfer of futsal players between clubs belonging to the same association is governed by specific regulations issued by the association concerned. These regulations shall include:

   a) appropriate means to protect contractual stability, paying due respect to mandatory national law and collective bargaining agreements, as well as the principles in article 1 paragraph 3 b) of these regulations; and

   b) specific rules for the settlement of disputes between futsal clubs and players.

5. The following provisions in these regulations are binding for futsal at national level and shall be included, without modification, in the association's regulations: articles 2-8, 10, 11, 12bis, 18, 18 paragraph 7, 18bis, 18ter, 18quater, 18quinquies, 19 and 19bis.

   In relation to articles 18 paragraph 7, 18quater and 18quinquies, where a validly negotiated collective bargaining agreement contains provisions related

to female professional football, the respective provisions of the collective bargaining agreement shall prevail in their totality, and a clear reference to the collective bargaining agreement shall be included in the association's regulations. Where no collective bargaining agreement exists, but where more favourable conditions are stipulated pursuant to national law, these more favourable conditions shall be included in the association's regulations.

2. Release of futsal players to association teams

1. Article 1ter of Annexe 1 of these regulations is binding.

2. A player may only represent one association in both futsal and eleven-a-side football. Any player who has already participated in a match (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category or any type of football for one association may not play an international match for a representative team of another association.

   This provision is subject to the exception in article 9 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes.

3. Registration of futsal players

1. A futsal player must be registered at an association to play for a club as either a professional or an amateur in accordance with the provisions of article 2 of these regulations. Only registered players are eligible to participate in organised futsal. By the act of registering, a futsal player agrees to abide by the FIFA Statutes and regulations, as well as the statutes and regulations of the relevant confederation and association.

2. A futsal player may only be registered for one futsal club at a time. A futsal player may, however, also be registered for one eleven-a-side club at the same time. It is not necessary for the futsal and the eleven-a-side club to be affiliated to the same association.

3. A futsal professional player under contract with an eleven-a-side club may sign another professional contract with a different futsal club only if he obtains written approval from the eleven-a-side club employing him, and vice-versa.

4. Futsal players may be registered with a maximum of three futsal clubs during one season. During this period, the player is only eligible to play official matches for two futsal clubs. As an exception to this rule, a futsal player moving between two futsal clubs belonging to associations with overlapping seasons (i.e. the start of the season is in summer/autumn as opposed to winter/spring) may be eligible to play in official matches for a third futsal club during the relevant season, provided he has fully complied with his contractual obligations towards his previous futsal clubs. Equally, the provisions relating to the registration periods (article 6

of these regulations) as well as to the minimum length of a contract (article 18 paragraph 2 of these regulations) must be respected.

5. Under all circumstances, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the competition. In particular, a futsal player may not play official matches for more than two clubs competing in the same national championship or cup during the same season, subject to stricter individual competition regulations of member associations.

4. Respect of contract

1. A contract between a professional futsal player and a futsal club may only be terminated upon expiry of its term or by mutual agreement.

2. The provisions applicable to the maintenance of contractual stability are set out in articles 13-18 of these regulations.

5. International transfer of futsal players

5.1 Principles

1. A futsal player registered with a futsal club affiliated to an association may only be registered with a futsal club affiliated to a different association after:

   a) the International Futsal Transfer Certificate (IFTC) has been requested by the new association;

   b) the IFTC has been delivered by the former association;

   c) the IFTC has been received by the new association; and

   d) the new association has registered the player in their electronic registration system.

2. The above principle applies to all international transfer of professional and amateur futsal players.

3. A futsal player is not eligible to play for his new futsal club until all the conditions in paragraph 1 above are met, where applicable.

4. An IFTC is not required for a futsal player under the age of ten.

5. Clubs and associations shall always:

a) act in good faith;

b) abide by the FIFA Statutes and all FIFA regulations; and

c) ensure that all information provided is true and correct.

5.2 Transfer process: IFTC procedure and futsal player registration

1. The new futsal club shall submit an application to its association to register a futsal player during one of the registration periods established by that association, subject to the exception in article 6 of these regulations.

The relevant application shall be accompanied, if applicable, by:

a) a copy of the employment contract between the new futsal club and the futsal player; and

b) a copy of the transfer agreement (whether permanent or on loan) concluded between the new and the former futsal clubs.

2. Upon receipt of the application, the new association shall immediately request that the former association deliver an IFTC for the futsal player ("IFTC request"). The IFTC request shall be accompanied by the documentation established in paragraph 1 above, if applicable.

3. At the very latest, the IFTC must be requested on the last day of the relevant registration period of the new association for the transfer to occur during that registration period.

4. In the case of an international transfer of a futsal player who had professional status at his former futsal club, upon receipt of the IFTC request, the former association shall immediately request that the former futsal club and the futsal player confirm whether:

a) the employment contract has expired;

b) an early termination was mutually agreed; or

c) there is a contractual dispute.

5. Within seven days of the IFTC request, the former association shall either:

a) deliver the IFTC to the new association; or

b) inform the new association in writing that the IFTC cannot be delivered. This may only be the case where:

i. an employment contract between the former futsal club and the futsal player has not expired; or

ii. there has been no mutual agreement regarding the contract's early termination.

The provision in paragraph b) above applies only to the international transfer of futsal players who had professional status at their former futsal clubs.

6. When delivering an IFTC to the new association, the former association shall also:

a) attach a copy of the player passport;

b) notify the new association in writing of any pending disciplinary sanctions imposed on the futsal player and, if applicable, their extension to have worldwide effect (cf. article 12 of these regulations); and

c) lodge a copy of the IFTC with FIFA.

7. The IFTC shall be delivered free of charge without any conditions or time limitation. Any provisions to the contrary shall be null and void.

8. Upon delivery of the IFTC, the new association shall register the player in their electronic registration system.

9. If the former association fails to respond to the IFTC request within 30 days, the new association shall immediately register the futsal player for the new futsal club on a provisional basis ("provisional registration") and enter the relevant player registration information in the national electronic player registration system. A provisional registration shall become permanent one year after the IFTC request.

10. The former association shall not deliver an IFTC for a futsal player if a contractual dispute on grounds of the circumstances stipulated in paragraph 4 above, has arisen between the former futsal club and the futsal player.

In such a case, upon request of the new association, FIFA may take provisional measures in exceptional circumstances. In this respect, it will take into account the arguments presented by the former association to justify the rejection of the IFTC. If the Football Tribunal authorises the provisional registration (cf. article 23), the new association shall proceed to register the player. Furthermore, the professional futsal player, the former and/or the new futsal club are entitled to lodge a claim with FIFA in accordance with article 22. The decision on the provisional registration of the player shall be without prejudice to the merits of such possible contractual dispute.

11. The new association may grant the player temporary eligibility to play until the end of the ongoing competition period on the basis of an IFTC sent by fax or email. If the original IFTC is not received by that time, the player's eligibility to play shall be considered definitive.

12. The foregoing rules and procedures apply without distinction to professional and amateur futsal players who, upon moving to their new futsal club, acquire a different status.

5.3 Loan of futsal players

1. The rules set out above also apply to the loan of a professional futsal player from a futsal club affiliated to one association to a futsal club affiliated to another association, as well as to his return from loan to his original futsal club, if applicable.

2. A copy of the loan agreement shall accompany the IFTC request (cf. article 5.2 paragraph 2).

3. Upon expiry of the loan period, the association of the futsal club that released the futsal player on loan shall request the IFTC to the association of the futsal club where he is registered on loan. Until the IFTC procedure has not been completed and the association that released the futsal player on loan has re-registered him in their electronic registration system, the futsal player is not eligible to play for his original futsal club.

6. Enforcement of disciplinary sanctions

1. A suspension imposed in terms of matches on a player for an infringement committed when playing futsal or in relation to a futsal match shall only affect the player's participation for his futsal club. Similarly, a suspension imposed in terms of matches on a player participating in eleven-a-side football shall only affect the player's participation for his eleven-a-side club.

2. A suspension imposed in terms of days and months shall affect a player's participation for both his futsal as well as his eleven-a-side club, regardless of whether the infringement was committed in eleven-a-side football or futsal.

3. The association with which a futsal player is registered shall notify a suspension imposed in terms of days and months to the second association with which the player may be registered, if the player is registered, at the same time, for a futsal and an eleven-a-side club belonging to two different associations.

4. When delivering an IFTC, the former association shall notify the new association in writing of any pending disciplinary sanctions imposed on a player and, if applicable, their extension to have worldwide effect (cf. article 12 of these regulations).

7. Protection of minors

1. International transfers of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18. The exceptions to this rule are outlined in article 19 of these regulations.

8. Training compensation

The provisions on training compensation as provided for in article 20 and Annexe 4 of the regulations shall not apply to the transfer of players from futsal clubs.

9. Solidarity mechanism

The provisions on solidarity mechanism as provided for in article 21 and Annexe 5 of these regulations shall not apply to the transfer of players to and from futsal clubs.

10. Competence of FIFA

1. Sanctions shall be imposed on clubs and associations which violate the provisions contained in this annexe.

2. The FIFA general secretariat is responsible for investigating any violation of this annexe.

3. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee is responsible for sanctioning any violation of this annexe, in line with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

4. Without prejudice to the right of any futsal player, coach, association or club to seek redress before a civil court for employment-related disputes, FIFA is competent to hear disputes as stipulated in article 22 of these regulations.

5. The Football Tribunal shall adjudicate on all disputes as stipulated in article 23 of these regulations.

ANNEXE

07.

Temporary rules addressing the exceptional situation deriving from the war in Ukraine

1. Scope of application

1. Without prejudice to paragraph 2 below, this annexe applies to employment contracts of an international dimension concluded between players or coaches and clubs affiliated to the Ukrainian Association of Football (UAF) or the Football Union of Russia (FUR).

2. This annexe does not apply to:

a) employment contracts of an international dimension of players who, on 21 May 2023 and thereafter, were registered with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR;

b) employment contracts of an international dimension of coaches who, on 21 May 2023 and thereafter, rendered their services to a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR;

c) employment contracts of an international dimension of players or coaches that have been concluded or extended after 7 March 2022.

2. Employment contracts of an international dimension with clubs affiliated to the UAF or FUR

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of these regulations and unless otherwise agreed between the parties, a contract of an international dimension between a player or a coach and a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR can be unilaterally suspended until 30 June 2026 by the player or the coach.

2. In order to validly suspend the contract, the player or coach shall inform the club of the unilateral suspension in writing by 1 August 2025 at the latest.

3. The minimum length of a contract established under article 18 paragraph 2 of these regulations does not apply to any new contract concluded by the professional whose contract has been suspended in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

3. Consequences of the suspension

A player or coach whose contract has been suspended as per article 2 paragraphs 1 and 2 above does not commit a breach of contract by signing and registering with a new club. Article 18 paragraph 5 of these regulations does not apply to a professional whose contract has been suspended as per article 2 paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

4. Registration

Notwithstanding the provisions of article 5 paragraph 4 of these regulations, a player whose previous registration was in the UAF or FUR, may be registered with a maximum of four clubs during one season and is eligible to play official matches for three different clubs.

5. Protection of minors

Notwithstanding the provisions of article 19 of these regulations, any minors residing in the territory of Ukraine who wish to be registered with a new club shall be deemed to fulfil the requirements of the exception provided in article 19 paragraph 2 a) or d) of these regulations.

6. Training compensation

1. As from the time this annexe enters into force, training compensation in accordance with the provisions of article 20 and annexe 4 is payable by the new club for any player whose previous registration was in the UAF or FUR if:

   a) without prejudice to paragraph 3 below, the player is registered for the first time as a professional before the end of the calendar year of his 23rd birthday; or

   b) the player had validly suspended their contract with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR in accordance with the provisions of this annexe (under any of its different editions) and is now transferred between clubs of two different associations (whether during or at the end of his contract) before the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday.

   c) However, in such case per literal b), training compensation will be owed by the new club only to the club(s) affiliated to the UAF or FUR with which the player had been registered before the player's contract was suspended, for the time the player was effectively trained by the respective club(s).

2. No entitlement to training compensation will arise for any club not affiliated to the UAF or FUR who has registered a player following the suspension of the player's contract in accordance with this annexe.

3. No training compensation is payable by the new club for a player being registered for the first time as a professional if:

   a) the player is registered with a club not affiliated to the UAF or FUR after having left the territory of Ukraine or Russia subsequently to 7 March 2022 and was allowed to be registered with a new club under the exception provided in article 19 paragraph 2 a) or d) of these regulations;

   b) the player left the territory of Ukraine or Russia subsequently to 7 March 2022 and now wishes to be registered for the first time as a professional with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR.

7. International transfer of players

1. A player whose contract has been suspended on the basis of this annexe may, during the period of suspension, not be subject to a transfer (whether permanent or on loan) against payment.

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FIFA®



Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

JANUARY 2027

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Definitions

For the purpose of these regulations, the terms set out below are defined as follows:

1. Former association: the association to which the former club is affiliated.
2. Former club: the club that the player is leaving.
3. New association: the association to which the new club is affiliated.
4. New club: the club that the player is joining.
5. Official matches: matches played within the framework of organised football, such as national league championships, national cups and international championships for clubs, but not including friendly and trial matches.
6. Organised football: association football organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations and the associations, or authorised by them.
7. Protected period: a period determined depending on the age of the player at the moment at which they sign a contract, as follows:

   a) Where a contract is signed by a player prior to their 23rd birthday: four entire seasons or four years, whichever comes first.

   b) Where a contract is signed by a player on or after their 23rd birthday, and prior to their 28th birthday: three entire seasons or three years, whichever comes first.

   c) Where a contract is signed by a player on or after their 28th birthday, and prior to their 32nd birthday: two entire seasons or two years, whichever comes first.

   d) Where a contract is signed by a player on or after their 32nd birthday: one entire season or one year, whichever comes first.

   The protected period starts again when, while renewing the contract, the duration of the previous contract is extended.
8. Registration period: a period fixed by the relevant association in accordance with article 6.
9. Season: a consecutive 12-month period fixed by an association during which its official competitions, such as national league championships and national cup competitions, occur.
10. Training compensation: the payments made in accordance with Annexe 4 to cover the development of young players.
11. Minor: a player who has not yet reached the age of 18.
12. Academy: an organisation or an independent legal entity whose primary, long-term objective is to provide players with long-term training through the provision of the necessary training facilities and infrastructure. This shall primarily include, but not be limited to, football training centres, football camps, football schools, etc.

13. Transfer matching system (TMS): a web-based data information system with the primary objective of simplifying the process of international player transfers as well as improving transparency and the flow of information.

14. Third party: a party other than the player being transferred, the two clubs transferring the player from one to the other, or any previous club, with which the player has been registered.

15. Eleven-a-side football: football played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as authorised by the International Football Association Board.

16. Futsal: football played in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game that have been drawn up by FIFA in collaboration with the Sub-Committee of the International Football Association Board.

17. Registration: the act of making a written record containing details of a player that include:

    a) the start date of the registration (format: dd/mm/yyyy);

    b) the full name (first, middle and last names) of the player;

    c) the date of birth, gender, nationality, status as an amateur or a professional (as per article 2 paragraph 2 of these regulations), and nature of the registration (on a permanent basis or on loan);

    d) the type(s) of football the player will play (eleven-a-side football/futsal/beach soccer);

    e) the name of the club at the association where the player will play (including the FIFA ID of the club);

    f) the training categorisation of the club at the moment of the registration;

    g) the FIFA ID of the player;

    h) the FIFA ID of the association.

18. Electronic player registration system: an online electronic information system with the ability to record the registration of all players at their association. The electronic player registration system must be integrated with the FIFA Connect ID Service and the FIFA Connect Interface in order to exchange information electronically. The electronic player registration system must provide all registration information for all players from the age of 12 through the FIFA Connect Interface and, in particular, must assign each player a FIFA ID utilising the FIFA Connect ID Service.

19. FIFA Connect ID Service: a service provided by FIFA assigning globally valid unique identifiers (the FIFA ID) to individuals, organisations, and facilities, providing duplicate information in case of a second registration of the same entity,

and keeping a central record of the current registration(s) of all entities with an assigned FIFA ID.

20. FIFA ID: the worldwide unique identifier given by the FIFA Connect ID Service to each club, association, player and football agent.

21. International transfer: the movement of the registration of a player from one association to another association.

22. National transfer: the movement of the registration of a player at an association from one club to another within the same association.

23. Electronic domestic transfer system: an online electronic information system with the ability to administer and monitor all national transfers within an association, in line with the principles of the model implemented at international level through the transfer matching system (cf. Annexe 3). At a minimum, the system must collect the full name, gender, nationality, date of birth and FIFA ID of the player, the status (amateur or professional as per article 2 paragraph 2 of these regulations), the name and FIFA ID of the two clubs involved in the national transfer, as well as any payments between the clubs, if applicable. The electronic domestic transfer system must be integrated with the electronic registration system of the association and with the FIFA Connect Interface in order to exchange information electronically.

24. Bridge transfer: any two consecutive transfers, national or international, of the same player connected to each other and comprising a registration of that player with the middle club to circumvent the application of the relevant regulations or laws and/or defraud another person or entity.

25. Purely amateur club: a club with no legal, financial or de facto links to a professional club that:

    i. is only permitted to register amateur players; or

    ii. has no registered professional players; or

    iii. has not registered any professional players in the three years prior to a particular date.

26. FIFA Connect Interface: a technical interface provided by FIFA within the FIFA Connect Programme, used to exchange electronic end-to-end encrypted messages between member associations, and between member associations and FIFA.

27. Training rewards: the mechanisms which compensate training clubs for their role in the training and education of young players, namely training compensation (cf. article 20) and the solidarity mechanism (cf. article 21).

28. Coach: an individual employed in a football-specific occupation by a professional club or association whose:

i. employment duties consist of one or more of the following: training and coaching players, selecting players for matches and competitions, making tactical choices during matches and competitions; and/or

ii. employment requires the holding of a coaching licence in accordance with a domestic or continental licensing regulation.

29. Professional club: a club that is not a purely amateur club.

30. Maternity leave: a minimum period of 14 weeks' paid absence granted to a female player/coach due to her pregnancy, of which a minimum of eight weeks must occur after the birth of the child.

31. Club-trained player: a player who, between the age of 15 (or the start of the season during which he turns 15) and 21 (or the end of the season during which he turns 21), and irrespective of his nationality and age, registered with his current club for a period, continuous or not, of three entire seasons or of 36 months.

32. Trial: a temporary period during which a player that is not registered with a club is evaluated by that club.

33. FIFA Clearing House: the entity that acts as an intermediary in relation to processing certain payments made in the football transfer system.

34. Electronic Player Passport (EPP): an electronic document containing consolidated registration information of a player throughout their career, including the relevant member association, their status (amateur or professional), the type of registration (permanent or loan), and the club(s) (including training category) with which they have been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday.

35. Transfer Compensation: a compensation which a new club of a player pays, or commits to pay to a player's former club, in exchange for the former club's acceptance to release the player from a binding contractual relationship. Compensation for breach of contract pursuant to article 17 herein is not considered transfer compensation.

36. Matching Exception: the status of an international transfer in TMS when both clubs have entered the basic information correctly (player, clubs and transfer instruction), but there are still transfer details (payment details or loan dates) that do not match in both transfer instructions. This mismatch prevents the transfer from proceeding.

37. TMS User: an individual trained and authorised to access TMS on behalf of a club or association. All TMS users have their own unique login credentials.

38. TMS Manager: the main TMS user and point of contact for a club or association with access to TMS.

39. Transfer Instruction: the information entered in TMS to transfer a player from one club to another. The transfer instruction type is defined by the information entered: (i) "engage" or "release"; (ii) "permanently" or "on loan"; (iii) "professional player" or

"amateur player"; (iv) with transfer agreement" or "without transfer agreement"; (v) "against payment" or "free of payment".

40. Validation Exception: an issue relating to an international transfer in TMS that prevents it from proceeding to the next status, thus requiring FIFA's intervention.

41. Competition period: the period starting with the first official match of the national league championship or national cup competition, whichever comes first, and ending with the last official match played within those competitions.

42. Adoption leave: a minimum period of eight weeks' paid absence granted to a female player/coach in case of the adoption of a child who is younger than the age of two. The period of paid absence is reduced to four weeks for a child between two and four years of age and to two weeks for a child who is older than the age of four. The adoption leave must be taken within six months of the date of the formal adoption and cannot be accumulated with family leave for the same child.

43. Family leave: a minimum period of eight weeks' paid absence granted to a female player/coach other than the biological mother following the birth of the child. The family leave must be taken within six months of the date of birth of the child and cannot be accumulated with adoption leave for the same child.

44. Yearly fixed remuneration: the gross fixed remuneration due to a player per contract year, before tax, social security or other mandatory deductions. If a sign-on fee is paid at the conclusion of a contract, it shall be attributed pro rata over the duration of the contract. Loyalty fees and other periodic one-off payments shall be attributed to the contract year in which they are due.

Reference is also made to the Definitions section in the FIFA Statutes.

NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders.
Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

01.

Introductory provision

1. SCOPE

1. These regulations lay down global and binding rules concerning the status of players, their eligibility to participate in organised football, and their transfer between clubs belonging to different associations.

2. These regulations reflect a joint agreement between the representatives of employees (players and their unions) and employers (clubs and leagues). They are based on, and developed through, a social dialogue process under the direction and auspices of FIFA. With the exception of the content of Annexe 1 of these regulations, FIFA shall not amend these regulations without agreement between employees, employers and FIFA.

3. This social dialogue process shall take place via a Global Social Dialogue Platform for Professional Football (the "Global Social Dialogue Platform"). FIFA, together with the representatives of employees and employers, may jointly adopt more detailed rules of procedure governing the Global Social Dialogue Platform.

4. The transfer of players between clubs belonging to the same association is governed by specific regulations issued by the association concerned in accordance with article 1 paragraph 5 below, which must be approved by FIFA. Such regulations shall lay down rules for the settlement of disputes between clubs and players, in accordance with the principles stipulated in these regulations. Such regulations should also provide for a system to reward clubs affiliated to the relevant association investing in the training and education of young players.

   The use of an electronic domestic transfer system is a mandatory step for all national transfers of professional and amateur players (both male and female) within the scope of eleven-a-side football. A national transfer must be entered in the electronic domestic transfer system each time a player is to be registered with a new club within the same association. Any registration of a player for a new club without the use of the electronic domestic transfer system will be invalid.

5. a) The following provisions are binding at national level and must be included without modification in the association's regulations: articles 2-8, 10 (subject to article 1 paragraph 3 b) below), 11, 12bis, 18, 18 paragraph 7, 18bis, 18ter, 18quater, 18quinquies, 19 and 19bis.

   In relation to articles 18 paragraph 7, 18quater and 18quinquies, where a validly negotiated collective bargaining agreement contains provisions related to female professional football, the respective provisions of the collective bargaining agreement shall prevail in their totality, and a clear reference to the collective bargaining agreement shall be included in the association's regulations. Where no collective bargaining agreement exists, but where more favourable conditions are stipulated pursuant to national law, these more favourable conditions shall be included in the association's regulations.

b) Each association shall include in its regulations appropriate means to protect contractual stability, paying due respect to mandatory national law and collective bargaining agreements. In particular, the following principles must be considered:

- article 13: the principle that contracts must be respected;
- article 14: the principle that contracts may be terminated by either party without consequences where there is just cause;
- article 15: the principle that contracts may be terminated by professionals with sporting just cause;
- article 16: the principle that contracts cannot be terminated during a competition period;
- article 17 paragraph 1: the principle that in the event of termination of contract without just cause, compensation shall be payable and that such compensation may be stipulated in the contract;
- article 17 paragraphs 10-12: the principle that in the event of termination of contract without just cause, sporting sanctions shall be imposed on the party in breach.

6. These regulations also govern the release of players to association teams in accordance with the provisions of Annexe 1. These provisions are binding for all associations and clubs.

7. These regulations also include rules concerning contracts between coaches and professional clubs or associations (cf. Annexe 2).

8. These regulations also include temporary rules addressing the exceptional situation deriving from the war in Ukraine (cf. Annexe 7).

02.

Status of players

2. STATUS OF PLAYERS: AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

1. Players participating in organised football are either amateurs or professionals. No other status shall be recognised.

2. A professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more for his footballing activity than the expenses he effectively incurs. All other players are considered to be amateurs.

3. REACQUISITION OF AMATEUR STATUS

1. A player registered as a professional may not re-register as an amateur until at least 30 days after his last match as a professional.

2. No compensation is payable upon reacquisition of amateur status. If a player re-registers as a professional within 30 months of being reinstated as an amateur, his new club shall pay training compensation in accordance with article 20.

4. TERMINATION OF ACTIVITY

1. Professionals who end their careers upon expiry of their contracts and amateurs who terminate their activity shall remain registered at the association of their last club for a period of 30 months.

2. This period begins on the day the player made his last appearance for the club in an official match.

03.

Registration of players

5. REGISTRATION

1. Each association must have an electronic player registration system, which must assign each player a FIFA ID when the player is first registered. A player must be registered at an association to play for a club as either a professional or an amateur in accordance with the provisions of article 2. With the exception of players participating in friendly matches during a trial, only electronically registered players identified with a FIFA ID are eligible to participate in organised football. By the act of registering or accepting to be on trial a player agrees to abide by the statutes and regulations of FIFA, the confederations and the associations.

2. A player may only be registered with a club for the purpose of playing organised football. As an exception to this rule, a player may have to be registered with a club for mere technical reasons to secure transparency in consecutive individual transactions (see Annexe 3). A player that is on trial (see article 19ter) does not need to be registered to participate in friendly matches played in the context of a trial.

3. A player may only be registered with one club at a time.

4. Players may be registered with a maximum of three clubs during one season. During this period, a player is only eligible to play official matches for two clubs. As an exception to this rule, a player moving between two clubs belonging to associations with overlapping seasons (i.e. start of the season in summer/autumn as opposed to winter/spring) may be eligible to play in official matches for a third club during the relevant season, provided they have fully complied with their contractual obligations towards their previous clubs, and provided that the provisions relating to registration periods (article 6) and the minimum length of a contract (article 18 paragraph 2) are respected. Limitations as per this paragraph do not apply if a player wishes to be registered based on the exception as per article 6 paragraph 3 a). Competition Regulations for the FIFA Club World Cup™ may establish further exceptions.

5. Under all circumstances, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the competition. In particular, a player may not play official matches for more than two clubs competing in the same national championship or cup during the same season, subject to stricter individual competition regulations of member associations.

6. In relation to the FIFA ID of a player and the integration of their electronic player registration systems, member associations shall:

   a) assign a FIFA ID to all players already registered at the member association who have not been assigned a FIFA ID at the point in time when the electronic player registration system is integrated with the FIFA Connect ID Service;

   b) where a FIFA ID has already been assigned to a player, as indicated by the FIFA Connect ID Service, ensure the same FIFA ID is used to register the player in its electronic player registration system;

   c) if the FIFA Connect ID Service determines that a player is, or appears to be, registered in more than one electronic player registration system, resolve the matter within five (5) days of it becoming aware, and update the FIFA Connect ID Service without delay; and

   d) provide the relevant personal information about a player to other member associations' electronic player registration systems through the FIFA Connect Interface, when requested for the purpose of registration and the determination of the FIFA ID of the player.

5BIS BRIDGE TRANSFER

1. No club or player shall be involved in a bridge transfer.

2. It shall be presumed, unless established to the contrary, that if two consecutive transfers, national or international, of the same player occur within a period of 16 weeks, the parties (clubs and player) involved in those two transfers have participated in a bridge transfer.

3. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee, in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code, will impose sanctions on any party subject to the FIFA Statutes and regulations involved in a bridge transfer.

6. REGISTRATION PERIODS

1. Players may only be registered during one of the two annual registration periods fixed by the relevant association. Associations may fix different registration periods for their male and female competitions.

2. The first registration period may begin as early as on the first day after the day on which the competition period of the previous season ended, and at the latest on the first day of the new season. This first registration period shall not be shorter than eight weeks or longer than 12 weeks. The second registration period shall occur in the middle of the season and shall not be shorter than four weeks or longer than eight weeks. The cumulative total of both registration periods may not exceed 16 weeks. The dates of the competition period and the two registration periods for the season shall be entered into TMS at least 12 months before they come into force (cf. Annexe 3). All transfers, whether a national transfer or an international transfer, shall only occur within these registration periods, subject to the exceptions in article 6 as per paragraph 3 hereinafter. FIFA shall determine the dates for any association that fails to communicate them on time.

3. Member associations are authorised to exceptionally register players outside a registration period in the following circumstances:

   a) A professional who has unilaterally terminated their contract with just cause, or whose contract has been unilaterally terminated without just cause by their club, may be registered outside a registration period. Upon receipt of the ITC request, the FIFA general secretariat shall expeditiously assess on a prima facie basis whether the unilateral termination occurred with or without just cause and permit or deny the registration accordingly. Such prima facie assessment is without prejudice to a decision of the Football Tribunal about the consequences of the termination of contract.

   b) A professional whose contract has naturally expired or has been mutually terminated prior to the end of the registration period applicable to the engaging club may be registered with the engaging club also after expiry of the respective registration period.

   c) A female player may be registered outside a registration period to temporarily replace another female player that has exercised her rights linked to pregnancy, adoption or family leave. The period of the contract of the temporary replacement player shall, unless otherwise mutually agreed, be from the date of registration until the day prior to the start of the first registration period after the return of the female player that has taken the relevant leave.

   d) A female player may be registered outside a registration period upon completion of her family, adoption or maternity leave or recovery related to her pregnancy (cf. article 18 paragraph 7 and article 18quater) subject to her contractual status.

e) A professional whose contract has expired or been terminated as a result of COVID-19 has the right to be registered outside a registration period, regardless of the date of expiry or termination.

f) Competition Regulations for the FIFA Club World Cup™ may establish further exceptions.

4. Whenever allowing a registration outside a registration period, member associations shall pay due consideration to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may define the criterion of sporting integrity in more detail.

5. In cases where the FIFA general secretariat allows a registration outside a registration period based on the exception in paragraph 3 a), any domestic regulatory provision or contractual agreement requiring the consent of the former club to register the player shall be null and void. In cases where a player's employment contract has expired, consent of the former club shall never be required to register the player.

6. With respect to the exceptions in paragraph 3 c) and d), associations shall adapt their domestic rules accordingly. However, priority shall be given to ensuring that a female player that has returned from maternity leave is eligible to participate in domestic competitions, as well as the sporting integrity of the relevant competition.

7. Players may only be registered, subject to the exceptions provided for in article 6 paragraph 3, upon submission through the electronic player registration system of a valid application from the club to the relevant association during a registration period.

8. The provisions concerning registration periods do not apply to competitions in which only amateurs participate. The relevant association shall specify the periods when players may be registered for such competitions provided that due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition.

7. PLAYER PASSPORT

1. For entitlements related to training rewards that are not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, existing obligations related to player passports shall remain unchanged, i.e. the registering association is obliged to provide the club with which the player is registered with a player passport containing the relevant details of the player. The player passport shall indicate the club(s) with which the player has been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday.

2. For entitlements related to training rewards that are governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, an EPP shall be generated and used as set forth below.

3. The Electronic Player Passport is an electronic document containing consolidated registration information of a player throughout their career, including the relevant member association, their status (amateur or professional), the type of registration (permanent or loan), and the club(s) (including training category) with which they have been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday. It shall be generated in circumstances as defined in the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

4. For the purpose of creating the EPP, member associations shall ensure that reliable, accurate and complete player registration information is made available electronically to FIFA through the FIFA Connect Interface, whenever requested by FIFA through such interface.

8. APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

The application for registration of a professional must be submitted together with a copy of the player's contract. The relevant decision-making body has discretion to take account of any contractual amendments or additional agreements that have not been duly submitted to it.

9. INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATE

1. Players registered at one association may only be registered at a new association once the latter has received an International Transfer Certificate (hereinafter: ITC) from the former association. The ITC shall be issued free of charge without any conditions or time limit. Any provisions to the contrary shall be null and void. The association issuing the ITC shall lodge a copy with FIFA. The administrative procedures for issuing the ITC are contained in Annexe 3 of these regulations.

2. Associations are forbidden from requesting that an ITC be issued in order to allow a player to participate in friendly matches in the context of a trial.

3. Except for cases governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, the new association shall inform the association(s) of the club(s) that trained and educated the player between the ages of 12 and 23 (cf. article 7) in writing of the registration of the player as a professional after receipt of the ITC.

4. An ITC is not required for a player under the age of ten years.

10. LOAN OF PROFESSIONALS

1. A professional may be loaned for a predetermined period by their club ("former club") to another club ("new club") on the basis of a written agreement. The following rules apply to the loan of professionals:

   a) The clubs shall conclude a written agreement defining the terms of the loan ("loan agreement"), in particular, its duration and financial conditions. The professional may also be a party to the loan agreement.

   b) The professional and the new club shall sign a contract covering the duration of the loan. This contract shall acknowledge that the professional is on loan.

   c) During the agreed duration of the loan, the contractual obligations between the professional and the former club shall be suspended unless otherwise agreed in writing.

   d) Subject to article 5 paragraph 4, a loan agreement may be concluded for a minimum duration of the time between two registration periods and a maximum duration of one year. The end date shall fall within one of the registration periods of the association of the former club. Any clause referring to a longer duration of the loan shall not be recognised.

   e) A loan agreement may be extended, subject to the above minimum and maximum durations, with the written consent of the professional.

   f) A new club is prohibited from sub-loaning or permanently transferring a professional to a third club.

2. Loan agreements with a duration of more than one year which predate the entering into force of these regulations may continue until their contractual expiration. They may be extended only in accordance with article 10 paragraph 1 e).

3. The loan of a professional is subject to the administrative procedures provided in articles 5-9 and Annexe 3.

4. Where the contract between a professional and the new club has been unilaterally terminated prior to the completion of the duration agreed in the loan agreement:

   a) the professional has the right to return to the former club;

   b) the professional must immediately inform the former club of the premature termination and whether they intend to return to the former club;

   c) if the professional decides to return to the former club, the former club must reintegrate the professional immediately. The contract which was suspended during the loan shall be reinstated from the date of reintegration, and in particular, the former club must remunerate the professional;

d) rules governing registration at national level must be determined by the association in agreement with domestic football stakeholders.

5. The terms of article 10 paragraph 4 are without prejudice to:

a) the operation of article 17 relating to termination of the contract between the professional and the new club;

b) the operation of article 17, should the former club fail to reintegrate the professional immediately; and

c) the right of the former club to seek compensation resulting from its obligation to reintegrate the professional. The minimum compensation payable shall be the amount the former club must pay the professional between the date of reintegration and the original completion date of the loan agreement.

6. The following limitations apply from 1 July 2024:

a) a club may have a maximum of six professionals loaned out at any given time during a season;

b) a club may have a maximum of six professionals loaned in at any given time during a season.

7. The loan of a professional will be exempt from the above limitations if:

a) the loan occurs before the end of the season of the former club in which the professional turns 21; and

b) the professional is a club-trained player with the former club.

8. The following restrictions apply irrespective of age or club-trained status:

a) a club may have a maximum of three professionals loaned out to a specific club at any given time during a season;

b) a club may have a maximum of three professionals loaned in from a specific club at any given time during a season.

9. The following transition period shall apply for the limitations in article 10 paragraph 6:

a) from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023: a maximum of eight professionals for each limitation;

b) from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024: a maximum of seven professionals for each limitation.

11. UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

Any player not registered at an association who appears for a club in any official match shall be considered to have played illegitimately. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and/or the club. The right to impose such sanctions lies in principle with the association or the organiser of the competition concerned.

12. ENFORCEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

1. Any disciplinary sanction of up to four matches or up to three months that has been imposed on a player by the former association but not yet (entirely) served by the time of the transfer shall be enforced by the new association at which the player has been registered in order for the sanction to be served at domestic level. When issuing the ITC, the former association shall notify the new association via TMS of any such disciplinary sanction that has yet to be (entirely) served.

2. Any disciplinary sanction of more than four matches or more than three months that has not yet been (entirely) served by a player shall be enforced by the new association that has registered the player only if the FIFA Disciplinary Committee has extended the disciplinary sanction to have worldwide effect. Additionally, when issuing the ITC, the former association shall notify the new association via TMS of any such pending disciplinary sanction.

12BIS OVERDUE PAYABLES

1. Clubs are required to comply with their financial obligations towards players and other clubs as per the terms stipulated in the contracts signed with their professional players and in the transfer agreements.

2. Any club found to have delayed a due payment for more than 30 days without a *prima facie* contractual basis may be sanctioned in accordance with paragraph 4 below.

3. In order for a club to be considered to have overdue payables in the sense of the present article, the creditor (player or club) must have put the debtor club in default in writing and have granted a deadline of at least ten days for the debtor club to comply with its financial obligation(s).

4. Within the scope of its jurisdiction (cf. article 22 to 24), the Football Tribunal may impose the following sanctions:

   a) a warning;

   b) a reprimand;

   c) a fine;

   d) a ban from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, for one or two entire and consecutive registration periods.

5. The sanctions provided for in paragraph 4 above may be applied cumulatively.

6. A repeated offence will be considered an aggravating circumstance and lead to a more severe penalty.

7. The terms of the present article are without prejudice to the application of further measures in accordance with article 17 in the event of unilateral termination of the contractual relationship.

04.

Maintenance of contractual stability between professionals and clubs

13. RESPECT OF CONTRACT

A contract between a professional and a club may only be terminated upon expiry of the term of the contract or by mutual agreement.

14. TERMINATING A CONTRACT WITH JUST CAUSE

1. A contract may be terminated by either party without consequences of any kind (either payment of compensation or imposition of sporting sanctions) where there is just cause. In general, just cause shall exist in any circumstance in which a party can no longer reasonably and in good faith be expected to continue a contractual relationship.

2. Any abusive conduct of a party aiming at forcing the counterparty to terminate or change the terms of the contract shall entitle the counterparty (a player or a club) to terminate the contract with just cause.

3. In particular, no club may:

   a) abuse the registration or deregistration of a player as a means of pressure;

   b) separate a player in an abusive manner from training with the team;

   c) withhold a passport from a player;

   d) unduly evict a player from their home.

14BIS TERMINATING A CONTRACT WITH JUST CAUSE FOR OUTSTANDING SALARIES

1. In the case of a club unlawfully failing to pay a player at least two monthly salaries on their due dates, the player will be deemed to have a just cause to terminate his contract, provided that he has put the debtor club in default in writing and has granted a deadline of at least 15 days for the debtor club to fully comply with its financial obligation(s). Alternative provisions in contracts existing at the time of this provision coming into force may be considered.

2. For any salaries of a player which are not due on a monthly basis, the pro-rata value corresponding to two months shall be considered. Delayed payment of an amount which is equal to at least two months shall also be deemed a just cause for the player to terminate his contract, subject to him complying with the notice of termination as per paragraph 1 above.

3. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may deviate from the principles stipulated in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. The terms of such an agreement shall prevail.

15. TERMINATING A CONTRACT WITH SPORTING JUST CAUSE

An established professional who has, in the course of the season, appeared in fewer than ten per cent of the official matches in which his club has been involved may terminate his contract prematurely on the ground of sporting just cause. Due consideration shall be given to the player's circumstances in the appraisal of such cases. The existence of sporting just cause shall be established on a case-by-case basis. In such a case, sporting sanctions shall not be imposed, though compensation may be payable. A professional may only terminate his contract on this basis in the 15 days following the last official match of the season of the club with which he is registered.

16. RESTRICTION ON TERMINATING A CONTRACT DURING THE COMPETITION PERIOD

A contract cannot be unilaterally terminated during a competition period.

17. CONSEQUENCES OF A BREACH OF CONTRACT

Agreed compensation

1. Parties are free to contractually agree on the financial compensation payable in the event of a breach of contract (the "agreed compensation"), subject to the following:

   a) The agreement does not have to be reciprocal.

   b) The Football Tribunal shall reduce an agreed compensation with restraint and only if it is excessively high. It shall disregard an agreed compensation if it is manifestly unfair.

   c) For players earning a yearly fixed remuneration of up to USD 150,000 (or its equivalent), any agreement on the financial compensation payable to the player must, as a minimum, grant the player a payment equal to the residual value of the contract that was breached, unless exceptional circumstances justify a lower amount.

Calculation of compensation

2. Absent an agreed compensation, a party that suffers from a breach of contract is entitled to full compensation for the damage caused by the breach. Compensation shall be calculated taking into account the damage suffered, having regard to the individual circumstances of each case and subject to the criteria below.

3. A player shall be awarded full compensation for the damage caused by the breach. Depending on the circumstances of each case, this damage shall take into account, in particular, the residual value of the contract that was breached, and any other damage caused.

4. A club shall be awarded full compensation for the damage caused by the breach. Depending on the circumstances of each case, this damage shall take into account, in particular, the value of the services of the player, a lost transfer fee or lost transfer value, replacement costs, and any other damage caused.

5. As a principle, a player and a club shall always be awarded, as a minimum, an amount equal to the residual value of the contract that was breached. Only in extraordinary circumstances can the amount of compensation awarded be lower than the residual value.

Penalty payment

6. In the case of abusive conduct, a penalty payment of up to six monthly salaries shall be awarded to a player or a club.

Mitigation of damage

7. The party suffering damage from a breach of contract has the duty to mitigate their damage, subject to paragraph 5 above.

Collective bargaining agreements

8. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may deviate from the principles stipulated in paragraphs 2-7 above. The terms of such an agreement shall prevail.

Joint and several liability

9. The new club of the player shall be held jointly and severally liable to pay compensation if, having regard to the individual facts and circumstances of each case, it can be established on a balance of probabilities that the new club induced the player to breach the contract.

Sporting sanctions against clubs

10. A sporting sanction shall be imposed on any club found to be in breach of contract during the protected period within a recidivism period of two years as follows:

    a) For a first breach of contract: a warning and a fine.

    b) For a second breach of contract: a limitation preventing the club from registering more than five new players, either nationally or internationally, for one registration period, and a fine.

c) For a third breach of contract: a ban from registering any new players for one entire registration period, either nationally or internationally, and a fine.

d) For a fourth breach of contract: a ban from registering any new players for two entire and consecutive registration periods, either nationally or internationally, and a fine.

e) For any further breach of contract, the Football Tribunal may impose additional sanctions at its discretion.

f) In case of aggravating circumstances, the sanctions foreseen in c) or d) above can be imposed directly.

If, having regard to the individual facts and circumstances of each case, it can be established on the balance of probabilities that the new club induced a player to breach a contract during the protected period, a ban from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, for two entire and consecutive registration periods, shall be imposed on the new club.

Where a limitation or ban from registering new players applies, the club shall be able to register new players, either nationally or internationally, only as of the next registration period following the complete serving of the relevant sporting sanction. In particular, it may not make use of the exceptions stipulated in article 6 paragraph 3 of these regulations.

Presumption of inducement

11. For the purposes of paragraphs 9 and 10 above, if the player signs a new contract within 45 days of a breach of contract by the player, it shall be presumed that the new club induced the player to breach the contract. This presumption can be rebutted if the new club can demonstrate, to the comfortable satisfaction of the Football Tribunal, that it did not induce the player to breach the contract.

Sporting sanctions against players

12. A sporting sanction shall be imposed on any player found to be in breach of contract during the protected period. This sanction shall be a four-month restriction on playing in official matches, and it shall take effect immediately once the player has been notified of the relevant decision. In the case of aggravating circumstances, the restriction shall last six months.

The sporting sanction shall remain suspended in the period between the last official match of the season and the first official match of the next season, in both cases including national cups and international championships for clubs.

This suspension of sporting sanctions shall, however, not be applicable if the player is an established member of the representative team of the association they are eligible to represent, and the association concerned is participating in the final competition of an international tournament in the period between the last official match of the season and the first official match of the next season.

Training compensation

13. Payment of compensation for breach of contract is without prejudice to the provisions of article 20 and Annexe 4 of these regulations.

Non-assignment

14. Entitlement to compensation cannot be assigned to a third party.

18. SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO CONTRACTS BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS AND CLUBS

1. Any employment contract that is concluded following the provision of football agent services shall specify the football agent's name, their client, their FIFA licence number and their signature, in accordance with the FIFA Football Agent Regulations.

2. The minimum length of a contract shall be from its effective date until the end of the season, while the maximum length of a contract shall be five years. Contracts of any other length shall only be permitted if consistent with national laws. Subject to the exception below, players under the age of 18 may not sign a professional contract for a term longer than three years. Any clause referring to a longer period shall not be recognised.

   a) As an exception, and provided what follows below is not prohibited by national law or by a validly negotiated collective bargaining agreement at domestic level, where a player under the age of 18 has been registered at a club for 20 months or two consecutive competition periods (whichever is shorter) prior to signing their contract, the permissible term of the contract with that club shall be up to five years.

   b) In such event, and unless stipulated differently in a validly negotiated collective bargaining agreement at domestic level:

      – No club may sign more than five new contracts per season with players under the age of 18 for a term exceeding three years.

      – Any contract concluded as per this exception must respect the following concerning fixed remuneration:

         • In the 4th year of the contract, a minimum mandatory increase of 10% shall apply, increased by an additional 20% if the player makes ten or more appearances in official matches of the club's first team during the 3rd year of the contract.

         • In the 5th year of the contract, a mandatory increase of 20% shall apply if the player makes ten or more appearances in official matches of the club's first team during the 4th year of the contract.

For the purposes of this paragraph b), appearance means playing one full half, including extra time.

3. A club intending to conclude a contract with a professional must inform the player's current club in writing before entering into negotiations with him. A professional shall only be free to conclude a contract with another club if his contract with his present club has expired or is due to expire within six months. Any breach of this provision shall be subject to appropriate sanctions.

4. The validity of a contract may not be made subject to a successful medical examination and/or the grant of a work permit.

5. If a professional enters into more than one contract covering the same period, the provisions set forth in Chapter IV shall apply.

6. Contractual clauses granting the club additional time to pay to the professional amounts that have fallen due under the terms of the contract (so-called "grace periods") shall not be recognised. Grace periods contained in collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law shall, however, be legally binding and recognised. Contracts existing at the time of this provision coming into force shall not be affected by this prohibition.

7. Female players are entitled to maternity, adoption and family leave during the term of their contract, paid at the equivalent of two thirds of their contracted salary. Where a validly negotiated collective bargaining agreement contains provisions related to maternity, adoption and/or family leave, the respective provisions of the collective bargaining agreement shall prevail. Where no collective bargaining agreement exists, but where more favourable conditions are stipulated pursuant to national law, these more favourable conditions shall prevail.

05.

Third-party influence and ownership of players' economic rights

18BIS THIRD-PARTY INFLUENCE ON CLUBS

1. No club shall enter into a contract which enables the counter club/counter clubs, and vice versa, or any third party to acquire the ability to influence in employment and transfer-related matters its independence, its policies or the performance of its teams.

2. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs that do not observe the obligations set out in this article.

18TER THIRD-PARTY OWNERSHIP OF PLAYERS' ECONOMIC RIGHTS

1. No club or player shall enter into an agreement with a third party whereby a third party is being entitled to participate, either in full or in part, in compensation payable in relation to the future transfer of a player from one club to another, or is being assigned any rights in relation to a future transfer or transfer compensation.

2. The interdiction as per paragraph 1 comes into force on 1 May 2015.

3. Agreements covered by paragraph 1 which predate 1 May 2015 may continue to be in place until their contractual expiration. However, their duration may not be extended.

4. The validity of any agreement covered by paragraph 1 signed between 1 January 2015 and 30 April 2015 may not have a contractual duration of more than one year beyond the effective date.

5. By the end of April 2015, all existing agreements covered by paragraph 1 need to be recorded within TMS. All clubs that have signed such agreements are required to upload them in their entirety, including possible annexes or amendments, in TMS, specifying the details of the third party concerned, the full name of the player as well as the duration of the agreement.

6. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs or players that do not observe the obligations set out in this article.

06.

Special provisions relating to female players

18QUATER SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO PREGNANCY, ADOPTION AND FAMILY LEAVE

Validity of an employment contract

1. The validity of a contract may not be made subject to the taking of, or the result of, a pregnancy test, the player being or becoming pregnant during its term, being on maternity, adoption or family leave, or utilising rights related to maternity, adoption or family leave in general.

Terminating a contract without just cause and consequences

2. If a club unilaterally terminates a contract on the grounds of a player refusing to take a pregnancy test, being or becoming pregnant, being on maternity, adoption or family leave, or utilising rights related to maternity, adoption or family leave in general, the club will be deemed to have terminated the contract without just cause. It shall be presumed, unless proven to the contrary, that the unilateral termination of a contract by a club during a pregnancy or maternity, adoption or family leave occurred as a result of a player being or becoming pregnant, adopting a child or utilising rights related to family leave.

3. Where a contract has been terminated on the grounds stipulated above:

   a) Compensation due to a player shall be determined according to the principles enshrined in article 17 of these regulations. However, the player shall in all cases be entitled to a penalty payment corresponding to six monthly salaries of the prematurely terminated contract. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may deviate from these principles. The terms of such an agreement shall prevail.

   b) In addition to the obligation to pay compensation, sporting sanctions shall be imposed on any club found to have unilaterally terminated a contract on the grounds of a player being or becoming pregnant, being on maternity, adoption or family leave, or utilising rights related to maternity, adoption or family leave in general. The club shall be banned from registering any new female players, either nationally or internationally, for two entire and consecutive registration periods. The club shall be able to register new players, either nationally or internationally, only as of the next registration period following the complete serving of the relevant sporting sanction. In particular, it may not make use of the exception and measures stipulated in article 6 paragraph 3 c) of these regulations.

   c) The sanction provided for in b) above may be applied cumulatively with a fine.

Rights relating to pregnancy, adoption and family leave

4. Where a player becomes pregnant during the term of her contract, the following shall apply:

   a) The player has the right to continue providing sporting services to her club (i.e. playing and training). The club has an obligation to respect the decision and formalise a plan for her continued sporting participation in a safe manner, prioritising her health and that of the unborn child. The player shall be entitled to receive her full remuneration, until such time that she utilises maternity leave.

   b) Should the player deem that it is not safe for her to continue providing sporting services, or should she choose not to exercise her right to continue providing sporting services, the club shall offer the player the possibility to provide employment services in an alternative manner. If she renders employment services in an alternative manner, or if the club is unable to offer alternative employment services that can reasonably be expected in the context of the ongoing contract, the player shall be entitled to receive her full remuneration, until such time that she utilises her maternity leave.

   c) If, for medical reasons related to a pregnancy, a player is unable to provide sporting or employment services in an alternative manner, then the player is entitled to medical leave, subject to the production of a valid medical certificate issued by her personal gynaecologist or specialist medical practitioner. The player shall be entitled to full remuneration, until such time that she utilises maternity leave.

5. A pregnant player, adoptive parent or a player utilising rights related to family leave has the right, during the term of her contract, to:

   a) independently determine the commencement date of her maternity, adoption or family leave, taking into consideration the minimum periods provided (cf. Definitions). Any club that pressures or forces a player to take maternity, adoption or family leave at a specific time shall be sanctioned by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee;

   b) return to football activity after the completion of her maternity, adoption or family leave. For a player completing maternity leave, the club has an obligation to reintegrate her into footballing activity (cf. article 6 paragraph 3 d)), agree together with the player on a postpartum plan and provide adequate ongoing medical support.

   The player shall be entitled to receive her full remuneration following her return to football activity.

Breastfeeding

6. A player shall be provided the opportunity to breastfeed an infant and/or express breast milk whilst providing sporting services to her club. Clubs shall provide suitable facilities in accordance with applicable national legislation in the country of a club's domicile or a collective bargaining agreement. The player's reduced working hours for these reasons will be considered justified, without any reduction in salary.

18QUINQUIES MENSTRUAL HEALTH

Clubs shall at all times respect the needs of female players related to their menstrual cycle and menstrual health. Subject to the production of a valid medical certificate issued by her personal gynaecologist or specialist medical practitioner, a female player shall be entitled to be absent from training or matches whenever her menstrual health so requires. The player shall be entitled to receive her full remuneration when exercising these rights related to menstrual health.

07.

International transfers involving minors

19. PROTECTION OF MINORS

1. International transfers of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18.

2. The following five exceptions to this rule apply:

   a) The player's parents move to the country in which the new club is located for reasons not linked to football.

   b) The player is aged between 16 and 18 and:

      i. the transfer takes place within the territory of the European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA); or

      ii. the transfer takes place between two associations within the same country.

      The new club must fulfil the following minimum obligations:

      iii. It shall provide the player with an adequate football education and/or training in line with the highest national standards (cf. Annexe 4, article 4).

      iv. It shall guarantee the player an academic and/or school and/or vocational education and/or training, in addition to his football education and/or training, which will allow the player to pursue a career other than football should he cease to play professional football.

      v. It shall make all necessary arrangements to ensure that the player is looked after in the best possible way (optimum living standards with a host family or in club accommodation, appointment of a mentor at the club, etc.).

      vi. It shall, on registration of such a player, provide the relevant association with proof that it is complying with the aforementioned obligations.

   c) The player lives no further than 50km from a national border and the club with which the player wishes to be registered in the neighbouring association is also within 50km of that border. The maximum distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters shall be 100km. In such cases, the player must continue to live at home and the two associations concerned must give their explicit consent.

   d) The player is at least temporarily permitted to reside in the country of arrival and/or is recognised by the competent state authorities as vulnerable and requiring state protection by the country of arrival after fleeing their country of origin (or previous country of domicile) for humanitarian reasons, without their parents, due to either of the following:

      i. their life or freedom being threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, belonging to a particular social group, or political opinion; or

      ii. any other circumstances where their survival is seriously threatened.

If the minor has been formally recognised as a refugee or a protected person, they may be registered with a professional club or purely amateur club. There are no restrictions on any subsequent national transfer of the minor prior to their turning 18.

If the minor has been formally recognised as asylum seeker or has been recognised by the competent state authorities as vulnerable in accordance with article 19 paragraph d) above, they may only be registered with a purely amateur club. They may be the subject of a subsequent national transfer, but are not permitted to register with a professional club until they turn 18.

e) The player is a student and moves without his parents to another country temporarily for academic reasons in order to undertake an exchange programme. The duration of the player's registration for the new club until he turns 18 or until the end of the academic or school programme cannot exceed one year. The player's new club may only be a purely amateur club without a professional team or without a legal, financial or de facto link to a professional club.

3. The provisions of this article shall also apply to any player who has never previously been registered with a club, is not a national of the country where the association at which he wishes to be registered for the first time is domiciled, and has not lived continuously for at least the last five years in said country.

4. Where a minor player is at least ten years old, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal must approve:

   a) their international transfer according to paragraph 2;

   b) their first registration according to paragraph 3; or

   c) their first registration, where the minor player is not a national of the country where the association at which they wish to be registered is domiciled and has lived continuously for at least the last five years in that country.

5. Approval pursuant to paragraph 4 is required prior to any request for an ITC and/or a first registration by an association.

6. Where a minor player is under ten years old, it is the responsibility of the association that intends to register the player – as per the request of its affiliated club – to verify and ensure that the circumstances of the player fall, beyond all doubt, under one of the exceptions provided for in paragraph 2, 3, or 4 c). Such verification shall be made prior to any registration.

7. An association may apply to the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal for a limited minor exemption ("LME").

   a) An LME, if granted, relieves an association, under specific terms and conditions and solely for amateur minor players who are to be registered with purely amateur clubs, from the application obligations set out in paragraph 4.

b) In such a case, prior to any request for an ITC and/or a first registration, the association concerned is required to verify and ensure that the circumstances of the player fall, beyond all doubt, under one of the exceptions provided for in paragraph 2, 3, or 4 c).

8. A club that has registered a minor player following a national transfer, international transfer or first registration shall:

   - owe a duty of care to the minor;
   - take any reasonable measures to protect and safeguard the minor from any possible abuse; and
   - ensure that the minor is provided with an opportunity to obtain an academic education (according to the highest national standards) that allows them to pursue a career other than football.

9. The procedures for applying to the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal for the matters described in this article are contained in the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal.

19BIS REGISTRATION AND REPORTING OF MINORS AT ACADEMIES

1. Clubs that operate an academy (within their own structure and/or through a separate entity with legal, financial or de facto links to the club) are obliged to report all minors who attend the academy (registered with the club or not) to the association with which the club concerned is affiliated. When an academy is operated outside the territory of the club's respective association, the reporting shall be made by the club to the association on whose territory the academy operates.

2. Each association shall request all academies without legal, financial or de facto links to a club (private academies) operating on its territory to report all minors who attend the academy to the association. Each association shall report any wrongdoing occurring at private academies of which it becomes aware to the relevant authorities, taking all necessary measures to protect and safeguard minors from potential abuse.

3. Each association shall keep a register of players, comprising at least the following information: full name (first, middle and last names), nationality, date of birth, country of origin (or previous country of domicile), agent (if any) and club operating the respective academy, regarding the minors who have been reported to it by clubs or academies.

4. A club that wishes to collaborate with a private academy shall:

   i. report such collaboration to the association with which the club is affiliated;

   ii. ensure that the private academy reports its players to the association where the academy operates;

   iii. before entering into a contract with a private academy, ensure that the private academy takes proper measures to protect and safeguard minors; and

   iv. report any wrongdoing of which it may become aware to the relevant authorities, taking all necessary measures to protect and safeguard minors from potential abuse.

5. Through the act of reporting, academies and players undertake to practise football in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, and to respect and promote the ethical principles of organised football.

6. Associations shall report to FIFA each minor that attends an academy within the territory they govern where the minor:

   i. is not a national of the country where the association is domiciled; and

   ii. has not lived continuously for at least the last five years in that country.

   Such reports shall contain a *prima facie* assessment of whether the minor meets the requirements of article 19.

7. Any violations of this provision will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

19TER TRIALS

General conditions for all triallists

1. A club may invite a player to trial with it for a defined period of time. A professional (within the meaning of art. 2 herein) may only trial with another club with the express written permission of their current club.

2. The club and the invited player shall agree on the conditions of the trial (e.g. payment for accommodation, travel, meals and daily expenses) on the FIFA Trial Form before the trial commences. A complete and duly signed FIFA Trial Form must be lodged in FIFA TMS by the club at the latest ten days before the trial commences.

3. During a trial, the club owes a duty of care to the triallist. In particular, the club shall provide the triallist with, and cover the cost of, any necessary medical treatment for injuries sustained while performing activities within the trial.

4. The maximum duration of a trial for players aged 21 and below shall be eight weeks, consecutive or non-consecutive, per club in any one season. The maximum duration of a trial for players over the age of 21 shall be three weeks, consecutive or non-consecutive, per club in any one season.

5. A player on trial is only permitted to participate in friendly matches and any activity that does not fall within the scope of organised football. Such friendly matches must take place during the duration of the relevant trial.

6. Any person subject to the FIFA Statutes is prohibited from requesting, offering and/or receiving any payment whatsoever connected to a trial, without prejudice to the agreement between the club and the triallist on the conditions of the trial, according to paragraph 2 above.

7. Clubs having a player on trial are not entitled to receive training rewards for the period during which a player is on trial with that club.

Conditions specific to minor triallists

8. In addition to the general conditions, a minor may only trial with a club provided that:

   a) the date the trial period begins occurs during the season of:

      i. the minor triallist's 16th birthday; or

      ii. the minor triallist's 15th birthday if both the minor's and the club's domicile are located in Europe;

   b) the club obtains express written permission from the minor triallist's parents;

   c) the club designates an employee within the club to be the point of contact for the minor triallist;

   d) the club ensures that the minor triallist is provided with optimum accommodation and living standards and adequate coverage of expenses; and

   e) for amateur minor players below the age of 16, the current club of the minor is informed of the trial and provided with the complete and duly signed FIFA Trial Form.

9. A minor may only attend two trials per calendar year, each of them subject to the maximum duration stipulated in article 19ter paragraph 4.

Other matters

10. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level, in accordance with national law, may deviate from the minimum standards stipulated above and/or establish additional conditions when a player may leave his current club to attend a trial.

Sanctions

11. Any failure to fulfil a condition agreed in a FIFA Trial Form or to upload a complete and duly signed FIFA Trial Form and/or any violation of this provision will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code. In such proceedings, both the triallist and the club concerned will have the procedural status of a party before the Disciplinary Committee.

08.

Training compensation and solidarity mechanism

20. TRAINING COMPENSATION

Training compensation shall be paid to a player's training club(s): (1) when a player is registered for the first time as a professional, and (2) each time a professional is transferred until the end of the calendar year of his 23rd birthday. The obligation to pay training compensation arises whether the transfer takes place during or at the end of the player's contract. The provisions concerning training compensation are set out in Annexe 4 of these regulations. The principles of training compensation shall not apply to women's football.

21. SOLIDARITY MECHANISM

If a professional is transferred before the expiry of his contract, any club that has contributed to his education and training shall receive a proportion of the compensation paid to his former club (solidarity contribution). The provisions concerning solidarity contributions are set out in Annexe 5 of these regulations.

09.

Player Participation in Transfer Fees

21BIS PLAYER PARTICIPATION IN TRANSFER FEES

1. Clubs and players are free to agree on a player's participation in a transfer fee paid for that same player.

2. In the context of permanent international transfers, the following applies mandatorily to players earning less than a yearly fixed remuneration of EUR 150,000 (or its equivalent) with the releasing club during the season in which the international transfer occurs:

   a) The releasing club must pay an amount equal to 5% of the total fixed transfer fee effectively received directly to the player.

   b) The player can partially waive their participation. Such a waiver may only apply to the portion of the participation of 5% exceeding the higher of (i) the player's fixed remuneration for the last year of contract with the releasing club or (ii) 2.5% of the total fixed transfer compensation. Any waiver that would result in a lower participation shall be disregarded for the proportion exceeding these limits.

   c) If the fixed transfer fee is paid in instalments, the player's participation shall be paid on a pro rata basis following receipt of the instalments by the releasing club. In any event, the participation shall be subject to tax, social security or other mandatory deductions.

3. No entitlement to participate shall exist under this article where:

   a) this is either prohibited by national law, by applicable domestic regulations in force when these regulations are adopted, or by a collective bargaining agreement validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level, or

   b) a national law or such a collective bargaining agreement establishes a similar concept, under which a player is entitled to participate in the transfer fee, irrespective of whether such entitlement to participate would be payable by either the releasing or the engaging club according to their national law or such a collective bargaining agreement.

10.

Jurisdiction

22. COMPETENCE OF FIFA

1. Without prejudice to the right of any player, coach, association, or club to seek redress before a civil court for employment-related disputes, FIFA is competent to hear:

a) disputes between clubs and players in relation to the maintenance of contractual stability (articles 13-18) where there has been an ITC request and a claim from an interested party in relation to said ITC request, in particular regarding the issue of the ITC, sporting sanctions or compensation for breach of contract;

b) employment-related disputes between a club and a player of an international dimension; the aforementioned parties may, however, explicitly opt in writing for such disputes to be decided by a national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC), or a national dispute resolution body operating under an equivalent name, that has been officially recognised by FIFA in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles. Any such jurisdiction clause must be exclusive and included either directly in the contract or in a collective bargaining agreement applicable to the parties;

c) employment-related disputes between a club or an association and a coach of an international dimension; clubs and coaches may, however, explicitly opt in writing for disputes between them to be decided by an NDRC, or a national dispute resolution body operating under an equivalent name, that has been officially recognised by FIFA in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles. Any such jurisdiction clause must be exclusive and included either directly in the contract or in a collective bargaining agreement applicable to the parties;

d) disputes relating to training compensation (article 20) and the solidarity mechanism (article 21) between clubs belonging to different associations, that are not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations;

e) disputes relating to training compensation (article 20) and the solidarity mechanism (article 21) between clubs belonging to the same association provided that the transfer of a player at the basis of the dispute occurs between clubs belonging to different associations, that are not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations;

f) disputes relating to the participation of a player in a transfer fee (art. 21bis), provided that the transfer to which the dispute relates is made between clubs belonging to different associations;

g) matters of legal or factual complexity in an EPP review process in accordance with article 10 paragraph 3 of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations and disputes between clubs in accordance with article 18 paragraph 2 of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations; and

h) disputes between clubs belonging to different associations that do not fall within the cases provided for in a), d), e) and f).

2. FIFA is competent to decide regulatory applications made pursuant to these regulations or any other FIFA regulations.

23. FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL

1. The Dispute Resolution Chamber of the Football Tribunal shall adjudicate on any of the cases described in article 22 paragraphs 1 a), b), d), e) and f).

2. The Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal shall adjudicate on any of the cases described in article 22 paragraphs 1 c) and g), and 2.

3. The Football Tribunal shall not hear any case subject to these regulations if more than two years have elapsed since the event giving rise to the dispute. Application of this time limit shall be examined *ex officio* in each individual case.

4. The procedures for lodging claims in relation to the disputes described in article 22 are contained in the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal.

5. In cases of overdue payables or outstanding remuneration, the Football Tribunal shall award standard interest for late payment at the rate of 8% per annum, subject to a valid request from the claimant and without prejudice to a contractually agreed interest rate. The Football Tribunal shall have discretion to apply a lower interest rate if justified by the exceptional circumstances of a case.

24. CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO PAY RELEVANT AMOUNTS IN DUE TIME

1. When:

   a) the Football Tribunal orders a party (a club or a player) to pay another party (a club or a player), the consequences of the failure to pay the relevant amounts in due time shall be included in the decision;

   b) parties to a dispute accept (or do not reject) a proposal made by the FIFA general secretariat pursuant to the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal, the consequences of the failure to pay the relevant amounts in due time shall be included in the confirmation letter.

2. Such consequences shall be the following:

   a) Against a club: a ban from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, up until the due amounts are paid. The overall maximum duration of the registration ban shall be of up to three entire and consecutive registration periods, subject to paragraph 7 below;

b) Against a player: a restriction on playing in official matches up until the due amounts are paid. The overall maximum duration of the restriction shall be of up to six months on playing in official matches, subject to paragraph 7 below.

3. Such consequences may be excluded where the Football Tribunal has:

a) imposed a sporting sanction on the basis of article 12bis, 17 or 18quater in the same case; or

b) been informed that the debtor club was subject to an insolvency-related event pursuant to the relevant national law and is legally unable to comply with an order.

4. Where such consequences are applied, the debtor must pay the full amount due (including all applicable interest) to the creditor within 45 days of notification of the decision.

5. The 45-day time limit shall commence from notification of the decision or confirmation letter.

a) The time limit is paused by a valid request for the grounds of the decision. Following notification of the grounds of the decision, the time limit shall recommence.

b) The time limit is also paused by an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

6. The debtor shall make full payment (including all applicable interest) to the bank account provided by the creditor, as set out in the decision or confirmation letter.

7. Where the debtor fails to make full payment (including all applicable interest) within the time limit, and the decision has become final and binding:

a) the creditor may request that FIFA enforce the consequences;

b) upon receipt of such request, FIFA shall inform the debtor that the consequences shall apply;

c) the consequences shall apply immediately upon notification by FIFA, including, for the avoidance of doubt, if they are applied during an open registration period. In such cases, the remainder of that registration period shall be the first "entire" registration period for the purposes of paragraph 2 a);

d) the consequences may only be lifted in accordance with paragraph 8 below.

8. Where the consequences are enforced, the debtor must provide proof of payment to FIFA of the full amount (including all applicable interest), in order for them to be lifted.

a) Upon receipt of the proof of payment, FIFA shall immediately request that the creditor confirm receipt of full payment (including all applicable interest) within five days.

b) Upon receipt of confirmation from the creditor, or after expiry of the time limit in the case of no response, FIFA shall notify the parties that the consequences are lifted.

c) The consequences shall be lifted immediately upon notification by FIFA.

d) Notwithstanding the above, where full payment (including all applicable interest) has not been made, the consequences shall remain in force until their complete serving.

25. IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS AND CONFIRMATION LETTERS

1. The sporting successor of a debtor shall be considered the debtor and be subject to any decision or confirmation letter issued by the Football Tribunal. The criteria to assess whether an entity is the sporting successor of another entity are, among others, its headquarters, name, legal form, team colours, players, shareholders or stakeholders or ownership and the category of competition.

2. Where a debtor is instructed to pay a creditor a sum of money (outstanding amounts or compensation) by the Football Tribunal:

   a) payment is made when the debtor pays the full amount instructed (including any applicable interest) to the creditor;

   b) payment is not deemed to have been made where the debtor makes any unilateral deduction from the full amount instructed (including any applicable interest).

3. The following actions do not contravene a registration ban described in article 12bis, 17, 18quater or 24:

   a) the return from loan of a professional, solely where the loan agreement expires naturally;

   b) the extension of the loan of a professional, beyond the natural expiry of the loan agreement;

   c) the definitive engagement of a professional who was temporarily registered for the club directly prior to the registration ban being imposed;

   d) the registration of a professional who was already registered with the club as an amateur directly prior to the registration ban being imposed.

11.

Final provisions

26. TRANSITIONAL MEASURES

1. For all cases brought before the Football Tribunal for adjudication:

   a) These regulations apply to cases where the facts giving rise to the dispute arose after these regulations enter into force.

   b) Article 21bis and article 17 paragraph 1 of these regulations apply only to contracts concluded as of the date on which these regulations enter into force.

   c) All other cases shall be assessed according to the previous regulations.

2. Member associations shall amend their regulations in accordance with article 1 to ensure that they comply with these regulations and shall submit them to FIFA for approval.

27. MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

Any matters not provided for in these regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by the FIFA Council whose decisions are final.

28. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English, French or Spanish texts of these regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.

29. ENFORCEMENT

These regulations were approved by the Bureau of the Council on 10 June 2026 and come into force on 1 January 2027.

Annexes

ANNEXE 1

Release of players to association teams

1. PRINCIPLES FOR MEN'S FOOTBALL

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™, the FIFA Confederations Cup and 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 (subject to the temporary exceptions below), which is reserved for representative teams' activities. During any international window a maximum of two matches may be played by each representative team (subject to the temporary exceptions below), 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).

i. The international window of September-October as from 2026 shall consist of a period of 16 days, during which a maximum of four matches may be played by each representative team.

5. Representative teams shall play the pertinent matches within an international window on the territory of the same confederation, with the only exception of intercontinental 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 Council 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 the request of his club, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal may 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. In the event of a repeated violation of these provisions, at the request of his club, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal may decide to:

    a) issue a fine;

    b) further reduce the period of release;

    c) ban the association from calling up the player(s) for subsequent representative-team activities.

12. Competition Regulations for the FIFA Club World Cup™ may establish exceptions.

1BIS PRINCIPLES FOR WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

1. Clubs are obliged to release their registered players to the representative teams of their country for which the player is eligible to play on the basis of her nationality if they are called up by the association concerned. Any agreement between the 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 women's international match calendar (cf. paragraphs 3 and 4 below) as well as for the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament, the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations, subject to the relevant association being a member of the organising confederation, and the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament.

3. After consultation with the relevant stakeholders, FIFA publishes the women's international match calendar for a period of four years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph 4 below), as well as blocked periods for the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament and the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations, as well as for the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament. Following the publication of the women's international match calendar, only the specific dates for the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament and the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations, as well as the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament, will be added within the respective blocked periods. The final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament and the championships for the women's "A" representative teams of the confederations, as well as the final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament must be played within the respective stipulated blocked periods and confederations are required to notify FIFA of the dates, in writing, at the latest two years in advance of the respective championships for women's "A" representative teams or final-round tournaments.

4. There are two types of international windows, both of which are reserved for representative teams' activities:

   a) Type I is defined as a period of nine days starting on a Monday morning and ending on a Tuesday night the following week. During the type I 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 on any day as from Wednesday during the international window, provided that a minimum of two full calendar days are left between matches (e.g. Thursday/Sunday or Saturday/Tuesday).

   b) Type II is defined as a period of 12 days starting on a Tuesday morning and ending on Saturday night the following week. During the type II international window, a maximum of three matches may be played by each representative team. The pertinent matches can be scheduled on any day as from Thursday during the international window, provided that a minimum of two full calendar days are left between matches (e.g. Thursday/Sunday/Wednesday or Friday/Monday/Thursday).

5. It is not compulsory to release players outside an international window or outside the competitions listed in paragraph 2 above that are included in the women's international match calendar.

6. For the type I international window, 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 the type II international window, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than Tuesday morning and must start the travel back to their club no later than the next Sunday morning following the end of the international window.

   For the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than Monday morning before the opening match of the qualification tournament and must be released by the association on the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.

   For these qualification tournaments, the maximum total period of release (between leaving Monday morning and the day of release back to the club by the association) is 16 days. For the other final competitions in the sense of paragraphs 2 and 3 above, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team no later than the Monday morning of the week preceding the week when the relevant final competition starts, and must be released by the association on the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.

7. The clubs and associations concerned may agree a longer period of release or different arrangements with regard to paragraph 6 above.

8. 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.

9. If a player does not resume duty with her club by the deadline stipulated in this article, at the request of her club, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal may decide that the next time the player is called up by her 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.

10. In the event of a repeated violation of these provisions, at the request of her club, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal may decide to:

    a) issue a fine;

    b) further reduce the period of release;

    c) ban the association from calling up the player(s) for subsequent representative-team activities.

11. As of the final stages of the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament and the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations, the association(s) are encouraged to provide a family-friendly environment for female players with children.

1TER PRINCIPLES FOR FUTSAL

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 futsal international match calendar (cf. paragraphs 3 and 4 below) as well as for the final competitions of the FIFA Futsal World Cup and of 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 futsal international match calendar for the period of four years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph 4 below). Following the publication of the futsal international match calendar, only the final competitions of the FIFA Futsal World Cup and of the championships for "A" representative teams of the confederations will be added.

4. There are two types of international windows:

   a) Type I is defined as a period of ten days starting on a Monday morning and ending on Wednesday night the following week, which is reserved for representative teams' activities. During a Type I international window, a maximum of four matches may be played by each representative team, irrespective of whether these matches are qualifying matches for an international tournament or friendlies. Representative teams can play the maximum of four matches within an international window of Type I in no more than two confederations.

   b) Type II is defined as a period of four days starting on a Sunday morning and ending on Wednesday night the following week, which is reserved for representative teams' activities. During a Type II 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. Representative teams shall play the maximum of two matches within an international window of Type II on the territory of the same confederation.

5. It is not compulsory to release players outside an international window or outside the final competitions as per paragraph 2 above included in the futsal international match calendar.

6. For both types of international windows, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than the first morning of the window (i.e. Sunday or Monday, respectively), and must start the travel back to their club no later than the Thursday morning following the end of the international window. For a final competition of the championships for "A" representative teams of the confederations, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team in the morning 12 days before 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. For the FIFA Futsal World Cup, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team in the morning 14 days before the World Cup starts and must be released by the association in the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.

7. The clubs and associations concerned may agree a longer period of release or different arrangements with regard to paragraph 6 above.

8. 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.

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

   a) international windows: by two days;

   b) final competition of an international tournament: by five days.

10. In the event of a repeated violation of these provisions, at the request of his club, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal may decide to:

   a) issue a fine;

   b) further reduce the period of release;

   c) ban the association from calling up the player(s) for subsequent representative-team 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 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, temporarily 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. 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. INJURED PLAYERS

A player who due to injury or illness is unable to comply with a call-up from the association that he is eligible to represent on the basis of his nationality shall, if the association so requires, agree to undergo a medical examination by a doctor of that association's choice. If the player so wishes, such medical examination shall take place on the territory of the association at which he is registered.

5. RESTRICTIONS ON PLAYING

A player who has been called up by his association for one of its representative teams is, unless otherwise agreed by the relevant association, not entitled to play for the club with which he is registered during the period for which he has been released or should have been released pursuant to the provisions of this annexe, plus an additional period of five days.

6. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Violations of any of the provisions set forth in this annexe shall result in the imposition of disciplinary measures to be decided by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee based on the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

ANNEXE

Rules for the employment of coaches

02

1. SCOPE

1. This annexe lays down rules concerning contracts between coaches and professional clubs or associations.
2. This annexe applies to coaches that are:
   a) paid more for their coaching activity than the expenses they effectively incur; and
   b) employed by a professional club or an association.
3. This annexe applies equally to football and futsal coaches.
4. Each association shall include in its regulations appropriate means to protect contractual stability between coaches and clubs or associations, paying due respect to mandatory national law and collective bargaining agreements.
5. The following provisions relating to female players equally apply to female coaches: articles 18 paragraph 7 and 18quater [with the exception of paragraph 4 a) and b)].

2. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

1. A coach must have a written contract with a club or an association, executed on an individual basis.
2. A contract shall include the essential elements of an employment contract, such as *inter alia* the object of the contract, the rights and obligations of the parties, the status and occupation of the parties, the agreed remuneration, the duration of the contract and the signatures of each party.
3. Any employment contract that is concluded following the provision of football agent services shall specify the football agent's name, their client, their FIFA

licence number and their signature, in accordance with the FIFA Football Agent Regulations.

4. The validity of a contract may not be made subject to:

   a) the granting of a work or residence permit;

   b) the requirement to hold a specific coaching licence; or

   c) other requirements of an administrative or regulatory nature.

5. In their employment process, clubs and associations must act with due diligence in order to ensure that the coach meets the necessary requirements to be engaged (e.g. holding the required coaching licence) and performs their duties.

6. Contractual clauses granting the club or the association additional time to pay the coach amounts that have fallen due under the terms of the contract ("grace periods") shall not be recognised. Grace periods contained in collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law shall, however, be legally binding and recognised. Contracts existing at the time of this provision coming into force shall not be affected by this prohibition.

3. RESPECT OF CONTRACTS

A contract may only be terminated upon expiry of its term or by mutual agreement.

4. TERMINATING A CONTRACT WITH JUST CAUSE

1. A contract may be terminated by either party without the payment of compensation where there is just cause. In general, just cause shall exist in any circumstance in which a party can no longer reasonably and in good faith be expected to continue a contractual relationship.

2. Any abusive conduct of a party aimed at forcing the counterparty to terminate or change the terms of the contract shall entitle the counterparty to terminate the contract with just cause.

5. TERMINATING A CONTRACT WITH JUST CAUSE FOR OUTSTANDING SALARIES

1. In the case of a club or association unlawfully failing to pay a coach at least two monthly salaries on their due dates, the coach will be deemed to have a just cause to terminate their contract, provided that they have put the debtor club or association in default in writing and granted a deadline of at least 15 days for the debtor club or association to fully comply with its financial obligation(s).

Alternative provisions in contracts existing at the time of this provision coming into force may be considered.

2. For any salaries of a coach which are not due on a monthly basis, the pro-rata value corresponding to two months shall be considered. Delayed payment of an amount which is equal to at least two months shall also be deemed a just cause for the coach to terminate their contract, subject to compliance with the notice of termination as per paragraph 1 above.

3. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may deviate from the principles stipulated in paragraphs 1 and 2 above. The terms of such an agreement shall prevail.

6. CONSEQUENCES OF A BREACH OF CONTRACT

Agreed compensation

1. Parties are free to contractually agree on the financial compensation payable in the event of a breach of contract (the "agreed compensation"), subject to the following:

   a) The agreement does not have to be reciprocal.

   b) The Football Tribunal shall reduce an agreed compensation with restraint and only if it is excessively high. The Football Tribunal shall disregard an agreed compensation if it is manifestly unfair.

Calculation of compensation

2. Absent an agreed compensation, a party that suffers from a breach of contract is entitled to full compensation for the damage caused by the breach. Compensation shall be calculated taking into account the damage suffered, having regard to the individual circumstances of each case and subject to the criteria below.

Compensation due to a coach

3. If the coach did not sign a new contract following the termination of their previous contract, as a general rule, the compensation shall be equal to the residual value of the contract that was prematurely terminated.

4. If the coach signed a new contract by the time of the decision, the value of the new contract for the period corresponding to the time remaining on the prematurely terminated contract shall be deducted from the residual value of the contract that was terminated early (the "mitigated compensation"). Furthermore, and subject to the early termination of the contract being due to overdue payables, in addition to the mitigated compensation, the coach shall be entitled to an amount corresponding to three monthly salaries (the "additional compensation").

In case of egregious circumstances, the additional compensation may be increased up to a maximum of six monthly salaries. The overall compensation may never exceed the residual value of the prematurely terminated contract.

Compensation due to a club or association

5. A club or association shall be awarded full compensation for the damage caused by the breach. Depending on the circumstances of each case, this damage shall take into account, in particular, the value of the services of the coach.

Collective bargaining agreements

6. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may deviate from the principles stipulated in paragraphs 3-5 above. The terms of such an agreement shall prevail.

Non-assignment

7. Entitlement to compensation cannot be assigned to a third party.

7. OVERDUE PAYABLES

1. Clubs and associations are required to comply with their financial obligations towards coaches as per the terms stipulated in the contracts signed with their coaches.

2. Any club or association found to have delayed a due payment for more than 30 days without a *prima facie* contractual basis may be sanctioned in accordance with paragraph 4 below.

3. In order for a club or an association to be considered to have overdue payables in the sense of the present article, the creditor coach must have put the debtor club or association in default in writing and have granted a deadline of at least ten days for the debtor club or association to comply with its financial obligation(s).

4. Within the scope of its jurisdiction, the Football Tribunal may impose the following sanctions:

   a) a warning;

   b) a reprimand;

   c) a fine.

5. The sanctions provided for in paragraph 4 above may be applied cumulatively.

6. A repeated offence will be considered an aggravating circumstance and lead to a more severe penalty.

7. The terms of the present article are without prejudice to the payment of compensation in accordance with article 6 paragraph 2 above in the event of unilateral termination of the contractual relationship.

8. CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO PAY RELEVANT AMOUNTS IN DUE TIME

1. When:

   a) the Football Tribunal orders a party (a club, a coach or an association) to pay another party (a club, a coach or an association) a sum of money (outstanding amounts or compensation), the consequences of the failure to pay the relevant amounts in due time shall be included in the decision;

   b) parties to a dispute accept (or do not reject) a proposal made by the FIFA general secretariat pursuant to the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal, the consequences of the failure to pay the relevant amounts in due time shall be included in the confirmation letter.

2. Such consequences shall be the following:

   a) Against a club: a ban from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, up until the due amounts are paid. The overall maximum duration of the registration ban shall be of up to three entire and consecutive registration periods, subject to paragraph 7 below.

   b) Against an association: a restriction on receiving a percentage of development funding, up until the due amounts are paid, subject to paragraph 7 below.

   c) Against a coach: a restriction on any football-related activity up until the due amounts are paid. The overall maximum duration of the restriction shall be of up to six months, subject to paragraph 7 below.

3. Such consequences may be excluded where the Football Tribunal has been informed that the debtor club or association was subject to an insolvency-related event pursuant to the relevant national law and is legally unable to comply with an order.

4. Where such consequences are applied, the debtor must pay the full amount (including all applicable interest) due to the creditor within 45 days of notification of the decision.

5. The 45-day time limit shall commence from notification of the decision or confirmation letter.

   a) The time limit is paused by a valid request for grounds of the decision. Following notification of the grounds of the decision, the time limit shall recommence.

b) The time limit is also paused by an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

6. The debtor shall make full payment (including all applicable interest) to the bank account provided by the creditor, as set out in the decision or confirmation letter.

7. Where the debtor fails to make full payment (including all applicable interest) within the time limit, and the decision has become final and binding:

   a) the creditor may request that FIFA enforce the consequences;

   b) upon receipt of such request, FIFA shall inform the debtor that the consequences shall apply;

   c) the consequences shall apply immediately upon notification by FIFA, including, for the avoidance of doubt, if they are applied during an open registration period. In such cases, the remainder of that registration period shall be the first "entire" registration period for the purposes of paragraph 2 a);

   d) the consequences may only be lifted in accordance with paragraph 8 below.

8. Where the consequences are enforced, the debtor must provide proof of full payment (including all applicable interest) to FIFA, for the consequences to be lifted.

   a) Upon receipt of the proof of payment, FIFA shall immediately request that the creditor confirm receipt of full payment within five days.

   b) Upon receipt of confirmation from the creditor, or after expiry of the time limit in the case of no response, FIFA shall notify the parties that the consequences are lifted.

   c) The consequences shall be lifted immediately upon notification by FIFA.

   d) Notwithstanding the above, where full payment (including all applicable interest) has not been made, the consequences shall remain in force until their complete serving.

9. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions set out in article 25 apply equally to this annexe.

ANNEXE

International transfer of players and transfer matching system

03

TITLE I. GENERAL RULES

1. OBJECTIVES

1. The transfer matching system (TMS) is designed to fulfil the objectives of the football transfer system.
2. TMS also has the following specific objectives:
   a) to monitor and regulate the procedure for the international transfers of players;
   b) to provide football authorities with information concerning the football transfer system;
   c) to increase the transparency, efficiency and credibility of the international football transfer system;
   d) to clearly distinguish between the different payments in relation to international player transfers; and
   e) to guarantee the protection of minors.

2. SCOPE

1. This annexe governs the procedure for the international transfer of players in TMS.
2. It is mandatory for associations and clubs to use TMS for the international transfer of professional and amateur players in eleven-a-side football.
3. FIFA provides free access to TMS to associations and clubs. No one shall be charged for any activity performed in TMS.

TITLE II. TMS USERS

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. In the context of the international transfer of players, TMS users will be authorised to perform actions in TMS on behalf of a club or an association, in line with the permissions granted to each of them by FIFA.

2. The FIFA general secretariat is authorised to perform actions provided for in this annexe.

4. PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO TMS

1. Only users authorised by FIFA shall have access to TMS.

Associations

2. To access TMS for the first time, an association shall appoint at least two TMS users, who shall undergo training provided by FIFA.

3. An association may appoint a new TMS user at any time. The new TMS user shall be trained by an existing authorised TMS user of the association. Upon completion of the training, the association shall submit a new user request via TMS.

Clubs

4. To access TMS for the first time, a club shall appoint at least one TMS user, who shall undergo training provided by the association to which the club is affiliated. Upon completion of the training, the association shall submit a new user request via TMS.

5. A club may appoint a new TMS user at any time. The new TMS user shall be trained by an existing authorised TMS user of the club, or in the absence of any existing TMS users, by the association to which the club is affiliated. Upon completion of the training, the association shall submit a new user request via TMS.

5. TMS USER REQUIREMENTS

1. To be eligible as a TMS user, an individual:

   a) shall be a direct employee of the relevant club or association. In the absence of employees, a volunteer or executive member could be permissible;

   b) shall be trained to use TMS by a TMS user of the relevant association or club, or by completing the TMS e-learning training programme;

c) shall have basic computer skills;

d) shall have a good working knowledge of at least one of the following official FIFA languages: English, French or Spanish;

e) shall pass a background check run by FIFA, ensuring in particular that the prospective user has never been convicted of a criminal charge regarding matters related to: organised crime, drug trafficking, corruption, bribery, money laundering, tax evasion, fraud, match manipulation, misappropriation of funds, conversion, breach of fiduciary duty, forgery, legal malpractice, sexual abuse, violent crimes, harassment, exploitation of child or vulnerable young adult trafficking, and/or similar;

f) cannot be an active TMS user for more than one organisation at the same time;

g) cannot hold any position or perform any activity that could generate a conflict of interest;

h) cannot be a professional football player;

i) cannot be a football agent;

j) shall provide a personal email address (corporate if possible) that is not general or shared; and

k) shall be 18 years of age or older.

2. An association may define additional minimum requirements for TMS users within its jurisdiction.

TITLE III. OBLIGATIONS

6. GENERAL OBLIGATIONS: CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

1. Clubs and associations are responsible for all actions undertaken by their respective appointed TMS users.

2. Clubs and associations shall always:

a) act in good faith;

b) abide by the FIFA Statutes and all FIFA regulations;

c) inform FIFA of any suspected breaches of FIFA regulations;

d) maintain confidentiality over all data in TMS, apply the highest degree of care to guarantee complete confidentiality and only use confidential data for the purpose of completing player transfers in which they are directly involved;

e) ensure that only their authorised TMS users may access TMS on their behalf;

f) check TMS at regular intervals to ensure they are in a position to comply with their obligations at all time;

g) perform pending actions in TMS without delay;

h) ensure that they have all of the necessary equipment, training and know-how to fulfil their obligations;

i) use TMS only for the purposes set out in the FIFA regulations;

j) ensure that the email address of any authorised TMS user is valid and always kept up to date;

k) request the deactivation of an account of an authorised TMS user who is no longer authorised to use TMS on their behalf;

l) ensure that all information entered is true and correct;

m) ensure that all documents uploaded in TMS are authentic, complete and legible. Documents uploaded shall conform to the type requested (e.g. an "employment contract" shall not be uploaded in the "transfer agreement" section). Documents shall be uploaded in PDF format; and

n) if requested by the FIFA general secretariat, upload a translation of a document (or an excerpt thereof) into one of the following official languages of FIFA: English, French or Spanish.

3. To ensure that clubs and associations are fulfilling their obligations in respect of this annexe, the FIFA general secretariat shall investigate matters in relation to international transfers. Clubs and associations shall collaborate in the event of an investigation being carried out by FIFA concerning international transfers of players and the clubs' and associations' use of TMS. In particular, they shall collaborate to establish the facts and comply, within the granted deadline, with requests for any documents, information or any other materials of any nature held by them or, if not held by them, which they are entitled to obtain within the time limits established by FIFA.

7. SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS: CLUBS

Clubs with access to TMS shall:

a) always have at least one TMS user;

b) ensure that their contact details (postal address, telephone, and email address) are valid and always kept up to date;

c) ensure that their own bank account details are valid and always kept up to date;

d) enter and confirm transfer instructions and (where applicable) ensure that the required information matches (cf. art. 10 of this annexe); and

e) declare all payments made in the context of an international transfer.

8. SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS: ASSOCIATIONS

1. Associations shall:

a) monitor the activity of their affiliated clubs in TMS to verify compliance with this annexe, and inform FIFA about any potential infringements;

b) always have at least two authorised TMS users;

c) provide their affiliated clubs with ongoing TMS training;

d) ensure that their contact details (postal address, telephone number and email address) and those of their affiliated clubs are valid and always kept up to date;

e) ensure that their bank account details are valid and always kept up to date;

f) enter the training category of their affiliated clubs;

g) ensure that their affiliated clubs and registered players are assigned a FIFA ID and, when required, resolve duplicate entries concerning their affiliated clubs and registered players without delay;

h) confirm or reject newly created players (cf. art. 13 of this annexe);

i) carry out the ITC procedure (cf. art. 11 of this annexe);

j) enter transfers of amateur players on behalf of affiliated clubs that do not have access to TMS (cf. art. 10 of this annexe); and

k) enter all required data related to dates of competitions periods, seasons and registration periods, as applicable (cf. article 6 of these regulations) at least 12 months before the first match of the relevant season in the following categories of competition, where applicable;

i. Male professional competitions

ii. Female professional competitions

iii. Amateur competitions (female and male)

2. An association may modify in TMS the dates for a registration period that has already been entered in TMS prior to its commencement. The said modification shall be notified to FIFA. Once a registration period has commenced, no modification of its dates is permitted.

9. FIFA'S ROLE

The FIFA general secretariat is responsible for:

a) assisting TMS users with technical and regulatory issues;

b) managing the access of TMS users;

c) providing ongoing education and support to associations and clubs;

d) entering in TMS any sanctions against a club or association;

e) managing any special procedures identified in this annexe;

f) investigating possible infringements of FIFA regulations related to the use of TMS; and

g) imposing administrative sanctions for breaches of this annexe (cf. art. 17 of this annexe).

TITLE IV. PROCESS FOR TRANSFERRING A PLAYER

10. CLUBS: CREATING TRANSFER INSTRUCTIONS

1. When creating a transfer instruction, clubs shall enter information and upload supporting documents concerning:

   a) the instruction type;

   b) the player being transferred;

   c) the details of the transfer; and

   d) the parties involved in the transfer.

2. Clubs shall indicate if the transfer instruction refers to:

   a) engaging a player or releasing a player;

   b) whether the transfer is permanent or a loan;

   c) whether the player will be a professional or an amateur with the new club; and

   d) if related to an earlier loan transfer instruction, whether there is:

      i. a return from loan;

      ii. a loan extension;

      iii. a loan being converted into a permanent transfer; or

iv. a loan conclusion (i.e. the loan agreement between the clubs has ended and the player's employment contract with the former club has also ended).

3. Concerning the player being transferred, clubs shall enter the following information as applicable, depending on the transfer instruction type:

a) Status (amateur or professional) with the former club;

b) Name, nationality(ies), date of birth and gender;

c) For loans, whether the player is a club-trained player (cf. definition 31 of these regulations) and whether the loan occurs before the end of the season of the former club at which the professional turns 21;

d) Start and end dates of the employment contract with the former club;

e) Start and end dates of the employment contract with the new club;

f) Fixed remuneration set out in the employment contract with the new club; and

g) The reason for termination of the employment contract with the former club.

4. With respect to the details of the transfer, clubs shall enter the following information as applicable, depending on the transfer instruction type:

a) Whether there is a transfer agreement with the former club; for the avoidance of doubt, this includes any agreement where the former club waives its right to receive training rewards in exchange for another payment in line with art. 10. par. 4 d) of this annexe;

b) The date of execution of the transfer agreement;

c) The start and end dates of the loan agreement;

d) Whether the transfer is performed against any of the following types of payment:

i. fixed transfer fee, including the amount and date of instalments, if any;

ii. release (buy-out) fee, including the amount and date of instalments, if any;

iii. conditional transfer fee, including the amount and details of conditions; or

iv. sell-on fee, including the percentage.

e) Payment currency;

f) Club bank account details; and

g) A declaration on influence and third-party ownership of the player's economic rights (cf. arts. 18bis and 18ter of these regulations).

5. With respect to the parties involved in the transfer, clubs shall enter the following information as applicable:

   a) the player's former club;

   b) the player's former association;

   c) the player's new club;

   d) the player's new association;

   e) the club football agent's name, service fee and any other fee paid to the football agent; and

   f) the player's football agent's name.

6. Clubs are obliged to upload the following mandatory supporting documents regarding the information that has been entered in TMS as applicable, depending on the transfer instruction type:

   a) The new club:

      i. Proof of the player's identity (passport or national identity card).

      ii. Proof of the end date of the player's last employment contract and the reason for its termination.

      iii. The player's employment contract with the new club.

      iv. The transfer agreement (whether permanent or loan) between the new club and the former club. Where applicable, a copy of any amendments shall be uploaded in TMS as soon as they have been concluded.

      v. A copy of the representation agreement entered into with a football agent, if applicable, within 14 days of occurrence. Where applicable, a copy of any amendments shall be uploaded in TMS within 14 days of occurrence.

      vi. A copy of any other agreement entered into with a football agent other than a representation agreement, if applicable, within 14 days of occurrence. Where applicable, a copy of any amendments shall be uploaded in TMS within 14 days of occurrence.

   b) The former club:

      i. Where third-party ownership of the player's economic rights has been declared (cf. article 10.4 g) of this annexe), the agreement with the third party.

      ii. For loans, proof that the professional is a club-trained player (cf. art. 10 par. 3 c) of this annexe).

iii. A copy of the representation agreement signed with a football agent, if applicable, within 14 days of occurrence. Where applicable, a copy of any amendments shall be uploaded in TMS within 14 days of occurrence.

iv. A copy of any agreement entered into with a football agent other than a representation agreement, if applicable, within 14 days of occurrence. Where applicable, a copy of any amendments shall be uploaded in TMS within 14 days of occurrence.

7. Once all of the relevant information has been entered and the mandatory documents have been uploaded, the club(s) shall confirm the transfer in TMS without delay and before the end of the new association's registration period (subject to the exceptions in art. 6 of these regulations).

8. For international transfers with a transfer agreement (whether permanent or on loan), both clubs shall:

a) independently of each other, enter and confirm the transfer instruction as soon as the agreement has been concluded;

b) ensure that the required information matches; and

c) collaborate to resolve any matching exceptions.

9. This article also applies to associations entering the transfer of an amateur player on behalf of an affiliated club without access to TMS.

11. ASSOCIATIONS: ITC PROCEDURE AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

1. Once a transfer instruction has been created (cf. art. 10 of this annexe) and (if applicable) the player has been confirmed (cf. art. 13 of this annexe):

a) the new association will be notified in TMS that the transfer instruction is awaiting an ITC request;

b) upon receipt of this notification, the new association will be able to request in TMS that the former association deliver an ITC for the player;

c) at the very latest, the ITC shall be requested on the last day of the new association's registration period for the transfer to occur during that registration period. An ITC requested after the close of the relevant registration period of the new association (subject to the exceptions in art. 6 of these regulations) will go into validation exception status (cf. art. 14 par. 1 c) of this annexe); and

d) for the international transfer of minors, an ITC may only be requested if the corresponding minor application has been approved by the Football Tribunal or if the player is being registered under a valid limited minor exemption (cf. art. 19 of these regulations).

2. Where the player was a professional at his former club, upon notification of the ITC request, the former association shall immediately request the former club to confirm whether or not:

   a) the employment contract has expired; or

   b) an early termination was mutually agreed.

3. Within five calendar days of receipt of the ITC request, the former association shall deliver the ITC to the new association. When delivering the ITC to the new association, the former association can indicate whether the former club wishes to reserve financial claims against the player and/or the new club. However, such an indication shall have no impact either on the player's ability to be registered for a new club or on a possible contractual dispute between the former club, the player and/or the new club.

4. When delivering an ITC, the former association shall upload a copy of any relevant documentation pertaining to disciplinary sanctions imposed on a player and, if applicable, their extension to have worldwide effect (cf. art. 12 of these regulations).

5. Upon delivery of the ITC, the new association shall confirm its receipt, enter the relevant player registration information in TMS and register the player in its electronic registration system without delay.

6. If the former association fails to respond to the ITC request within five calendar days, the new association will be able to register the player with the new club and enter the relevant player registration information in TMS. In exceptional circumstances, the player, the former association or the new association may request FIFA's intervention. FIFA may exceptionally allow a registration with the new club within one working day of receipt of the ITC request, if required to prevent irreparable harm to the player. Issuance of an ITC is without prejudice to any contractual dispute between the player, their former club and/or the new club of the player.

7. The new association shall only confirm the ITC receipt (cf. par. 5 above) or confirm registration in TMS (cf. par. 6 above) if the player is to be registered with the new club.

8. A player is not eligible to play for his new club until the new association has either:

   a) confirmed receipt of the ITC, entered the player registration information in TMS and registered the player in its electronic registration system; or

   b) registered the player in its electronic registration system and entered the player registration information in TMS in the absence of a response to the ITC request

within five calendar days or when FIFA has exceptionally allowed a registration with the new club within one working day of receipt of the ITC request.

9. All registrations described in paragraph 8 above have the same effect and are equally valid.

12. PAYMENTS

1. Clubs shall declare all club-to-club payments made in the context of an international transfer (cf. art. 11 par. 4 of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations), including any amendments to the payment terms, which shall also be declared as soon as the amended terms have been agreed upon. When declaring the execution of a payment, the new club shall upload the relevant proof of payment in TMS within 30 days of each payment.

2. Where a club-to-club payment is no longer due, clubs shall request the forced closure of the transfer without delay.

3. Clubs shall declare any payments made in relation to any representation agreement entered into with a football agent. When declaring the execution of a payment, the relevant club shall upload the relevant proof of payment in TMS within 14 days of each payment.

4. Clubs shall declare any payments made in relation to any agreement entered into with a football agent other than a representation agreement. When declaring the execution of a payment, the relevant club shall upload the relevant proof of payment in TMS within 14 days of each payment.

TITLE V. SPECIAL PROCEDURES

13. PLAYER CONFIRMATION

1. If the player being transferred does not exist in TMS, the club that first enters the transfer instruction in TMS shall create his profile. The same applies to associations entering transfer instructions of amateur players on behalf of their affiliated clubs that do not have access to TMS.

2. The ITC procedure will only be initiated once the newly created player details have been verified, corrected if required and confirmed by the former association. By confirming the player, the former association confirms that the player was last registered with it and that his identity details (name, nationality, date of birth and gender) are correct.

3. The former association shall reject the newly created player if the player is not registered with it at the time of the transfer.

4. The player confirmation procedure shall be carried out without delay.

14. VALIDATION EXCEPTIONS

1. A validation exception may be triggered in the following cases:

   a) the player is less than 18 years old and the corresponding minor application has not yet been accepted;

   b) the new club is serving a ban on registering new players;

   c) the new club and/or the former club has exceeded the loan limitations (cf. art. 10 of these regulations); or

   d) the date of the ITC request is outside the new association's registration period, and no exception under art. 6 of these regulations applies.

2. Any requests for intervention in a validation exception shall be submitted via TMS. Upon request from the association concerned, the FIFA general secretariat will assess the request and, if necessary, refer the matter to the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal. Any such request and any supporting documentation shall be provided only in one of the following official languages of FIFA: English, French or Spanish. Each case is assessed individually on its own merits.

15. CANCELLATION

1. As a general rule, a transfer instruction containing incorrect information shall be cancelled.

2. The club(s), or the new association acting on behalf of a club in an amateur transfer, may cancel a transfer instruction prior to an ITC request.

3. Once an ITC has been requested, only the relevant association(s) may request the cancellation in TMS, indicate the reason for cancellation and specify the correct information.

4. In such a case, the counter association shall accept or dispute the cancellation request.

   a) If it accepts the request, the transfer will be cancelled; or

   b) If it disputes the request, the relevant association shall upload a supporting statement in TMS and contact the FIFA general secretariat to resolve the dispute.

TITLE VI. ENFORCEMENT

16. GENERAL

1. Sanctions shall be imposed on clubs and associations that violate the provisions contained in this annexe, including violations committed by their TMS users.

2. The FIFA general secretariat is responsible for investigating any violation of the provisions contained in this annexe.

3. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee is responsible for sanctioning violations of the provisions contained in this annexe in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

17. ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTION PROCEDURE

1. Without prejudice to the competence of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, the FIFA general secretariat has the competence to impose sanctions within the administrative sanction procedure (ASP) as set out below.

2. The ASP deals with infringements of this annexe that are of a primarily technical or administrative nature.

3. If such an infringement is detected, the following procedure will take place:

   a) The FIFA general secretariat will contact the association or club to identify the infringement, request a statement or any other relevant information within a defined deadline and, if applicable, request that the infringing behaviour be corrected.

   b) Upon receipt of the statement or relevant information or upon expiry of the time limit to do so, the FIFA general secretariat may issue an administrative sanction letter containing a sanction, if applicable.

   c) The party may accept the sanction or reject it and, in this case, request the opening of disciplinary proceedings before the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. If the party accepts the sanction, the latter will be enforceable from the date of acceptance.

   d) If the party accepts the sanction, complies with it (where applicable) and corrects the infringing behaviour within the time limits to do so, the matter will be closed.

   e) If the party fails to respond to the administrative sanction letter, responds inconsistently or incompletely and/or does not correct the infringing behaviour and/or does not comply with the sanction, the matter will be referred to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee for evaluation and decision.

4. Without prejudice to any further sanction imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, the sanctions that may be imposed through the ASP are:

   a) a warning;

   b) a reprimand; or

   c) a fine of up to CHF 30,000.

18. TIME LIMITS AND MEANS OF NOTIFICATION

Letters or decisions notified by the FIFA general secretariat to a party through TMS or to the email address provided by a party in TMS are considered a valid means of communication and are sufficient to establish time limits.

ANNEXE

Training compensation

04

1. OBJECTIVE

1. A player's training and education takes place between the ages of 12 and 23. Training compensation shall be payable, as a general rule, up to the age of 23 for training incurred up to the age of 21, unless it is evident that a player has already terminated his training period before the age of 21. In the latter case, training compensation shall be payable until the end of the calendar year in which the player reaches the age of 23, but the calculation of the amount payable shall be based on the years between the age of 12 and the age when it is established that the player actually completed his training.

2. The obligation to pay training compensation is without prejudice to any obligation to pay compensation for breach of contract.

2. PAYMENT OF TRAINING COMPENSATION

1. Training compensation is due when:

   a) a player is registered for the first time as a professional; or

   b) a professional is transferred between clubs of two different associations (whether during or at the end of his contract) before the end of the calendar year of his 23rd birthday.

2. Training compensation is not due if:

   a) the former club terminates the player's contract without just cause (without prejudice to the rights of the previous clubs); or

   b) the player is transferred to a category 4 club; or

   c) a professional reacquires amateur status on being transferred.

3. For cases governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, payment of training compensation shall be made in accordance with the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

3. RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY TRAINING COMPENSATION

1. For cases not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, on registering as a professional for the first time, the club with which the player is registered is responsible for paying training compensation within 30 days of registration to every club with which the player has previously been registered (in accordance with the players' career history as provided in the player passport) and that has contributed to his training starting from the calendar year of his 12th birthday. The amount payable is calculated on a pro rata basis according to the period of training that the player spent with each club. In the case of subsequent transfers of the professional, training compensation will only be owed to his former club for the time he was effectively trained by that club.

2. In both of the above cases, for cases not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, the deadline for payment of training compensation is 30 days following the registration of the professional with the new association.

3. An association is entitled to receive the training compensation which in principle would be due to one of its affiliated clubs, if it can provide evidence that the club in question – with which the professional was registered and trained – has in the meantime ceased to participate in organised football and/or no longer exists due to, in particular, bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution or loss of affiliation. This compensation shall be reserved for youth football development programmes in the association(s) in question.

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).

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 calendar year of the player's 12th birthday to the calendar year 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 calendar years of their 12th to 15th birthdays (i.e. four calendar years) 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 calendar year of training may occur before the calendar year of the player's 21st birthday if it is established that the player completed his training before that time.

3. If the former club does not offer the player a contract, no training compensation is payable unless the former club can justify that it is entitled to such compensation. The former club must offer the player a contract in writing via registered post at least 60 days before the expiry of his current contract, subject to the temporary exception below. Such an offer shall furthermore be at least of an equivalent value to the current contract. This provision is without prejudice to the right to training compensation of the player's previous club(s).

    i. The contract offer may be made by electronic mail, provided that the former club obtains confirmation from the player that he has received a copy of said offer and can provide such confirmation in case of any dispute.

7. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

The FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs or players that do not observe the obligations set out in this annexe.

ANNEXE

Solidarity mechanism

05

1. SOLIDARITY CONTRIBUTION

1. If a professional moves during the course of a contract, 5% of any compensation paid within the scope of this transfer, not including training compensation paid to his former club, shall be deducted from the total amount of this compensation and distributed by the new club as a solidarity contribution to the club(s) involved in his training and education over the years. This solidarity contribution reflects the number of years (calculated pro rata if less than one year) he was registered with the relevant club(s) between the calendar years of his 12th and 23rd birthdays, as follows:

a) Calendar year of 12th birthday: 5% of 5% of any compensation

b) Calendar year of 13th birthday: 5% of 5% of any compensation

c) Calendar year of 14th birthday: 5% of 5% of any compensation

d) Calendar year of 15th birthday: 5% of 5% of any compensation

e) Calendar year of 16th birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

f) Calendar year of 17th birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

g) Calendar year of 18th birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

h) Calendar year of 19th birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

i) Calendar year of 20th birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

j) Calendar year of 21st birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

k) Calendar year of 22nd birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

l) Calendar year of 23rd birthday: 10% of 5% of any compensation

2. A training club is entitled to receive (a proportion of) the 5% solidarity contribution in the following cases:

   a) a professional player is transferred, either on a definitive or loan basis, between clubs affiliated to different associations;

   b) a professional player is transferred, either on a definitive or loan basis, between clubs affiliated to the same association, provided that the training club is affiliated to a different association.

2. PAYMENT PROCEDURE

1. For cases not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, the new club shall pay the solidarity contribution to the training club(s) pursuant to the above provisions no later than 30 days after the player's registration or, in case of contingent payments, 30 days after the date of such payments.

2. For cases not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, it is the responsibility of the new club to calculate the amount of the solidarity contribution and to distribute it in accordance with the player's career history as provided in the player passport. The player shall, if necessary, assist the new club in discharging this obligation.

3. For cases governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, payment of solidarity contribution shall be made in accordance with the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

4. An association is entitled to receive the proportion of solidarity contribution which in principle would be due to one of its affiliated clubs, if it can provide evidence that the club in question – which was involved in the professional's training and education – has in the meantime ceased to participate in organised football and/or no longer exists due to, in particular, bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution or loss of affiliation. This solidarity contribution shall be reserved for youth football development programmes in the association(s) in question.

5. The Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs that do not observe the obligations set out in this annexe.

ANNEXE

Rules for the Status and Transfer of Futsal Players

09

1. SCOPE

1. The Rules for the Status and Transfer of Futsal Players are an integral part of these regulations.

2. These rules establish global and binding provisions concerning the status of futsal players, their eligibility to participate in organised futsal, and their transfer between clubs belonging to different associations.

3. These rules shall apply equally to men, women, amateurs and professionals unless expressly provided for otherwise in this annexe.

4. The transfer of futsal players between clubs belonging to the same association is governed by specific regulations issued by the association concerned. These regulations shall include:

   a) appropriate means to protect contractual stability, paying due respect to mandatory national law and collective bargaining agreements, as well as the principles in article 1 paragraph 3 b) of these regulations; and

   b) specific rules for the settlement of disputes between futsal clubs and players.

5. The following provisions in these regulations are binding for futsal at national level and shall be included, without modification, in the association's regulations: articles 2-8, 10, 11, 12bis, 18, 18 paragraph 7, 18bis, 18ter, 18quater, 18quinquies, 19 and 19bis.

   In relation to articles 18 paragraph 7, 18quater and 18quinquies, where a validly negotiated collective bargaining agreement contains provisions related to female professional football, the respective provisions of the collective bargaining agreement shall prevail in their totality, and a clear reference to the collective bargaining agreement shall be included in the association's regulations. Where no collective bargaining agreement exists, but where more favourable

conditions are stipulated pursuant to national law, these more favourable conditions shall be included in the association's regulations.

2. RELEASE OF FUTSAL PLAYERS TO ASSOCIATION TEAMS

1. Article 1ter of Annexe 1 of these regulations is binding.

2. A player may only represent one association in both futsal and eleven-a-side football. Any player who has already participated in a match (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category or any type of football for one association may not play an international match for a representative team of another association.

   This provision is subject to the exception in article 9 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes.

3. REGISTRATION OF FUTSAL PLAYERS

1. A futsal player must be registered at an association to play for a club as either a professional or an amateur in accordance with the provisions of article 2 of these regulations. Only registered players are eligible to participate in organised futsal. By the act of registering, a futsal player agrees to abide by the FIFA Statutes and regulations, as well as the statutes and regulations of the relevant confederation and association.

2. A futsal player may only be registered for one futsal club at a time. A futsal player may, however, also be registered for one eleven-a-side club at the same time. It is not necessary for the futsal and the eleven-a-side club to be affiliated to the same association.

3. A futsal professional player under contract with an eleven-a-side club may sign another professional contract with a different futsal club only if he obtains written approval from the eleven-a-side club employing him, and vice-versa.

4. Futsal players may be registered with a maximum of three futsal clubs during one season. During this period, the player is only eligible to play official matches for two futsal clubs. As an exception to this rule, a futsal player moving between two futsal clubs belonging to associations with overlapping seasons (i.e. the start of the season is in summer/autumn as opposed to winter/spring) may be eligible to play in official matches for a third futsal club during the relevant season, provided he has fully complied with his contractual obligations towards his previous futsal clubs. Equally, the provisions relating to the registration periods (article 6 of these regulations) as well as to the minimum length of a contract (article 18 paragraph 2 of these regulations) must be respected.

5. Under all circumstances, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the competition. In particular, a futsal player may not play official matches for more than two clubs competing in the same national championship or cup during the same season, subject to stricter individual competition regulations of member associations.

4. RESPECT OF CONTRACT

1. A contract between a professional futsal player and a futsal club may only be terminated upon expiry of its term or by mutual agreement.

2. The provisions applicable to the maintenance of contractual stability are set out in articles 13-18 of these regulations.

5. INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF FUTSAL PLAYERS

5.1 Principles

1. A futsal player registered with a futsal club affiliated to an association may only be registered with a futsal club affiliated to a different association after:

   a) the International Futsal Transfer Certificate (IFTC) has been requested by the new association;

   b) the IFTC has been delivered by the former association;

   c) the IFTC has been received by the new association; and

   d) the new association has registered the player in their electronic registration system.

2. The above principle applies to all international transfer of professional and amateur futsal players.

3. A futsal player is not eligible to play for his new futsal club until all the conditions in paragraph 1 above are met, where applicable.

4. An IFTC is not required for a futsal player under the age of ten.

5. Clubs and associations shall always:

   a) act in good faith;

   b) abide by the FIFA Statutes and all FIFA regulations; and

   c) ensure that all information provided is true and correct.

5.2 Transfer process: IFTC procedure and futsal player registration

1. The new futsal club shall submit an application to its association to register a futsal player during one of the registration periods established by that association, subject to the exception in article 6 of these regulations.

   The relevant application shall be accompanied, if applicable, by:

   a) a copy of the employment contract between the new futsal club and the futsal player; and

   b) a copy of the transfer agreement (whether permanent or on loan) concluded between the new and the former futsal clubs.

2. Upon receipt of the application, the new association shall immediately request that the former association deliver an IFTC for the futsal player ("IFTC request"). The IFTC request shall be accompanied by the documentation established in paragraph 1 above, if applicable.

3. At the very latest, the IFTC must be requested on the last day of the relevant registration period of the new association for the transfer to occur during that registration period.

4. In the case of an international transfer of a futsal player who had professional status at his former futsal club, upon receipt of the IFTC request, the former association shall immediately request that the former futsal club and the futsal player confirm whether:

   a) the employment contract has expired;

   b) an early termination was mutually agreed; or

   c) there is a contractual dispute.

5. Within seven days of the IFTC request, the former association shall either:

   a) deliver the IFTC to the new association; or

   b) inform the new association in writing that the IFTC cannot be delivered. This may only be the case where:

      i. an employment contract between the former futsal club and the futsal player has not expired; or

      ii. there has been no mutual agreement regarding the contract's early termination.

   The provision in paragraph b) above applies only to the international transfer of futsal players who had professional status at their former futsal clubs.

6. When delivering an IFTC to the new association, the former association shall also:

   a) attach a copy of the player passport;

   b) notify the new association in writing of any pending disciplinary sanctions imposed on the futsal player and, if applicable, their extension to have worldwide effect (cf. article 12 of these regulations); and

   c) lodge a copy of the IFTC with FIFA.

7. The IFTC shall be delivered free of charge without any conditions or time limitation. Any provisions to the contrary shall be null and void.

8. Upon delivery of the IFTC, the new association shall register the player in their electronic registration system.

9. If the former association fails to respond to the IFTC request within 30 days, the new association shall immediately register the futsal player for the new futsal club on a provisional basis ("provisional registration") and enter the relevant player registration information in the national electronic player registration system. A provisional registration shall become permanent one year after the IFTC request.

10. The former association shall not deliver an IFTC for a futsal player if a contractual dispute on grounds of the circumstances stipulated in paragraph 4 above, has arisen between the former futsal club and the futsal player.

    In such a case, upon request of the new association, FIFA may take provisional measures in exceptional circumstances. In this respect, it will take into account the arguments presented by the former association to justify the rejection of the IFTC. If the Football Tribunal authorises the provisional registration (cf. article 23), the new association shall proceed to register the player. Furthermore, the professional futsal player, the former and/or the new futsal club are entitled to lodge a claim with FIFA in accordance with article 22. The decision on the provisional registration of the player shall be without prejudice to the merits of such possible contractual dispute.

11. The new association may grant the player temporary eligibility to play until the end of the ongoing competition period on the basis of an IFTC sent by fax or email. If the original IFTC is not received by that time, the player's eligibility to play shall be considered definitive.

12. The foregoing rules and procedures apply without distinction to professional and amateur futsal players who, upon moving to their new futsal club, acquire a different status.

5.3 Loan of futsal players

1. The rules set out above also apply to the loan of a professional futsal player from a futsal club affiliated to one association to a futsal club affiliated to another association, as well as to his return from loan to his original futsal club, if applicable.

2. A copy of the loan agreement shall accompany the IFTC request (cf. article 5.2 paragraph 2).

3. Upon expiry of the loan period, the association of the futsal club that released the futsal player on loan shall request the IFTC to the association of the futsal club where he is registered on loan. Until the IFTC procedure has not been completed and the association that released the futsal player on loan has re-registered him in their electronic registration system, the futsal player is not eligible to play for his original futsal club.

6. ENFORCEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

1. A suspension imposed in terms of matches on a player for an infringement committed when playing futsal or in relation to a futsal match shall only affect the player's participation for his futsal club. Similarly, a suspension imposed in terms of matches on a player participating in eleven-a-side football shall only affect the player's participation for his eleven-a-side club.

2. A suspension imposed in terms of days and months shall affect a player's participation for both his futsal as well as his eleven-a-side club, regardless of whether the infringement was committed in eleven-a-side football or futsal.

3. The association with which a futsal player is registered shall notify a suspension imposed in terms of days and months to the second association with which the player may be registered, if the player is registered, at the same time, for a futsal and an eleven-a-side club belonging to two different associations.

4. When delivering an IFTC, the former association shall notify the new association in writing of any pending disciplinary sanctions imposed on a player and, if applicable, their extension to have worldwide effect (cf. article 12 of these regulations).

7. PROTECTION OF MINORS

International transfers of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18. The exceptions to this rule are outlined in article 19 of these regulations.

8. TRAINING COMPENSATION

The provisions on training compensation as provided for in article 20 and Annexe 4 of the regulations shall not apply to the transfer of players from futsal clubs.

9. SOLIDARITY MECHANISM

The provisions on solidarity mechanism as provided for in article 21 and Annexe 5 of these regulations shall not apply to the transfer of players to and from futsal clubs.

10. COMPETENCE OF FIFA

1. Sanctions shall be imposed on clubs and associations which violate the provisions contained in this annexe.
2. The FIFA general secretariat is responsible for investigating any violation of this annexe.
3. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee is responsible for sanctioning any violation of this annexe, in line with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
4. Without prejudice to the right of any futsal player, coach, association or club to seek redress before a civil court for employment-related disputes, FIFA is competent to hear disputes as stipulated in article 22 of these regulations.
5. The Football Tribunal shall adjudicate on all disputes as stipulated in article 23 of these regulations.

ANNEXE

07.

Temporary rules addressing the exceptional situation deriving from the war in Ukraine

1. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

1. Without prejudice to paragraph 2 below, this annexe applies to employment contracts of an international dimension concluded between players or coaches and clubs affiliated to the Ukrainian Association of Football (UAF) or the Football Union of Russia (FUR).

2. This annexe does not apply to:

   a) employment contracts of an international dimension of players who, on 21 May 2023 and thereafter, were registered with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR;

   b) employment contracts of an international dimension of coaches who, on 21 May 2023 and thereafter, rendered their services to a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR;

   c) employment contracts of an international dimension of players or coaches that have been concluded or extended after 7 March 2022.

2. EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION WITH CLUBS AFFILIATED TO THE UAF OR FUR

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of these regulations and unless otherwise agreed between the parties, a contract of an international dimension between a player or a coach and a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR can be unilaterally suspended until 30 June 2027 by the player or the coach.
2. In order to validly suspend the contract, the player or coach shall inform the club of the unilateral suspension in writing by 1 August 2026 at the latest.
3. The minimum length of a contract established under article 18 paragraph 2 of these regulations does not apply to any new contract concluded by the professional whose contract has been suspended in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

3. CONSEQUENCES OF THE SUSPENSION

A player or coach whose contract has been suspended as per article 2 paragraphs 1 and 2 above does not commit a breach of contract by signing and registering with a new club. Article 18 paragraph 5 of these regulations does not apply to a professional whose contract has been suspended as per article 2 paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

4. REGISTRATION

Notwithstanding the provisions of article 5 paragraph 4 of these regulations, a player whose previous registration was in the UAF or FUR, may be registered with a maximum of four clubs during one season and is eligible to play official matches for three different clubs.

5. PROTECTION OF MINORS

Notwithstanding the provisions of article 19 of these regulations, any minors residing in the territory of Ukraine who wish to be registered with a new club shall be deemed to fulfil the requirements of the exception provided in article 19 paragraph 2 a) or d) of these regulations.

6. TRAINING COMPENSATION

1. As from the time this annexe enters into force, training compensation in accordance with the provisions of article 20 and annexe 4 is payable by the new club for any player whose previous registration was in the UAF or FUR if:

   a) without prejudice to paragraph 3 below, the player is registered for the first time as a professional before the end of the calendar year of his 23rd birthday; or

   b) the player had validly suspended their contract with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR in accordance with the provisions of this annexe (under any of its different editions) and is now transferred between clubs of two different associations (whether during or at the end of his contract) before the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday.

   c) However, in such case per literal b), training compensation will be owed by the new club only to the club(s) affiliated to the UAF or FUR with which the player had been registered before the player's contract was suspended, for the time the player was effectively trained by the respective club(s).

2. No entitlement to training compensation will arise for any club not affiliated to the UAF or FUR who has registered a player following the suspension of the player's contract in accordance with this annexe.

3. No training compensation is payable by the new club for a player being registered for the first time as a professional if:

   a) the player is registered with a club not affiliated to the UAF or FUR after having left the territory of Ukraine or Russia subsequently to 7 March 2022 and was allowed to be registered with a new club under the exception provided in article 19 paragraph 2 a) or d) of these regulations;

   b) the player left the territory of Ukraine or Russia subsequently to 7 March 2022 and now wishes to be registered for the first time as a professional with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR.

7. INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

1. A player whose contract has been suspended on the basis of this annexe may, during the period of suspension, not be subject to a transfer (whether permanent or on loan) against payment.

2. A player who has suspended their contract on the basis of this annexe may not sign a new contract with another club affiliated to the UAF or FUR during the time of the suspension.

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Procedural Rules

Governing the Football Tribunal

JANUARY 2026 EDITION

Procedural Rules
Governing the Football Tribunal

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ANNEXE 1

Definitions

The definitions in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, the FIFA Football Agent Regulations and the FIFA Statutes shall apply.

NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

I.

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Article 1: Scope of application

1. These rules govern the organisation, composition and functions of the Football Tribunal (FT).

2. The FT shall be composed of three chambers:

   a) the Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC);

   b) the Players' Status Chamber (PSC); and

   c) the Agents Chamber (AC).

Article 2: Jurisdiction

1. The matters for which each chamber has jurisdiction are provided by specific FIFA regulations.

2. In the event of uncertainty as to which chamber has jurisdiction to decide a matter, the chairperson of the FT will decide.

Article 3: Applicable law

In their application and adjudication of law, the chambers shall apply the FIFA Statutes and FIFA regulations, whilst taking into account all relevant arrangements, laws, and/or collective bargaining agreements that exist at national level.

Article 4: Composition

1. The chairperson of the FT shall have legal qualifications. They shall be appointed for four years by the FIFA Council.

2. The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons, and members of each chamber shall be appointed for four years by the FIFA Council. The chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of each chamber shall have legal qualifications. The members shall have a professional legal background with relevant football experience.

3. The DRC shall be composed of:

   a) a chairperson and at least two deputy chairpersons, at the proposal of FIFA and agreed upon by consensus between the parties mentioned in b) and c) below;

   b) at least 15 player representatives, appointed at the proposal of players' associations; and

   c) at least 15 club representatives, appointed at the proposal of member associations, clubs and leagues.

4. The PSC shall be composed of:

   a) a chairperson and at least one deputy chairperson; and

   b) the necessary number of members as decided by the FIFA Council, appointed at the proposal of member associations, confederations, players, clubs and leagues.

5. The AC shall be composed of:

   a) a chairperson and at least one deputy chairperson; and

   b) the necessary number of members as decided by the FIFA Council, appointed at the proposal of member associations, confederations, players, clubs, leagues, and football agents.

6. If a vacancy occurs, the FIFA Council may appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term of office. The chairperson of the DRC or the chairperson of the PSC shall deputise for the chairperson of the FT in the latter's absence.

Article 5: Independence and conflict of interest

1. The members of the FT are bound by the FIFA Statutes, FIFA regulations and the law.

2. A member of the FT may not take part in deciding a matter if there is any legitimate doubt as to their impartiality and shall disclose any circumstance which might give rise to a conflict of interest. The nationality of a person appointed to decide a matter does not per se constitute a legitimate doubt as to their impartiality.

3. A party is entitled to challenge a member of the FT appointed to decide a matter if it believes that there is a legitimate doubt as to their impartiality. Such challenge shall be filed within five calendar days from the notification of the composition of the relevant chamber for adjudication. The decision on such challenge shall be made by the chairperson of the FT.

Article 6: Confidentiality

A person appointed to the FT shall maintain strict confidentiality on any case they decide.

Article 7: Exemption from liability

Neither the persons appointed to the FT nor the FIFA officials acting in an administrative capacity may be held liable for any action or omission relating to any decision or procedure undertaken in accordance with applicable FIFA regulations or these Rules.

Article 8: Role of the FIFA general secretariat

1. The FIFA general secretariat will provide the administrative organisation and support for the FT.

2. The FIFA general secretariat is empowered to make decisions as provided for in these Rules.

GENERAL PROCEDURAL RULES

II.

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Article 9: Parties

1. Subject to the relevant FIFA regulations, only the following natural or legal persons may be a party before a chamber:

   a) member associations;

   b) clubs affiliated to a member association;

   c) players;

   d) coaches;

   e) single-entity leagues, only for the purposes of the FIFA Football Agent Regulations;

   f) football agents licensed by FIFA; or

   g) match agents licensed by FIFA.

2. A party may appoint an authorised representative to act on its behalf in any procedure. It shall provide written authorisation to be represented in the specific procedure.

3. A party is responsible for the conduct of its authorised representative. Authorised representatives are obliged to tell the truth and act in good faith in any procedure.

4. The FIFA general secretariat may, at any stage of a procedure, request the intervention of any natural or legal person as a party in a procedure.

Article 10: Communications

1. All communications shall be undertaken via the Legal Portal operated by FIFA (Legal Portal) or the Transfer Matching System (TMS).

2. The specific procedural rules shall define which method of communication must be used for the procedure in question. Communications from FIFA to a party by any such method is considered a valid means of communication and sufficient to establish time limits and their observance.

3. Parties must review TMS and the Legal Portal at least once per day for any communications from FIFA. Parties are responsible for any procedural disadvantages that may arise due to a failure to properly undertake such review. The contact details indicated in TMS are binding on the party that provided them.

4. Any communication submitted in TMS by a member association on behalf of an affiliated club shall:

   a) not be subject to the fulfilment of any conditions by the respective club;

   b) be undertaken by the member association without delay, regardless of whether it agrees with the merits of the communication.

Article 11: Time limits

1. For a party that directly receives a communication, the time limit will commence the day after receipt of the relevant communication.

2. For a party that receives a communication via its member association, the time limit will commence four calendar days after receipt of the communication by the member association to which it is affiliated or registered, or on the date of notification of the party by the member association, whichever is sooner.

3. If the last day of a time limit coincides with an official public holiday or a non-working day in the place of domicile of the party required to comply, the time limit will expire at the end of the next working day.

4. A time limit is deemed to have been complied with if the action required or requested has been completed by latest the last day of the time limit at the location of the party's domicile or, if the party is represented, of the domicile of its main legal representative. Submissions and evidence filed outside the relevant time limit shall be disregarded.

5. Time limits are paused from 20 December to 5 January inclusive.

6. Regulatory time limits fixed in these Rules will not be extended. Time limits set by the FIFA general secretariat may be extended upon substantiated request submitted before the expiry of the relevant time limit.

Article 12: Procedural rights and obligations

1. A party may file submissions, produce evidence, and examine the case file before any decision is made.

2. A party shall always act in good faith, tell the truth, and cooperate with any request for information made by a chamber or the FIFA general secretariat.

3. The same obligations apply to any natural person or legal person under the jurisdiction of FIFA that is not a party in a procedure but has been requested to contribute to a procedure by a chamber or the FIFA general secretariat.

Article 13: Submissions and evidence

1. Any submission to FIFA shall be made in English, Spanish, or French. Any submission to FIFA not made in one of the aforementioned languages will be disregarded.

2. A party that receives a submission made by another party within the scope of a procedure shall maintain strict confidentiality on that submission, unless such disclosure is made to professional advisers or is required by law.

3. Any type of evidence may be produced. A chamber has ultimate discretion as to the weight it gives to evidence. All the evidence upon which a party intends to rely must be filed in the original language and, if applicable, translated into English, Spanish or French.

4. A chamber may consider and rely on any evidence not presented by the parties, including without limitation the evidence generated by or within TMS and/or the Platform.

5. A party that asserts a fact has the burden of proving it.

6. Parties have the duty to collaborate to establish the facts and shall respond in good faith to any evidentiary request from a chamber, the FIFA general secretariat or a party. A party submitting an evidentiary request shall demonstrate that the evidence requested is likely to exist and is relevant. An adverse inference may be drawn from a party's reaction to an evidentiary request.

Article 14: Meetings and deliberations

1. The chamber makes a decision based on the written file. In exceptional circumstances, a chairperson may decide that a case is suitable for oral hearing. The chairperson will decide on the procedure of any oral hearing.

2. Deliberations may be held electronically or in person and shall be kept confidential.

3. A decision is passed by a simple majority of the appointed chamber. If the votes are equal, the chairperson for that matter shall have the casting vote.

Article 15: Notifications of decisions

1. A decision will be notified to a party directly in accordance with these Rules. Where the party is a club, a copy shall be notified to the member association and confederation to which it is affiliated.

2. Notification is deemed complete when the decision is communicated to a party. Notification of an authorised representative will be regarded as notification of the party which they represent.

3. Decisions enter into force as soon as notification occurs.

4. Generally, a party shall only be notified of the operative part of the decision. Decisions that immediately impose sporting sanctions against a party shall only be communicated with grounds.

5. Where no procedural costs are ordered, a party has ten calendar days from notification of the operative part of the decision to request the grounds of the decision. Failure to comply with the time limit shall result in the decision becoming final and binding and the party will be deemed to have waived its right to file an appeal. The time limit to lodge an appeal begins upon notification of the grounds of the decision.

6. Where procedural costs are ordered, notification of the grounds of a decision will only be made to the party that has both requested the grounds of the decision and paid its share of the procedural costs within the regulatory time limit of ten calendar days from notification of the operative part of the decision, if any.

7. Failure to comply with the time limit referred to in paragraph 6 of this article shall result in the request for the grounds being deemed to have been withdrawn. As a result, the decision will become final and binding and the party will be deemed to have waived its right to file an appeal.

8. Obvious mistakes in decisions and obvious procedural errors discovered after a decision is rendered may be corrected, **ex officio** or on application, by the chamber that made the decision. Where a decision has been corrected, regulatory time limits will commence from the time of notification of the rectified decision.

Article 16: Language

1. The language(s) used in all proceedings shall be exclusively English, Spanish or French.

2. Where submissions or evidence in a matter are in a single language, the decision of the chamber will be in that language.

3. Where submissions or evidence in a matter are in multiple languages, the procedure will be conducted in English and the decision will be in English.

Article 17: Publication

1. The FIFA general secretariat may publish decisions of the FT or awards of the Court of Arbitration for Sport which derive from appeals against decisions of the FT on legal.fifa.com.

2. Where a decision contains confidential information, a party may request within five days of the notification of the grounds of the decision that FIFA publishes an anonymised or a redacted version.

3. In decisions involving minors, only an anonymised or a redacted version which protects the identity of the minor(s) concerned may be published by FIFA.

RULES SPECIFIC TO DISPUTES BEFORE THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CHAMBER, PLAYERS' STATUS CHAMBER, OR AGENTS CHAMBER

III.

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Article 18: Claims

1. A claim against another party must be submitted via the Legal Portal and contain the following:

   a) the name, email address(es), and postal address(es) for notification of the party;

   b) (if applicable) the name, email address(es), and postal address(es) for notification of any authorised representative, and a copy of a written, specific and recent power of attorney;

   c) the identity and address(es) for service of the respondent(s);

   d) a statement of claim, setting out full written arguments in fact and law, the full body of evidence, and requests for relief;

   e) the details of a bank account registered in the name of the claimant on a signed copy of the Bank Account Registration Form;

   f) the date and a valid signature; and

   g) (if applicable) proof of payment of the advance of costs.

2. The FIFA general secretariat will assess whether these requirements are met. If the claim is incomplete, the FIFA general secretariat will inform the claimant and request rectification. If the claim is not rectified within the time limit given, it is deemed to be withdrawn and will need to be resubmitted.

Article 19: Preliminary procedural matters

1. The FIFA general secretariat, after assessing whether a claim is complete, will subsequently assess whether:

   a) the relevant chamber obviously does not have jurisdiction; and/or

   b) the claim is obviously time-barred or inadmissible.

2. Following this assessment, the FIFA general secretariat may refer the case directly to the chairperson of the relevant chamber of the FT for an expedited decision.

3. If the chairperson of the relevant chamber of the FT considers that the claim is not affected by any preliminary procedural matters, they shall order the FIFA general secretariat to continue the procedure.

Article 20: Proposal from the FIFA general secretariat

1. After determining that the claim is complete, in disputes without **prima facie** complex facts or legal issues, or in cases where this is clear established jurisprudence, the FIFA general secretariat may make a proposal to finalise the matter without a decision issued by a chamber. Such proposal is without prejudice to any future decision issued by a chamber.

2. A party shall accept or reject the proposal within the time limit granted by the FIFA general secretariat.

3. A party that fails to respond to the proposal shall be deemed to have accepted it.

4. Where a proposal is accepted, a confirmation letter will be issued by the FIFA general secretariat. The confirmation letter shall be considered a final and binding decision pursuant to the relevant FIFA regulations.

5. Where a proposal is rejected, the respondent(s) must submit their response within the time limit indicated in the proposal.

Article 21: Response to the claim and counterclaim

1. After determining that the claim is complete, and (where relevant) if the procedure is to continue following the conclusion of any preliminary procedural matters, the FIFA general secretariat will request that the respondent(s) submit their response to the claim via the Legal Portal within the time limit granted. If the respondent(s) fail(s) to submit a response to the claim within the time limit, a decision will be made based on the file.

2. The respondent(s) may submit a counterclaim with their response to the claim. A counterclaim shall have the same form as a claim and shall be submitted within the same time limit as that for the response to the claim.

3. If a party submits a new claim which is related to an existing case in which it is a respondent, the new claim shall be joined with the existing case and treated as a counterclaim in the existing case. Where the party has already been notified of the existing case, the new claim must have been submitted within the same time limit as that for the response to the claim in the existing case in order to be considered.

4. Where the respondent validly submits a counterclaim, the counter-respondent(s) (i.e. the original claimant) shall reply solely to the counterclaim within the time limit granted by the FIFA general secretariat.

5. Should the response to the counterclaim refer to matters which did not form part of the counterclaim, those matters will not be considered.

6. A response to a counterclaim submitted after the time limit expires will not be considered.

Article 22: Second round of submissions

The FIFA general secretariat will decide, where necessary, whether there shall be a second round of submissions. Any such submission must be submitted via the Legal Portal.

Article 23: Closure of submission phase

1. The FIFA general secretariat will notify the parties of the closure of the submission phase of the procedure. After such notification, the parties may not supplement or amend their submissions or requests for relief or produce new evidence.

2. The FIFA general secretariat and/or the respective chamber may request additional information and/or documentation at any time within the scope of a procedure.

Article 24: Adjudication

1. In procedures before the DRC, where the relief requested is:

   a) lower than USD 200,000 (or its equivalent in another currency), a single judge may adjudicate as a general rule;

   b) equivalent to or higher than USD 200,000 (or its equivalent in another currency) or the matter is legally complex, at least three judges may adjudicate. The specific matter will be chaired by the chairperson or a deputy chairperson.

2. In procedures before the PSC or the AC, a single judge may adjudicate as a general rule. Where the matter is legally complex, at least three judges may adjudicate. The specific matter will be chaired by the chairperson or a deputy chairperson.

Article 25: Costs

1. Procedures are free of charge where at least one of the parties is a player, coach, football agent or match agent.

2. Procedural costs are payable in all other types of disputes. Procedural costs are payable on order by the relevant chamber, at the conclusion of a matter. The amounts are defined in Annexe 1 of these Rules.

3. An advance of costs is payable for proceedings before the PSC, with the exception of proceedings relating to regulatory applications.

4. Advance of costs shall be paid by the claimant or counter-claimant when the claim or counterclaim is lodged, and are defined in Annexe 1 of these Rules.

5. The chamber will decide the amount that each party is due to pay, in consideration of the parties' degree of success and their conduct during the procedure, as well as any advance of costs paid. In exceptional circumstances, the chamber may order that FIFA assumes all procedural costs.

6. A party that has been ordered to pay procedural costs is only obliged to pay where:

   a) it requests the grounds of the decision after having been notified of the operative part; or

   b) the decision has been notified directly with grounds.

7. Procedural costs shall be paid within ten days as from the notification of the relevant decision to the bank account provided in the decision. The relevant proof of payment shall be filed with the FIFA general secretariat within the same ten days.

8. No legal costs shall be awarded. Parties shall bear all their own costs in connection with any procedure.

Article 26: Mediation

1. If the chairperson of the FT, the chairperson of the respective chamber or the FIFA general secretariat consider it appropriate, they may invite the parties to mediate the dispute.

2. Mediation is a voluntary process and free of charge. It shall be conducted in accordance with the general principles of the CAS Mediation Rules, as well as any rules enacted by FIFA to this end, and through the mediators recognised by a list approved by the FIFA general secretariat.

3. If mediation is successful, a settlement agreement will be signed by the parties and ratified by the chairperson of the FT or the chairperson of the respective chamber. The settlement agreement shall be considered a final and binding decision of the FT pursuant to the relevant FIFA regulations.

RULES SPECIFIC TO THE SOLIDARITY MECHANISM AND TRAINING COMPENSATION CLAIMS AND ELECTRONIC PLAYER PASSPORT-RELATED CASES BEFORE THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CHAMBER

IV.

FIFA®

Article 27: Training reward claims

1. Pursuant to the relevant FIFA regulations, a party shall submit a claim for training compensation or the solidarity mechanism and its additional documents in TMS. The claim shall contain the following (subject to the nature of the claim):

   a) the name and address(es) for service of the claimant;

   b) (if applicable) the name and address(es) for service of any authorised representative, and a copy of a written, specific, and recent power of attorney;

   c) a statement of claim, setting out full written arguments in fact and law, the full body of evidence and requests for relief;

   d) the details of a bank account registered in the name of the claimant on a signed copy of the Bank Account Registration Form;

   e) (if applicable) confirmation from the claimant's member association of the start and end dates of its sporting season during the period when the player was registered with the claimant;

   f) complete career history of the player, setting out all clubs with which they have been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday until the date of their registration with the respondent club, taking into account any possible interruptions, as well as indicating the status of the player (amateur or professional) when registered, and whether such registration was permanent or temporary;

   g) (if applicable) evidence that the club in question – with which the professional was registered and trained – has in the meantime ceased to participate in organised football and/or no longer exists due to, in particular, bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution or loss of affiliation;

For training compensation only

   h) (if applicable) confirmation from the claimant's member association of the category of the claimant;

   i) (if applicable) the category of the respondent(s);

   j) (if applicable) information about the exact date of the first registration of the player as a professional;

   k) (if applicable) information about the exact date of the transfer on which the claim is based;

   l) (if applicable) evidence of a professional contract offer;

For the solidarity mechanism only

   m) information about the exact date of the transfer on which the claim is based;

   n) information about the clubs involved in the transfer on which the claim is based;

o) the percentage of the solidarity contribution claimed; and

p) the alleged amount for which the player was transferred to their new club, if known, or a statement to the effect that the amount is currently not known.

Article 28: Procedure related to training reward claims

All claims related to proceedings detailed in article 27 must be submitted and managed through TMS. Except for article 18 paragraph 1, the specific procedural rules for disputes in Chapter III shall apply equally to procedures subject to article 27.

Article 28bis: Cases of legal or factual complexity in an Electronic Player Passport

1. When cases of legal or factual complexity are identified by the FIFA general secretariat during its evaluation of an Electronic Player Passport (EPP), the FIFA general secretariat shall submit the complete EPP to the DRC for formal decision.

2. For the purpose of this submission, the FIFA general secretariat shall gather information and documentation during the EPP review process from the parties involved. The parties involved are clubs and member associations participating in the review of the EPP.

3. Upon submission by the FIFA general secretariat of the EPP, the DRC shall make a determination on all relevant player registration information and documentation considered in the EPP for the distribution of training rewards.

4. The FIFA general secretariat will notify the parties of the submission of the EPP to the DRC. After such notification, the parties may not supplement or amend any of the information or documentation provided during the EPP review process or produce new evidence.

5. All communication between the FIFA general secretariat and the parties involved will be undertaken via TMS in the context of the EPP of the player in question.

6. As a general rule, a single judge will adjudicate these cases.

7. Procedures described in this article are free of charge.

8. The decision by the DRC will be duly communicated to the parties via TMS in accordance with article 10 of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations. Article 15 paragraphs 2, 3 and 8 of these Rules shall apply.

REGULATORY APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE PLAYERS' STATUS CHAMBER

V.

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Article 29: Regulatory applications

1. Pursuant to the relevant FIFA regulations, the PSC shall adjudicate regulatory applications regarding:

   a) the international transfer or first registration of a minor;

   b) a limited minor exemption (LME);

   c) FIFA intervention to authorise the registration of a player;

   d) a request for eligibility or change of association;

   e) the late return of a player from representative-team duty; or

   f) a request for release of players to representative-team duty.

2. Any such application must contain full written arguments in fact and law. In processing these applications, the FIFA general secretariat must apply the principles of due process. The specific requirements regarding an application for the international transfer or first registration of a minor (article 30) is set out in these Rules.

   a) All applications under article 29 paragraph 1 a), b) and c) must be submitted and managed through TMS.

   b) All applications under article 29 paragraph 1 d), e) and f) must be submitted and managed via the Legal Portal.

   c) Only applications concerning futsal players and applications covered by FIFA circular no. 1635 may be submitted and managed via email.

3. Upon receipt, the FIFA general secretariat will assess whether an application is complete.

   a) If the application is not complete, the FIFA general secretariat will inform the applicant and request rectification.

   b) If the application is not rectified within the time limit given, it is deemed to be withdrawn and will need to be resubmitted.

   c) Once an application is deemed complete, or upon explicit request of the applicant, it will be transmitted to the PSC for decision.

4. Generally, a single judge shall adjudicate. In a complex matter or where exceptional circumstances exist, at least three judges shall adjudicate.

Article 30: International transfer or first registration of a minor

1. Pursuant to the relevant FIFA regulations, a member association that wishes to register a player, at the request of its affiliated club, may apply via TMS for:

   a) the international transfer of a minor player; or

   b) the first registration of a foreign minor player; or

   c) the first registration of a minor player who is not a national of the country where the member association in which they wish to be registered is domiciled, and has lived continuously for at least the last five years in that country.

2. An application is not required where:

   a) the minor is a national of the country where the member association in which they wish to be registered is domiciled, and was never previously registered at another member association;

   b) the minor is less than ten years old; or

   c) the member association has been granted an LME and the international move of the minor falls within the scope of that LME.

3. An application must contain the documents (subject to the type of application) requested in TMS, as described in the Guide to Submitting a Minor Application.

4. For international transfers, the former member association at which the minor was registered will be:

   a) provided access to all non-confidential documents via TMS; and

   b) invited to make a submission and submit any documents within a regulatory time limit set by the FIFA general secretariat.

5. For international transfers relating to humanitarian reasons, the former member association at which the player was registered will not be notified of the application.

Article 31: Request for eligibility or change of association

1. Pursuant to the relevant FIFA regulations, a member association that wishes to submit a request for eligibility or a request for change of association for a player to play for their representative teams shall submit such request via the Legal Portal.

2. The request shall be submitted via the Legal Portal at least 15 calendar days before the first day of the international window in which the representative teams' activities for which the player is required will take place. Submissions filed outside the relevant time limit shall be assessed by the PSC only after the conclusion of said international window.

3. Any request for eligibility or change of association must contain the documents (subject to the type of request) described in the Guide to Submitting a Request for Eligibility or Change of Association.

FINAL PROVISIONS

VI.

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Article 32: Transitory provisions

1. Procedures that commenced prior to these Rules coming into force shall be subject to these Rules.

2. The FIFA general secretariat shall make all decisions regarding the application of these Rules to procedures that commenced prior to these Rules coming into force.

Article 33: Matters not provided for and force majeure

1. Any matters not provided for in these Rules shall be determined by the FIFA general secretariat.

2. Cases of force majeure affecting these Rules shall be decided by the chairperson of the FT whose decisions are final.

Article 34: Authoritative text

If there are any discrepancies between the interpretation of these Rules in the various languages, the English text is authoritative.

Article 35: Entry into force

1. These Rules were approved by the FIFA Council on 17 December 2025 and come into force on 1 January 2026.

2. The provisions concerning the AC enter into force on 1 October 2023.

17 December 2025

For the FIFA Council

President:

Gianni Infantino

Secretary General:

Mattias Grafström

Annexe 1

1. Advance of costs are as follows:

Amount in dispute (USD)				Fixed advance of costs
USD	0	to USD	49,999.99	USD 1,000
USD	50,000	to USD	99,999.99	USD 2,000
USD	100,000	to USD	149,999.99	USD 3,000
USD	150,000	to USD	199,999.99	USD 4,000
USD	200,000+			USD 5,000

2. Procedural costs are as follows:

Amount in dispute (in USD)				Procedural costs
USD	0	to USD	49,999.99	up to USD 5,000
USD	50,000	to USD	99,999.99	up to USD 10,000
USD	100,000	to USD	149,999.99	up to USD 15,000
USD	150,000	to USD	199,999.99	up to USD 20,000
USD	200,000+			up to USD 25,000

3. Payment of the advance of costs or procedural costs shall be made to the following account, with a clear reference to the parties involved in the dispute:

UBS Zurich

Account number: 230-366677.61N (FIFA Players' Status)

Clearing number: 230

IBAN: CH12 0023 0230 3666 7761 N

SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A

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PROCEDURAL RULES

Governing the Football Tribunal

JANUARY 2027 EDITION

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Annexe 1

DEFINITIONS

The definitions in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, the FIFA Football Agent Regulations and the FIFA Statutes shall apply.

NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

I.

General provisions

ARTICLE 1: SCOPE OF APPLICATION

1. These rules govern the organisation, composition and functions of the Football Tribunal (FT).

2. The FT shall be composed of three chambers:

   a) the Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC);

   b) the Players' Status Chamber (PSC); and

   c) the Agents Chamber (AC).

ARTICLE 2: JURISDICTION

1. The matters for which each chamber has jurisdiction are provided by specific FIFA regulations.

2. In the event of uncertainty as to which chamber has jurisdiction to decide a matter, the chairperson of the FT will decide.

ARTICLE 3: APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS

The FT shall primarily apply the various regulations of FIFA and, subsidiarily, Swiss law.

ARTICLE 4: COMPOSITION

1. The chairperson of the FT shall have legal qualifications. They shall be appointed for four years by the FIFA Council.

2. The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons, and members of each chamber shall be appointed for four years by the FIFA Council. The chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of each chamber shall have legal qualifications. The members shall have a professional legal background with relevant football experience.

3. The DRC shall be composed of:

   a) a chairperson and at least two deputy chairpersons, at the proposal of FIFA and agreed upon by consensus between the parties mentioned in b) and c) below;

   b) at least 15 player representatives, appointed at the proposal of players' associations; and

   c) at least 15 club representatives, appointed at the proposal of member associations, clubs and leagues.

4. The PSC shall be composed of:

   a) a chairperson and at least one deputy chairperson; and

   b) the necessary number of members as decided by the FIFA Council, appointed at the proposal of member associations, confederations, players, clubs and leagues.

5. The AC shall be composed of:

   a) a chairperson and at least one deputy chairperson; and

   b) the necessary number of members as decided by the FIFA Council, appointed at the proposal of member associations, confederations, players, clubs, leagues, and football agents.

6. If a vacancy occurs, the FIFA Council may appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term of office. The chairperson of the DRC or the chairperson of the PSC shall deputise for the chairperson of the FT in the latter's absence.

ARTICLE 5: INDEPENDENCE AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. The members of the FT are bound by the FIFA Statutes, FIFA regulations and the law.

2. A member of the FT may not take part in deciding a matter if there is any legitimate doubt as to their impartiality and shall disclose any circumstance which might give rise to a conflict of interest. The nationality of a person appointed to decide a matter does not per se constitute a legitimate doubt as to their impartiality.

3. A party is entitled to challenge a member of the FT appointed to decide a matter if it believes that there is a legitimate doubt as to their impartiality. Such challenge shall be filed within five calendar days from the notification of the composition of the relevant chamber for adjudication. The decision on such challenge shall be made by the chairperson of the FT.

ARTICLE 6: CONFIDENTIALITY

A person appointed to the FT shall maintain strict confidentiality on any case they decide.

ARTICLE 7: EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY

Neither the persons appointed to the FT nor the FIFA officials acting in an administrative capacity may be held liable for any action or omission relating to any decision or procedure undertaken in accordance with applicable FIFA regulations or these Rules.

ARTICLE 8: ROLE OF THE FIFA GENERAL SECRETARIAT

1. The FIFA general secretariat will provide the administrative organisation and support for the FT.
2. The FIFA general secretariat is empowered to make decisions as provided for in these Rules.

II.

General procedural rules

ARTICLE 9: PARTIES

1. Subject to the relevant FIFA regulations, only the following natural or legal persons may be a party before a chamber:

   a) member associations;

   b) clubs affiliated to a member association;

   c) players;

   d) coaches;

   e) single-entity leagues, only for the purposes of the FIFA Football Agent Regulations;

   f) football agents licensed by FIFA; or

   g) match agents licensed by FIFA.

2. A party may appoint an authorised representative to act on its behalf in any procedure. It shall provide written authorisation to be represented in the specific procedure.

3. A party is responsible for the conduct of its authorised representative. Authorised representatives are obliged to tell the truth and act in good faith in any procedure.

4. The FIFA general secretariat may, at any stage of a procedure, request the intervention of any natural or legal person as a party in a procedure.

ARTICLE 10: COMMUNICATIONS

1. All communications shall be undertaken via the Legal Portal operated by FIFA (Legal Portal) or the Transfer Matching System (TMS).

2. The specific procedural rules shall define which method of communication must be used for the procedure in question. Communications from FIFA to a party by any such method is considered a valid means of communication and sufficient to establish time limits and their observance.

3. Parties must review TMS and the Legal Portal at least once per day for any communications from FIFA. Parties are responsible for any procedural disadvantages that may arise due to a failure to properly undertake such review. The contact details indicated in TMS are binding on the party that provided them.

4. Any communication submitted in TMS by a member association on behalf of an affiliated club shall:

   a) not be subject to the fulfilment of any conditions by the respective club;

   b) be undertaken by the member association without delay, regardless of whether it agrees with the merits of the communication.

ARTICLE 11: TIME LIMITS

1. For a party that directly receives a communication, the time limit will commence the day after receipt of the relevant communication.

2. For a party that receives a communication via its member association, the time limit will commence four calendar days after receipt of the communication by the member association to which it is affiliated or registered, or on the date of notification of the party by the member association, whichever is sooner.

3. If the last day of a time limit coincides with an official public holiday or a non-working day in the place of domicile of the party required to comply, the time limit will expire at the end of the next working day.

4. A time limit is deemed to have been complied with if the action required or requested has been completed by latest the last day of the time limit at the location of the party's domicile or, if the party is represented, of the domicile of its main legal representative. Submissions and evidence filed outside the relevant time limit shall be disregarded.

5. Time limits are paused from 20 December to 5 January inclusive.

6. Regulatory time limits fixed in these Rules will not be extended. Time limits set by the FIFA general secretariat may be extended upon substantiated request submitted before the expiry of the relevant time limit.

ARTICLE 12: PROCEDURAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

1. A party may file submissions, produce evidence, and examine the case file before any decision is made.

2. A party shall always act in good faith, tell the truth, and cooperate with any request for information made by a chamber or the FIFA general secretariat.

3. The same obligations apply to any natural person or legal person under the jurisdiction of FIFA that is not a party in a procedure but has been requested to contribute to a procedure by a chamber or the FIFA general secretariat.

ARTICLE 13: SUBMISSIONS AND EVIDENCE

1. Any submission to FIFA shall be made in English, Spanish, or French. Any submission to FIFA not made in one of the aforementioned languages will be disregarded.
2. A party that receives a submission made by another party within the scope of a procedure shall maintain strict confidentiality on that submission, unless such disclosure is made to professional advisers or is required by law.
3. Any type of evidence may be produced. A chamber has ultimate discretion as to the weight it gives to evidence. All the evidence upon which a party intends to rely must be filed in the original language and, if applicable, translated into English, Spanish or French.
4. A chamber may consider and rely on any evidence not presented by the parties, including without limitation the evidence generated by or within TMS and/or the Platform.
5. A party that asserts a fact has the burden of proving it.
6. Parties have the duty to collaborate to establish the facts and shall respond in good faith to any evidentiary request from a chamber, the FIFA general secretariat or a party. A party submitting an evidentiary request shall demonstrate that the evidence requested is likely to exist and is relevant. An adverse inference may be drawn from a party's reaction to an evidentiary request.

ARTICLE 14: MEETINGS AND DELIBERATIONS

1. The chamber makes a decision based on the written file. In exceptional circumstances, a chairperson may decide that a case is suitable for oral hearing. The chairperson will decide on the procedure of any oral hearing.
2. Deliberations may be held electronically or in person and shall be kept confidential.
3. A decision is passed by a simple majority of the appointed chamber. If the votes are equal, the chairperson for that matter shall have the casting vote.

ARTICLE 15: NOTIFICATIONS OF DECISIONS

1. A decision will be notified to a party directly in accordance with these Rules. Where the party is a club, a copy shall be notified to the member association and confederation to which it is affiliated.

2. Notification is deemed complete when the decision is communicated to a party. Notification of an authorised representative will be regarded as notification of the party which they represent.

3. Decisions enter into force as soon as notification occurs.

4. Generally, a party shall only be notified of the operative part of the decision. Decisions that immediately impose sporting sanctions against a party shall only be communicated with grounds.

5. Where no procedural costs are ordered, a party has ten calendar days from notification of the operative part of the decision to request the grounds of the decision. Failure to comply with the time limit shall result in the decision becoming final and binding and the party will be deemed to have waived its right to file an appeal. The time limit to lodge an appeal begins upon notification of the grounds of the decision.

6. Where procedural costs are ordered, notification of the grounds of a decision will only be made to the party that has both requested the grounds of the decision and paid its share of the procedural costs within the regulatory time limit of ten calendar days from notification of the operative part of the decision, if any.

7. Failure to comply with the time limit referred to in paragraph 6 of this article shall result in the request for the grounds being deemed to have been withdrawn. As a result, the decision will become final and binding and the party will be deemed to have waived its right to file an appeal.

8. Obvious mistakes in decisions and obvious procedural errors discovered after a decision is rendered may be corrected, *ex officio* or on application, by the chamber that made the decision. Where a decision has been corrected, regulatory time limits will commence from the time of notification of the rectified decision.

ARTICLE 16: LANGUAGE

1. The language(s) used in all proceedings shall be exclusively English, Spanish or French.
2. Where submissions or evidence in a matter are in a single language, the decision of the chamber will be in that language.
3. Where submissions or evidence in a matter are in multiple languages, the procedure will be conducted in English and the decision will be in English.

ARTICLE 17: PUBLICATION

1. The FIFA general secretariat may publish decisions of the FT or awards of the Court of Arbitration for Sport which derive from appeals against decisions of the FT on legal.fifa.com.
2. Where a decision contains confidential information, a party may request within five days of the notification of the grounds of the decision that FIFA publishes an anonymised or a redacted version.
3. In decisions involving minors, only an anonymised or a redacted version which protects the identity of the minor(s) concerned may be published by FIFA.

III.

Rules specific to disputes before the Dispute Resolution Chamber, Players' Status Chamber, or Agents Chamber

ARTICLE 18: CLAIMS

1. A claim against another party must be submitted via the Legal Portal and contain the following:

   a) the name, email address(es), and postal address(es) for notification of the party;

   b) (if applicable) the name, email address(es), and postal address(es) for notification of any authorised representative, and a copy of a written, specific and recent power of attorney;

   c) the identity and address(es) for service of the respondent(s);

   d) a statement of claim, setting out full written arguments in fact and law, the full body of evidence, and requests for relief;

   e) the details of a bank account registered in the name of the claimant on a signed copy of the Bank Account Registration Form;

   f) the date and a valid signature; and

   g) (if applicable) proof of payment of the advance of costs.

2. The FIFA general secretariat will assess whether these requirements are met. If the claim is incomplete, the FIFA general secretariat will inform the claimant and request rectification. If the claim is not rectified within the time limit given, it is deemed to be withdrawn and will need to be resubmitted.

ARTICLE 19: PRELIMINARY PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. The FIFA general secretariat, after assessing whether a claim is complete, will subsequently assess whether:

   a) the relevant chamber obviously does not have jurisdiction; and/or

   b) the claim is obviously time-barred or inadmissible.

2. Following this assessment, the FIFA general secretariat may refer the case directly to the chairperson of the relevant chamber of the FT for an expedited decision.

3. If the chairperson of the relevant chamber of the FT considers that the claim is not affected by any preliminary procedural matters, they shall order the FIFA general secretariat to continue the procedure.

ARTICLE 20: PROPOSAL FROM THE FIFA GENERAL SECRETARIAT

1. After determining that the claim is complete, in disputes without *prima facie* complex facts or legal issues, or in cases where this is clear established jurisprudence, the FIFA general secretariat may make a proposal to finalise the matter without a decision issued by a chamber. Such proposal is without prejudice to any future decision issued by a chamber.
2. A party shall accept or reject the proposal within the time limit granted by the FIFA general secretariat.
3. A party that fails to respond to the proposal shall be deemed to have accepted it.
4. Where a proposal is accepted, a confirmation letter will be issued by the FIFA general secretariat. The confirmation letter shall be considered a final and binding decision pursuant to the relevant FIFA regulations.
5. Where a proposal is rejected, the respondent(s) must submit their response within the time limit indicated in the proposal.

ARTICLE 21: RESPONSE TO THE CLAIM AND COUNTERCLAIM

1. After determining that the claim is complete, and (where relevant) if the procedure is to continue following the conclusion of any preliminary procedural matters, the FIFA general secretariat will request that the respondent(s) submit their response to the claim via the Legal Portal within the time limit granted. If the respondent(s) fail(s) to submit a response to the claim within the time limit, a decision will be made based on the file.
2. The respondent(s) may submit a counterclaim with their response to the claim. A counterclaim shall have the same form as a claim and shall be submitted within the same time limit as that for the response to the claim.
3. If a party submits a new claim which is related to an existing case in which it is a respondent, the new claim shall be joined with the existing case and treated as a counterclaim in the existing case. Where the party has already been notified of the existing case, the new claim must have been submitted within the same time limit as that for the response to the claim in the existing case in order to be considered.
4. Where the respondent validly submits a counterclaim, the counter-respondent(s) (i.e. the original claimant) shall reply solely to the counterclaim within the time limit granted by the FIFA general secretariat.

5. Should the response to the counterclaim refer to matters which did not form part of the counterclaim, those matters will not be considered.

6. A response to a counterclaim submitted after the time limit expires will not be considered.

ARTICLE 22: SECOND ROUND OF SUBMISSIONS

The FIFA general secretariat will decide, where necessary, whether there shall be a second round of submissions. Any such submission must be submitted via the Legal Portal.

ARTICLE 23: CLOSURE OF SUBMISSION PHASE

1. The FIFA general secretariat will notify the parties of the closure of the submission phase of the procedure. After such notification, the parties may not supplement or amend their submissions or requests for relief or produce new evidence.

2. The FIFA general secretariat and/or the respective chamber may request additional information and/or documentation at any time within the scope of a procedure.

ARTICLE 24: ADJUDICATION

1. In procedures before the DRC, where the relief requested is:

   a) lower than USD 200,000 (or its equivalent in another currency), a single judge may adjudicate as a general rule;

   b) equivalent to or higher than USD 200,000 (or its equivalent in another currency) or the matter is legally complex, at least three judges may adjudicate. The specific matter will be chaired by the chairperson or a deputy chairperson.

2. In procedures before the PSC or the AC, a single judge may adjudicate as a general rule. Where the matter is legally complex, at least three judges may adjudicate. The specific matter will be chaired by the chairperson or a deputy chairperson.

ARTICLE 25: COSTS

1. Procedures are free of charge where at least one of the parties is a player, coach, football agent or match agent.

2. Procedural costs are payable in all other types of disputes. Procedural costs are payable on order by the relevant chamber, at the conclusion of a matter. The amounts are defined in Annexe 1 of these Rules.

3. An advance of costs is payable for proceedings before the PSC, with the exception of proceedings relating to regulatory applications.

4. Advance of costs shall be paid by the claimant or counter-claimant when the claim or counterclaim is lodged, and are defined in Annexe 1 of these Rules.

5. The chamber will decide the amount that each party is due to pay, in consideration of the parties' degree of success and their conduct during the procedure, as well as any advance of costs paid. In exceptional circumstances, the chamber may order that FIFA assumes all procedural costs.

6. A party that has been ordered to pay procedural costs is only obliged to pay where:

   a) it requests the grounds of the decision after having been notified of the operative part; or

   b) the decision has been notified directly with grounds.

7. Procedural costs shall be paid within ten days as from the notification of the relevant decision to the bank account provided in the decision. The relevant proof of payment shall be filed with the FIFA general secretariat within the same ten days.

8. No legal costs shall be awarded. Parties shall bear all their own costs in connection with any procedure.

ARTICLE 26: MEDIATION

1. If the chairperson of the FT, the chairperson of the respective chamber or the FIFA general secretariat consider it appropriate, they may invite the parties to mediate the dispute.

2. Mediation is a voluntary process and free of charge. It shall be conducted in accordance with the general principles of the CAS Mediation Rules, as well as any rules enacted by FIFA to this end, and through the mediators recognised by a list approved by the FIFA general secretariat.

3. If mediation is successful, a settlement agreement will be signed by the parties and ratified by the chairperson of the FT or the chairperson of the respective chamber. The settlement agreement shall be considered a final and binding decision of the FT pursuant to the relevant FIFA regulations.

IV.

Rules specific to the solidarity mechanism and training compensation claims and electronic player passport-related cases before the Dispute Resolution Chamber

ARTICLE 27: TRAINING REWARD CLAIMS

1. Pursuant to the relevant FIFA regulations, a party shall submit a claim for training compensation or the solidarity mechanism and its additional documents in TMS. The claim shall contain the following (subject to the nature of the claim):

   a) the name and address(es) for service of the claimant;

   b) (if applicable) the name and address(es) for service of any authorised representative, and a copy of a written, specific, and recent power of attorney;

   c) a statement of claim, setting out full written arguments in fact and law, the full body of evidence and requests for relief;

   d) the details of a bank account registered in the name of the claimant on a signed copy of the Bank Account Registration Form;

   e) (if applicable) confirmation from the claimant's member association of the start and end dates of its sporting season during the period when the player was registered with the claimant;

   f) complete career history of the player, setting out all clubs with which they have been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday until the date of their registration with the respondent club, taking into account any possible interruptions, as well as indicating the status of the player (amateur or professional) when registered, and whether such registration was permanent or temporary;

   g) (if applicable) evidence that the club in question – with which the professional was registered and trained – has in the meantime ceased to participate in organised football and/or no longer exists due to, in particular, bankruptcy, liquidation, dissolution or loss of affiliation;

For training compensation only

   h) (if applicable) confirmation from the claimant's member association of the category of the claimant;

   i) (if applicable) the category of the respondent(s);

   j) (if applicable) information about the exact date of the first registration of the player as a professional;

   k) (if applicable) information about the exact date of the transfer on which the claim is based;

   l) (if applicable) evidence of a professional contract offer;

For the solidarity mechanism only

   m) information about the exact date of the transfer on which the claim is based;

   n) information about the clubs involved in the transfer on which the claim is based;

o) the percentage of the solidarity contribution claimed; and

p) the alleged amount for which the player was transferred to their new club, if known, or a statement to the effect that the amount is currently not known.

ARTICLE 28: PROCEDURE RELATED TO TRAINING REWARD CLAIMS

All claims related to proceedings detailed in article 27 must be submitted and managed through TMS. Except for article 18 paragraph 1, the specific procedural rules for disputes in Chapter III shall apply equally to procedures subject to article 27.

ARTICLE 28BIS: CASES OF LEGAL OR FACTUAL COMPLEXITY IN AN ELECTRONIC PLAYER PASSPORT

1. When cases of legal or factual complexity are identified by the FIFA general secretariat during its evaluation of an Electronic Player Passport (EPP), the FIFA general secretariat shall submit the complete EPP to the DRC for formal decision.

2. For the purpose of this submission, the FIFA general secretariat shall gather information and documentation during the EPP review process from the parties involved. The parties involved are clubs and member associations participating in the review of the EPP.

3. Upon submission by the FIFA general secretariat of the EPP, the DRC shall make a determination on all relevant player registration information and documentation considered in the EPP for the distribution of training rewards.

4. The FIFA general secretariat will notify the parties of the submission of the EPP to the DRC. After such notification, the parties may not supplement or amend any of the information or documentation provided during the EPP review process or produce new evidence.

5. All communication between the FIFA general secretariat and the parties involved will be undertaken via TMS in the context of the EPP of the player in question.

6. As a general rule, a single judge will adjudicate these cases.

7. Procedures described in this article are free of charge.

8. The decision by the DRC will be duly communicated to the parties via TMS in accordance with article 10 of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations. Article 15 paragraphs 2, 3 and 8 of these Rules shall apply.

V.

Regulatory applications before the Players' Status Chamber

ARTICLE 29: REGULATORY APPLICATIONS

1. Pursuant to the relevant FIFA regulations, the PSC shall adjudicate regulatory applications regarding:

   a) the international transfer or first registration of a minor;

   b) a limited minor exemption (LME);

   c) FIFA intervention to authorise the registration of a player;

   d) a request for eligibility or change of association;

   e) the late return of a player from representative-team duty; or

   f) a request for release of players to representative-team duty.

2. Any such application must contain full written arguments in fact and law. In processing these applications, the FIFA general secretariat must apply the principles of due process. The specific requirements regarding an application for the international transfer or first registration of a minor (article 30) is set out in these Rules.

   a) All applications under article 29 paragraph 1 a), b) and c) must be submitted and managed through TMS.

   b) All applications under article 29 paragraph 1 d), e) and f) must be submitted and managed via the Legal Portal.

   c) Only applications concerning futsal players and applications covered by FIFA circular no. 1635 may be submitted and managed via email.

3. Upon receipt, the FIFA general secretariat will assess whether an application is complete.

   a) If the application is not complete, the FIFA general secretariat will inform the applicant and request rectification.

   b) If the application is not rectified within the time limit given, it is deemed to be withdrawn and will need to be resubmitted.

   c) Once an application is deemed complete, or upon explicit request of the applicant, it will be transmitted to the PSC for decision.

4. Generally, a single judge shall adjudicate. In a complex matter or where exceptional circumstances exist, at least three judges shall adjudicate.

ARTICLE 30: INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OR FIRST REGISTRATION OF A MINOR

1. Pursuant to the relevant FIFA regulations, a member association that wishes to register a player, at the request of its affiliated club, may apply via TMS for:

   a) the international transfer of a minor player; or

   b) the first registration of a foreign minor player; or

   c) the first registration of a minor player who is not a national of the country where the member association in which they wish to be registered is domiciled, and has lived continuously for at least the last five years in that country.

2. An application is not required where:

   a) the minor is a national of the country where the member association in which they wish to be registered is domiciled, and was never previously registered at another member association;

   b) the minor is less than ten years old; or

   c) the member association has been granted an LME and the international move of the minor falls within the scope of that LME.

3. An application must contain the documents (subject to the type of application) requested in TMS, as described in the Guide to Submitting a Minor Application.

4. For international transfers, the former member association at which the minor was registered will be:

   a) provided access to all non-confidential documents via TMS; and

   b) invited to make a submission and submit any documents within a regulatory time limit set by the FIFA general secretariat.

5. For international transfers relating to humanitarian reasons, the former member association at which the player was registered will not be notified of the application.

ARTICLE 31: REQUEST FOR ELIGIBILITY OR CHANGE OF ASSOCIATION

1. Pursuant to the relevant FIFA regulations, a member association that wishes to submit a request for eligibility or a request for change of association for a player to play for their representative teams shall submit such request via the Legal Portal.

2. The request shall be submitted via the Legal Portal at least 15 calendar days before the first day of the international window in which the representative teams' activities for which the player is required will take place. Submissions filed outside the relevant time limit shall be assessed by the PSC only after the conclusion of said international window.

3. Any request for eligibility or change of association must contain the documents (subject to the type of request) described in the Guide to Submitting a Request for Eligibility or Change of Association.

VI.

Final provisions

ARTICLE 32: TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

1. Procedures that commenced prior to these Rules coming into force shall be subject to these Rules.
2. The FIFA general secretariat shall make all decisions regarding the application of these Rules to procedures that commenced prior to these Rules coming into force.

ARTICLE 33: MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR AND FORCE MAJEURE

1. Any matters not provided for in these Rules shall be determined by the FIFA general secretariat.
2. Cases of force majeure affecting these Rules shall be decided by the chairperson of the FT whose decisions are final.

ARTICLE 34: AUTHORITATIVE TEXT

If there are any discrepancies between the interpretation of these Rules in the various languages, the English text is authoritative.

ARTICLE 35: ADOPTION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

These rules were adopted by the Bureau of the Council on 10 June 2026 and come into force on 1 January 2027.

10 June 2026

For FIFA

President:

Gianni Infantino

Secretary General:

Mattias Grafström

ANNEXE 1

1. Advance of costs are as follows:

	Amount in dispute (USD)		Fixed advance of costs
USD	0	to USD 49,999.99	USD 1,000
USD	50,000	to USD 99,999.99	USD 2,000
USD	100,000	to USD 149,999.99	USD 3,000
USD	150,000	to USD 199,999.99	USD 4,000
USD	200,000+		USD 5,000

2. Procedural costs are as follows:

	Amount in dispute (in USD)		Procedural costs
USD	0	to USD 49,999.99	up to USD 5,000
USD	50,000	to USD 99,999.99	up to USD 10,000
USD	100,000	to USD 149,999.99	up to USD 15,000
USD	150,000	to USD 199,999.99	up to USD 20,000
USD	200,000+		up to USD 25,000

3. Payment of the advance of costs or procedural costs shall be made to the following account, with a clear reference to the parties involved in the dispute:

UBS Zurich

Account number: 230-366677.61N (FIFA Players' Status)

Clearing number: 230

IBAN: CH12 0023 0230 3666 7761 N

SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A

FIFA®



FIFA Clearing House Regulations

JANUARY 2026

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DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these regulations, the terms set out in the FIFA Statutes and the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, as well as the following definitions, shall apply:

Accreditation: process by which a club or Member Association is accepted as a client of the FIFA Clearing House for the purpose of making or receiving payments through the FIFA Clearing House.

Allocation Statement: the document issued by the FIFA general secretariat to the FIFA Clearing House that provides it with the necessary information to process payments, notably the paying and receiving parties and the amounts to be distributed.

Client Portal: online portal hosted by the FIFA Clearing House, used by clubs and Member Associations for registration, communication and document collection and to gain an overview of relevant transactions.

Compliance Assessment: the procedure required to be performed by the FIFA Clearing House prior to accepting any potential client in order to satisfy financial regulatory requirements.

Dispute Resolution Chamber: the Dispute Resolution Chamber of the Football Tribunal as defined in the Procedural Rules.

Distribution Statement: the document generated by the FIFA Clearing House that contains information about payments of training rewards to which the training club(s) in question is (are) entitled.

Electronic Player Passport (EPP): an electronic document containing consolidated registration information of a player throughout their career, including the relevant Member Association, their status (amateur or professional), the type of registration (permanent or loan), and the club(s) (including training category) with which they have been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday.

FCH Terms & Conditions: the terms and conditions for a party to take part in a transaction involving the FIFA Clearing House.

FIFA Clearing House: an independent legal entity domiciled in Paris, France, operating under the name FIFA Clearing House SAS, which acts as an intermediary in relation to processing certain payments made in the football transfer system.

First Failure of the Compliance Assessment: initial failure of a party to pass a Compliance Assessment within the established process and deadlines notified by the FIFA Clearing House.

Non-Compliant Party: a club or Member Association that is subject to a First Failure of the Compliance Assessment or a Second Failure of the Compliance Assessment.

Procedural Rules: the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal.

Regulations: these FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

Request to Pay: the document issued by the FIFA Clearing House detailing the amount(s) payable to the FIFA Clearing House.

RSTP: the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

Second Failure of the Compliance Assessment: failure by a Non-Compliant Party to pass the Compliance Assessment within the established process and deadline following the First Failure of the Compliance Assessment.

NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice versa, unless indicated otherwise.

I.

Introductory provisions

ARTICLE 1: OBJECTIVES

1.1 FIFA has a statutory obligation to regulate all matters relating to the football transfer system. The FIFA Clearing House shall serve to protect the core objectives of the football transfer system in accordance with the FIFA Statutes and the RSTP, notably to:

a) protect the contractual stability between professional players and clubs;

b) encourage the training of young players;

c) promote a spirit of solidarity between the elite and grassroots football;

d) protect minors;

e) maintain competitive balance; and

f) ensure the regularity of sporting competitions.

1.2 The specific objectives of the FIFA Clearing House are to:

a) process specific payments related to the transfer of football players between clubs;

b) protect the integrity of the football transfer system;

c) enhance and promote financial transparency in the football transfer system; and

d) prevent fraudulent conduct in the football transfer system.

1.3 In pursuit of these objectives, the FIFA Clearing House acts as an intermediary for the payment of training rewards in the football transfer system that fall due pursuant to the RSTP and performs all required Compliance Assessments in their execution.

ARTICLE 2: SCOPE

2.1 These Regulations lay down the process for the payments processed through the FIFA Clearing House.

2.2 These Regulations apply to all such payments relating to eleven-a-side football only.

2.3 These Regulations apply to all parties bound by the FIFA Statutes.

ARTICLE 3: FIFA CLEARING HOUSE

3.1 The FIFA Clearing House is a separate entity from FIFA and was established to act as an intermediary in payments deriving from the football transfer system. The FIFA Clearing House is a payment service provider with a licence from the appropriate regulatory authorities. Its governance structure is detailed in its articles of association.

3.2 The FIFA Clearing House shall not make a financial profit from the assets it receives and/or transactions it undertakes.

3.3 The legal relationship between the FIFA Clearing House and the parties involved in transactions processed through the FIFA Clearing House is governed exclusively by the FCH Terms & Conditions and these Regulations.

3.4 The FIFA Data Protection Regulations apply to all matters described in these Regulations, including all interactions with the FIFA Clearing House.

II.

Procedure governing the calculation and payment of training rewards

ARTICLE 4: REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

4.1 Member Associations and clubs shall ensure that reliable, accurate, and complete player registration and transfer information is made available electronically to FIFA at all times.

4.2 Member Associations and clubs shall use an electronic player registration system, an electronic domestic transfer system, TMS, the FIFA Connect ID Service, and the FIFA Connect Interface to communicate registration and transfer information electronically to FIFA.

4.3 Each Member Association shall:

a) use an electronic player registration system, integrated with the FIFA Connect ID Service and FIFA Connect Interface, to register players; and

b) use an electronic domestic transfer system, integrated with the FIFA Connect Interface, to process national transfers.

4.4 Each Member Association shall maintain accurate and up-to-date player registration data in its electronic player registration system and the FIFA Connect ID Service at all times, including, without limitation, the following information:

a) the status of the player in accordance with article 2 of the RSTP;

b) the type(s) of football (eleven-a-side football, futsal, and/or beach soccer) that the player is registered to participate in; and

c) the category of the club(s) with which the player is registered.

4.5 Each Member Association shall maintain accurate and up-to-date data regarding its affiliated clubs (whether current or former) in its electronic player registration system and the FIFA Connect ID Service at all times, including, without limitation, the following information:

a) address and contact details;

b) current and historical data regarding club categorisation; and

c) current and historical data regarding the affiliation to the Member Association.

4.6 A club shall be categorised by a Member Association based on the criteria established in the RSTP. No other categorisation system shall be recognised.

4.7 Subject to article 17 of these Regulations, only players registered by a Member Association with a club and identified with a FIFA ID through the electronic systems described in this article shall be considered for the automatic calculation and payment of training rewards.

4.8 Member Associations are responsible for the registration information that is included in the final EPP.

ARTICLE 5: TRAINING REWARDS TRIGGER: FIRST REGISTRATION AS A PROFESSIONAL

First registration as a professional at the same Member Association where the player was most recently registered as an amateur

5.1 The first registration of a player as a professional at the same Member Association where the player was most recently registered as an amateur shall be entered or confirmed by the Member Association in the electronic player registration system, following a request from the club for which the player will be registered.

a) If the first registration as a professional is with the same club where the player was most recently registered as an amateur, the Member Association shall update the status of the player.

b) If the first registration as a professional occurs after a transfer between clubs affiliated to the same Member Association, the relevant club(s) and/or Member Association shall enter the national transfer in the electronic domestic transfer system and update the status of the player at the new club.

c) Such procedures shall be governed by specific regulations issued by each Member Association.

5.2 The electronic player registration system shall communicate the details of the first registration as a professional to FIFA through the FIFA Connect Interface within thirty (30) days of the domestic registration.

5.3 TMS will identify, from the information communicated by the Member Association, the first registration of a player as a professional, which may trigger an entitlement to training rewards pursuant to the RSTP.

First registration as a professional at the same Member Association where the player was most recently registered as an amateur – manual declaration

5.4 Where the electronic player registration system of a Member Association is not fully integrated and unable to communicate the first registration of a player as a professional to FIFA through the FIFA Connect Interface, the Member Association shall exceptionally declare that registration manually in TMS within thirty (30) days of the domestic registration, subject to the following conditions:

a) Member Associations shall request the prior written approval of the FIFA general secretariat to make manual declarations in TMS.

b) Written approval may be granted, at the discretion of the FIFA general secretariat, for a defined period of time. Conditions may be attached to the written approval on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the FIFA general secretariat.

c) At the conclusion of this period, Member Associations shall comply with the electronic-system obligations set out in article 4 paragraph 2.

5.5 A Member Association shall provide the compulsory data when entering this manual declaration in TMS.

5.6 A Member Association shall upload the employment contract of the player as part of the manual declaration to support the information that has been entered in TMS.

5.7 FIFA may request further documentation or information from the Member Association at any time.

5.8 TMS will identify, from the information declared by the Member Association, the first registration of a player as a professional, which may trigger an entitlement to training rewards pursuant to the RSTP.

First registration as a professional at a different Member Association from that where the player was most recently registered as an amateur

5.9 The first registration of a player as a professional at a different Member Association from that where the player was most recently registered as an amateur shall be entered in TMS as an international transfer as required by the RSTP and its Annexe 3.

5.10 TMS will identify, from the information provided in the international transfer instruction, the first registration of a player as a professional, which may trigger an entitlement to training rewards pursuant to the RSTP.

ARTICLE 6: TRAINING REWARDS TRIGGER: INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER

6.1 All details relating to the international transfer of a player within the scope of eleven-a-side football shall be entered in TMS as provided in Annexe 3 to the RSTP.

6.2 For the avoidance of doubt, any training reward payable pursuant to the RSTP shall not be included in the amount declared as transfer compensation.

6.3 TMS will identify international transfers that may trigger an entitlement to training rewards pursuant to the RSTP.

ARTICLE 7: TRAINING REWARDS TRIGGER: NATIONAL TRANSFER INVOLVING TRANSFER COMPENSATION

7.1 A national transfer shall be entered in the electronic domestic transfer system whenever a player is registered with a new club within the same Member Association.

7.2 Each Member Association shall ensure and verify, if required, the accuracy of the data declared and supporting documents submitted by its affiliated clubs in the electronic domestic transfer system.

7.3 The electronic domestic transfer system shall communicate information about the transfer and proof of (each) payment to FIFA through the FIFA Connect Interface within thirty (30) days of registration of the player or date of (each) payment.

7.4 TMS will identify, from the information communicated by the Member Association, national transfers for compensation that may trigger an entitlement to training rewards pursuant to the RSTP.

National transfer involving transfer compensation – manual declaration

7.5 Where the electronic domestic transfer system of a Member Association is unable to communicate the details of a national transfer involving transfer compensation to FIFA through the FIFA Connect Interface, the Member Association shall exceptionally manually declare the transfer in TMS within thirty (30) days, subject to the following conditions:

a) Member Associations shall request the prior written approval of the FIFA general secretariat to make manual declarations in TMS.

b) Written approval may be granted, at the discretion of the FIFA general secretariat, for a defined period of time. Conditions may be attached to the written approval on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the FIFA general secretariat.

c) At the conclusion of this period, Member Associations shall comply with the electronic-system obligations set out in article 4 paragraph 2.

7.6 A Member Association shall provide the compulsory data, including the transfer agreement where applicable, when entering this manual declaration in TMS.

7.7 FIFA may request further documentation or information from the Member Association at any time.

7.8 TMS will identify, from the information declared by the Member Association, national transfers for compensation that may trigger an entitlement to training rewards pursuant to the RSTP.

National transfer involving transfer compensation – exception

7.9 A Member Association may apply to the FIFA general secretariat for an exception to paragraph 3 (or paragraph 5) of this article if, in the calendar year prior to its application, there were at least one hundred (100) national transfers involving transfer compensation. If approval is granted, the Member Association is only obliged to communicate information about a national transfer involving transfer compensation if: i) the training club(s) of the relevant player is/are affiliated to

another Member Association, or ii) not all training clubs in the player's career have been identified. The following terms apply:

a) Member Associations shall request the prior written approval of the FIFA general secretariat.

b) Written approval may be granted, at the discretion of the FIFA general secretariat, for a defined period. Conditions may be attached to the written approval on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the FIFA general secretariat.

c) At the conclusion of this period, Member Associations shall submit a new application for the exception.

d) Member Associations shall communicate details of the relevant national transfers within thirty (30) days, regardless of whether they believe training rewards are payable.

e) A Member Association that was granted an exception and fails to comply with this paragraph 9 shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings in accordance with article 17 paragraph 4.

ARTICLE 8: ELECTRONIC PLAYER PASSPORT (EPP)

8.1 When a training rewards trigger is identified as defined in these Regulations and in accordance with articles 20 and 21 of the RSTP, a provisional EPP for the relevant player will be generated by TMS.

8.2 The provisional EPP will be available for inspection in TMS by all Member Associations and clubs for ten (10) days after generation (inspection period).

8.3 During the inspection period:

a) a Member Association that is not listed in the provisional EPP and believes that one or more of its affiliated clubs should be included in the final EPP may request to be included in the EPP review process;

b) a club that is not listed in the provisional EPP and believes that it should be included in the final EPP may request its Member Association to be included in the EPP review process and to provide pertinent registration information. Member Associations must act in good faith when responding to this request.

8.4 Upon completion of the inspection period, the FIFA general secretariat will assess the provisional EPP for accuracy and relevance. It may discard a provisional EPP in cases where, according to the registration information available in the provisional EPP, there is no indication that the player was registered with a different Member Association. Upon the substantiated request of an interested Member Association or club, and even after a provisional EPP has been discarded, the FIFA general secretariat may, at its discretion, reopen a provisional EPP at any time.

ARTICLE 9: EPP REVIEW PROCESS

9.1 Upon completion of the inspection period and after assessment by the FIFA general secretariat as per article 8, the FIFA general secretariat will open an EPP review process in TMS and invite the following parties to participate:

a) the Member Associations that have provided registration information relating to the player through the FIFA Connect Interface;

b) their relevant affiliated club(s);

c) the new club and its Member Association;

d) any Member Association that has requested or been requested to be included (cf. article 8 paragraph 3) and their relevant affiliated club(s), at the discretion of the FIFA general secretariat; and

e) any other Member Association(s) deemed relevant by the FIFA general secretariat, at its discretion.

9.2 The EPP review process shall last fifteen (15) days. The FIFA general secretariat may, at its discretion, exceptionally extend its duration.

9.3 Member Associations may review and/or request the amendment of any registration information.

9.4 Any request to amend registration information shall be submitted in TMS by the relevant Member Association. Such requests shall include, without limitation:

a) a document corroborating the registration of the player, issued by the Member Association;

b) a copy of any relevant International Transfer Certificate, if applicable; and

c) a copy of any relevant employment contract, if applicable.

9.5 Where a former club is required to have offered a contract to a player to retain its entitlement to training compensation in accordance with the RSTP, proof of that offer and its notification shall also be uploaded in TMS by the former club.

9.6 Where a former club did not offer a contract to a player and it believes that it is still entitled to training compensation, a request shall be submitted in TMS by the club or its Member Association, including written reasons for the request and supporting evidence.

9.7 Where a training club has waived its right to receive training rewards, proof of a valid waiver shall be uploaded in TMS by the new club.

9.8 A training club that believes that a waiver submitted by the new club in relation to the registration of the player at the training club is not valid may challenge the validity of the waiver by submitting a written notice in TMS.

9.9 The FIFA general secretariat may request any party involved in an EPP review process to provide further information at any time.

9.10 The FIFA general secretariat will notify all parties in TMS when the EPP review process has been completed.

ARTICLE 10: FIFA DETERMINATION

10.1 After completion of the EPP review process, the FIFA general secretariat will evaluate any request to amend registration information.

a) Where a request is unclear or incomplete, the FIFA general secretariat may request the relevant party to provide further information within five (5) days.

b) Failure to comply with FIFA's request within the time limit shall result in the request being disregarded.

10.2 The FIFA general secretariat may request any party involved in an EPP review process, whether during or after the EPP review process, to provide its position as to the entitlement of a club to receive training rewards (e.g. with respect to the alleged registration of a player, the validity of a waiver or a contract offer).

10.3 Following the completion of its evaluation, the FIFA general secretariat will decide on the registration information to be incorporated and amended in the final EPP. In situations of legal or factual complexity, the following shall apply:

a) The FIFA general secretariat shall refer the matter to the Dispute Resolution Chamber in accordance with the Procedural Rules.

b) The complete file is transferred to the Dispute Resolution Chamber and the EPP review process is paused pending a decision.

c) The Dispute Resolution Chamber will decide on the final EPP in accordance with the Procedural Rules.

10.4 An Allocation Statement will be automatically calculated by TMS based on the final EPP, including the amount(s) to be distributed to training clubs.

10.5 The FIFA general secretariat will notify the final EPP and the Allocation Statement to all parties in the EPP review process.

a) This notification will include the decision of the Dispute Resolution Chamber and its grounds for cases covered under article 10 paragraph 3.

b) This notification shall be considered a final decision by the FIFA general secretariat for the purposes of article 50 paragraph 1 of the FIFA Statutes and may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

c) Failure to appeal by the time limit in the FIFA Statutes shall result in the EPP and the Allocation Statement becoming final and binding.

d) A valid and timely appeal to CAS shall suspend the legal effects of an EPP and of the corresponding Allocation Statement for the duration of the respective proceedings before CAS.

10.6 A final EPP for each training rewards trigger will be permanently available in TMS for inspection by all Member Associations and clubs.

a) The registration information contained in the first final EPP of a player is binding on any future final EPP of a player.

b) Where the first final EPP of a player is created before the calendar year of the player's 23rd birthday, the addition of registration information by a Member Association for subsequent years will be considered only for future final EPP processes.

c) Where a decision of the Dispute Resolution Chamber in relation to an EPP is made, the decision shall be binding on any future final EPP of a player as from the date on which the decision becomes final and binding.

d) Where a future final and binding EPP of a player contains different registration information than that which is binding in accordance with paragraph a), b) or c), the Member Association that failed to provide accurate registration information shall be sanctioned in accordance with article 17.

ARTICLE 11: PROOF OF PAYMENT OF TRANSFER COMPENSATION

11.1 For an international transfer involving transfer compensation, the new club shall upload proof of (each) payment in TMS within thirty (30) days of the date of the payment, as provided for in Annexe 3 to the RSTP.

11.2 For a national transfer involving transfer compensation, the new club shall upload proof of (each) payment in the electronic domestic transfer system within thirty (30) days of the date of the payment.

a) This information shall be validated by the relevant Member Association before being communicated to FIFA.

b) The electronic domestic transfer system shall communicate this data to FIFA through the FIFA Connect Interface.

11.3 For a national transfer involving transfer compensation that is manually declared in TMS in accordance with article 7 paragraph 5, the relevant Member Association shall upload proof of (each) payment in TMS within thirty (30) days of the date of the payment.

11.4 For the purposes of calculating the Allocation Statement, the amount declared in the proof of payment will be considered to reflect the respective transfer compensation (or instalment thereof), with 5% as a solidarity contribution having been withheld by the club making the payment, in accordance with article 1 paragraph 1 of Annexe 5 to the RSTP.

III.

FIFA Clearing House payment process

ARTICLE 12: ALLOCATION STATEMENT

12.1 Each Allocation Statement will be sent by the FIFA general secretariat to the FIFA Clearing House after it is notified and will contain all the information required to collect the relevant amount(s) and distribute payment(s) to the training club(s).

12.2 Relevant information on clubs and Member Associations available in TMS will be sent to the FIFA Clearing House for payment processing. If missing information is essential for the identification of, and initial communication to, the club(s), the FIFA general secretariat will request this information from the Member Association of the relevant club(s). Member Associations shall, where necessary, provide further contact details, including, without limitation, a valid and operational email address of the club, within fifteen (15) days of the request by the FIFA general secretariat. Failure by a Member Association to provide the contact details of its affiliated club within this time limit shall be sanctioned in accordance with article 17 paragraph 3.

12.3 The Allocation Statement will be generated as follows:

a) training compensation: after the EPP is final (article 10);

b) solidarity mechanism: after the EPP is final (article 10) and after receipt of proof of (each) payment (article 11);

c) in cases where a decision of the Dispute Resolution Chamber is rendered pursuant to these Regulations (cf. article 10 paragraphs 3 a) and b) and/or article 18 paragraph 2), after such decision becomes final and binding in accordance with the Procedural Rules.

12.4 In cases of the solidarity mechanism where the training rewards are calculated in a different currency to the euro (EUR), United States dollar (USD) or British pound sterling (GBP), the FIFA general secretariat will convert the amount of training rewards payable to EUR. The exchange rate used will be the rate on the date when the corresponding payment of transfer compensation was made. There shall be no right to challenge the exchange rate applied.

Entitlements to training rewards of an amount lower than EUR 100 (or the equivalent in another currency) will be considered discarded and will not be included in an Allocation Statement.

12.5 The FIFA Clearing House may start the Compliance Assessment in accordance with article 15 before the deadline for appeal to CAS has expired.

ARTICLE 13: PAYMENT BY THE NEW CLUB TO THE FIFA CLEARING HOUSE

13.1 Subject to the new club and training club(s) passing the Compliance Assessment and the relevant EPP and the Allocation Statement becoming final and binding, the FIFA Clearing House will issue a Request to Pay to the new club detailing the total amount due.

a) The Request to Pay will be available to the new club on the Client Portal. The FIFA Clearing House shall send a notification of the Request to Pay to the new club via email to the address obtained in accordance with article 12 paragraph 2. Notification by these means shall be considered valid to establish time limits.

b) The new club is liable for any consequences in case of failure to maintain up-to-date addresses in TMS or on the Client Portal. Notification to an address registered in TMS or on the Client Portal shall, in any event, be considered valid to establish time limits.

c) Where multiple payments pertaining to different Allocation Statements are due, the FIFA Clearing House may aggregate these payments into one Request to Pay.

13.2 Upon receipt of the Request to Pay, the new club shall pay the requested amount within thirty (30) days to the FIFA Clearing House.

13.3 The new club shall pay the requested amount, including any applicable bank fees. The FIFA Clearing House must receive the requested amount in full. The new club may not assign responsibility to pay the requested amount to any other party. The FIFA Clearing House will only accept payment of training rewards through a bank transfer from a bank account in the name of the club.

13.4 If a new club fails to pay the requested amount in full by the specified deadline, it shall be:

a) charged an administrative levy of 2.5% of the requested amount by the FIFA Clearing House, payable to each training club instead of interest for late payment; and

b) given a further seven (7) days to pay the requested amount in full by the FIFA Clearing House, including the administrative levy.

13.5 A new club that fails to pay the requested amount in full by the further deadline in accordance with paragraph 4 above shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings in accordance with article 17.

ARTICLE 14: PAYMENT BY THE FIFA CLEARING HOUSE TO THE TRAINING CLUB(S)

14.1 Upon receipt of payment from the new club, the FIFA Clearing House will generate a Distribution Statement based on the final and binding EPP and Allocation Statement, which shall include the purpose and source of each payment, to make payment(s) to the training club(s). Such Distribution Statement will be notified via email to each training club and will be available to the respective clubs on the Client Portal.

14.2 The FIFA Clearing House will make payment into the bank account (registered in the name of the training club) provided by each training club.

IV.

Compliance Assessment

ARTICLE 15: COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

15.1 The FIFA Clearing House has a legal obligation to monitor its business relationships and the transactions carried out during the existence of those relationships.

15.2 The FIFA Clearing House will assess all parties that are involved in the payment of money to, or receipt of money from, the FIFA Clearing House, to ensure that they comply with national and international laws and regulations in relation to, without limitation:

a) international payment sanctions;

b) anti-money laundering;

c) anti-bribery and corruption; and

d) countering the financing of terrorism.

15.3 To perform the required Compliance Assessment, the FIFA Clearing House may request an individual, club, and/or Member Association to provide information regarding the following, as applicable and without limitation:

a) corporate structure;

b) organisational structure;

c) beneficial ownership;

d) source of funding;

e) source of wealth.

15.4 Individuals, clubs, and Member Associations shall actively cooperate with a request for information from the FIFA Clearing House. The degree of cooperation of an individual, club, or Member Association shall form part of the Compliance Assessment. Lack of cooperation by the parties may result in a failure to pass the Compliance Assessment.

15.5 All documents provided to and communications with the FIFA Clearing House shall be in English, Spanish or French. Documentation in any other language shall be translated into one of these three languages, and both the original and translated documents shall be provided.

15.6 After receipt and analysis of the information requested from a party to carry out the Compliance Assessment, the FIFA Clearing House will make a first assessment and determination on whether a party passes or fails the Compliance Assessment.

15.7 Any determination of the FIFA Clearing House in relation to a Compliance Assessment shall be final and binding and shall not be subject to any appeal.

15.8 All communication between the FIFA Clearing House and parties to Allocation Statements shall be undertaken via the Client Portal.

A party involved in an Allocation Statement and not yet registered on the Client Portal shall be contacted at the address obtained in accordance with article 12 paragraph 2, with instructions to register on the Client Portal. The party shall register on the Client Portal within fifteen (15) days of the notification.

The FIFA Clearing House shall notify the party of any requests for information or documentation within the Client Portal, including applicable deadlines.

Notifications via the Client Portal and via email are both considered valid means of communication and sufficient to establish time limits.

15.9 Once the FIFA Clearing House notifies its final decision to a party, where applicable, the party shall sign the FCH Terms & Conditions.

Failure to complete the processes described in this article within the deadlines notified shall result in a failure of the Compliance Assessment.

15.10 A party will receive Accreditation by the FIFA Clearing House only once it passes the Compliance Assessment.

This Accreditation will be valid for a limited period of time, until a renewal of the Accreditation of the party is requested by the FIFA Clearing House. The validity period of the Accreditation will be established in accordance with regulatory requirements and the internal policies of the FIFA Clearing House.

ARTICLE 16: CONSEQUENCES OF A COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT FAILURE

16.1 Where a party is subject to a First Failure of the Compliance Assessment:

a) the FIFA Clearing House will notify the Non-Compliant Party of its failure to pass the Compliance Assessment;

b) the FIFA Clearing House will not process any pending transactions, or any payments related thereto;

c) the respective Compliance Assessment shall continue, and the Non-Compliant Party shall remain obliged to pass the Compliance Assessment. The Non-Compliant Party may reinitiate the Compliance Assessment at any time through the Client Portal;

d) the Non-Compliant Party shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings in accordance with article 17; and

e) if a new transaction is received by the FIFA Clearing House that involves the Non-Compliant Party, the transaction will remain pending until the party passes the Compliance Assessment.

16.2 A Non-Compliant Party shall pass the Compliance Assessment within six (6) months of the date of the First Failure of the Compliance Assessment. Failure to pass the Compliance Assessment within this deadline shall be considered a Second Failure of the Compliance Assessment.

Where a party is subject to a Second Failure of the Compliance Assessment, article 16 paragraph 1 a), b), d) and e) shall apply.

16.3 A Non-Compliant Party shall not be subject to disciplinary proceedings if the compliance failure is due to:

a) the Non-Compliant Party being domiciled in a country or territory that is the subject of international sanctions; or

b) extraordinary circumstances beyond the Non-Compliant Party's control brought to the attention of the FIFA Clearing House during the Compliance Assessment(s).

V.

Sanctions and disputes

ARTICLE 17: SANCTIONS

17.1 Individuals, clubs, and Member Associations shall cooperate with the FIFA general secretariat and with the FIFA Clearing House on any matter related to these Regulations. They shall provide truthful and accurate information in relation to the processes described within these Regulations. All parties shall comply with requests (whether from the FIFA general secretariat or from the FIFA Clearing House) to provide any documents, information or any other material, of any nature, in its possession or which it is entitled to obtain. Whenever a party is subject to disciplinary sanctions, the level of cooperation with the FIFA general secretariat and the FIFA Clearing House shall be taken into account.

17.2 The FIFA general secretariat shall monitor compliance with these Regulations.

a) The FIFA general secretariat may refer cases of non-compliance with notices or requests for information or documentation, or any other case of non-compliance with these Regulations, to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

b) The FIFA general secretariat may refer cases of unethical conduct in relation to these Regulations to the independent Ethics Committee in accordance with the FIFA Code of Ethics.

17.3 The sanction for a Member Association that fails to provide accurate registration information during an EPP review process or whose electronic player registration system and/or electronic domestic transfer system is not integrated with the FIFA Connect Interface shall be:

a) a fine; and

b) if accurate registration information is not provided due to the fault or negligence of a Member Association, or due to one or both systems not being integrated with the FIFA Connect Interface, and this results in its affiliated club being wrongly denied receipt of a training reward, an order to pay restitution to the affiliated club, in an amount equivalent to the training reward that should have been paid.

Article 17 paragraph 3 b) shall not apply if a Member Association can prove, to the comfortable satisfaction of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, that it undertook its best efforts to provide accurate registration information and that despite such efforts, no accurate registration information could be provided.

The sanction for a Member Association that fails to provide contact information of its affiliated clubs in accordance with article 12 paragraph 2 shall be a fine.

17.4 The sanction for a Member Association that fails to automatically communicate or manually declare a training rewards trigger to FIFA shall be:

a) a fine; and

b) where, due to the failure, a club has not received training rewards that it would have ordinarily been entitled to receive, an order to pay restitution to the training club, in an amount equivalent to the training reward that should have been paid.

17.5 A club that fails to upload proof of payment in a timely manner, in cases of international transfers or domestic transfer declarations, shall be sanctioned in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of Annexe 3 to the RSTP.

17.6 The sanction for a club that fails to pay the full amount requested in accordance with article 13 shall be:

a) a fine; and

b) a ban on registering any new players, either nationally or internationally. The registration ban shall be lifted once the amount has been paid in full.

17.7 The sanction for a club or Member Association that is subject to a First Failure of the Compliance Assessment shall be:

a) for a new club:

i. a reprimand; and/or

ii. a levy of 2.5% of the calculated training rewards due, payable to the training club(s) through the FIFA Clearing House instead of interest for late payment; and/or

iii. a fine.

b) for a training club or Member Association:

i. a reprimand; and/or

ii. a fine.

17.8 The sanction for a club or Member Association that is subject to a Second Failure of the Compliance Assessment shall be:

a) for a new club:

i. a fine; and

ii. a ban on registering any new players, either nationally or internationally. For the avoidance of doubt, the Compliance Assessment shall continue until the FIFA Clearing House determines that it has been successfully passed. The registration ban shall be lifted only after the FIFA Clearing House confirms that the club has passed a subsequent Compliance Assessment.

b) for a training club or Member Association:

i. forfeiture of the training reward due to that party for the specific transaction. The Allocation Statement will be amended to direct the new club to pay the forfeited training rewards to the Member Association of the club through the FIFA Clearing House, to be used by the Member Association for development of football at national level; and

ii. any further sanction deemed proportionate, taking into account that the party has already forfeited its right to receive the relevant training reward.

17.9 For all other violations of these Regulations and/or for repeated violations of the provisions identified in paragraphs 3 to 8, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee or independent Ethics Committee (as the case may be) may determine the sanction at its discretion.

ARTICLE 18: DISPUTES

18.1 Any final decision, as identified in these Regulations, may be appealed to CAS in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, unless otherwise specified in these Regulations.

18.2 A club that:

a) did not take part in the relevant EPP review process; and

b) considers, as a result of a bridge transfer (cf. article 5bis of the RSTP), exchange of players or information declared by the new club or its Member Association (including the training category of the club), that:

i. it was incorrectly not entitled to any training rewards, or entitled to a lesser amount than should have been calculated; or

ii. an EPP review process should have taken place; and

c) considers that it is entitled to receive training rewards,

may lodge a claim against the relevant clubs in accordance with article 27 of the Procedural Rules. The Dispute Resolution Chamber shall decide such claims.

18.3 Any party that fails to provide accurate and up-to-date information as required under these Regulations may be subject to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

VI.

Final provisions

ARTICLE 19: APPLICABILITY IN TIME

These Regulations shall apply to all transactions in which the trigger for the entitlement of training rewards occurs as from the day on which these Regulations enter into force.

ARTICLE 20: TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Where the FIFA Clearing House is unable to operate for any reason related to its licensing obligations:

a) articles 4 to 12 of these Regulations shall continue to apply;

b) articles 13 to 16 of these Regulations shall be temporarily suspended until such time that the FIFA Clearing House is able to process transactions;

c) the training reward(s) as set out in any Allocation Statement shall remain due; and

d) the party obliged to pay training rewards shall make the payment, based on the final and binding EPP and Allocation Statement, directly into the bank account (registered in the name of the training club) provided by each training club. Payment shall be made within thirty (30) days of notification by the FIFA general secretariat (cf. article 10 paragraph 5). Failure to do so shall result in disciplinary sanctions as established in article 17 paragraph 6.

ARTICLE 21: REFERENCES

21.1 Articles 10 and 11 of the Procedural Rules regarding communication and time limits shall apply to articles 9 and 10 of these Regulations.

21.2 The terms set out in the FIFA Statutes and the RSTP shall apply to these Regulations.

ARTICLE 22: MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

22.1 Any matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be determined by the FIFA general secretariat.

22.2 Cases of force majeure shall be decided by the FIFA Council, whose decisions are final.

ARTICLE 23: OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

If there are any discrepancies in the interpretation of the texts of the various languages of these Regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.

ARTICLE 24: INCONSISTENCY

24.1 If any part of these Regulations is inconsistent with the FIFA Statutes, the FIFA Statutes shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

24.2 If any part of these Regulations is inconsistent with any other FIFA regulation:

a) if the inconsistency relates to the entitlement to receive training rewards, the RSTP shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency;

b) in any other case, these Regulations shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

ARTICLE 25: OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

The FIFA general secretariat is entrusted with the operational management of these Regulations and is therefore entitled to make decisions and adopt the detailed provisions necessary for their implementation.

ARTICLE 26: ENFORCEMENT

These Regulations were approved by the FIFA Council on 17 December 2025 and come into force on 1 January 2026.

FIFA

Football Agent Regulations



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Definitions

For the purpose of these regulations, the terms set out in the FIFA Statutes, the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players as well as the following definitions (initial capitals) shall apply:

Agency: an organisation, entity, firm or private company retaining, comprising, employing or otherwise acting as a vehicle for the business affairs of one or more Football Agents.

Approach: (i) any physical, in-person contact or contact via any means of electronic communication with a Client; (ii) any direct or indirect contact with another person or organisation linked to a Client, such as a family member or friend; or (iii) any action when a Football Agent uses or directs another person or organisation to contact a Client on their behalf in the manner described in (i) or (ii) above.

Client: a member association, club, player, coach, or Single-Entity League that may engage a Football Agent to provide Football Agent Services.

Connected Football Agent: a Football Agent is connected to another Football Agent as a result of their: (i) being employed or contractually retained by the same Agency through which Football Agent Services are conducted; (ii) both being directors, shareholders in, or co-owners of the same Agency through which Football Agent Services are conducted; (iii) being married to one another, domestic partners, siblings of one another, or parent and child or stepchild; or (iv) them having made any contractual or other arrangements, whether formal or informal, to cooperate, on more than one occasion, in the provision of any services or to share the revenue or profits of any part of their Football Agent Services.

Engaging Entity: a club, member association or Single-Entity League that may engage a player or coach.

Football Agent: a natural person licensed by FIFA to perform Football Agent Services.

Football Agent Services: football-related services performed for or on behalf of a Client, including any negotiation, communication relating or preparatory to the same, or other related activity, with the purpose, objective and/or intention of concluding a Transaction.

Individual: player or coach.

Interest: (i) any beneficial ownership of a legal person through which the relevant activities of those entities are conducted, except an ordinary and freely accessible non-transferable personal membership entitling its owner to a single vote in club affairs; and/or (ii) being in a position that may enable the exercise of a material, financial, commercial, administrative, managerial or any other influence over the affairs of a natural or legal person whether directly or indirectly and whether formally or informally.

Other Services: any services performed by a Football Agent for or on behalf of a Client other than Football Agent Services, including but not limited to, providing legal advice, financial planning, scouting, consultancy, management of image rights and negotiating commercial contracts.

Platform: the digital platform operated by FIFA through which the licensing process, dispute resolution process, continuing professional development (CPD) and reporting shall occur.

Regulations: these Football Agent Regulations, as amended from time to time.

Releasing Entity: a club, member association or Single-Entity League that a player or coach is leaving to be employed and/or registered by an Engaging Entity.

Remuneration: gross financial compensation for employment set out in a negotiated employment contract, which includes base salary, any sign-on fee, and any amount payable if certain conditions are fulfilled (for example, a loyalty or performance bonus). For the avoidance of doubt, any future transfer compensation agreed to and any non-salary benefits, such as the provision of a vehicle, accommodation or telephony services, are not considered in the calculation of the gross financial compensation.

Representation Agreement: a written agreement for the purpose of establishing a legal relationship to provide Football Agent Services.

RSTP: the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, as amended from time to time.

RWWI: the FIFA Regulations on Working with Intermediaries.

Single-Entity League: an entity affiliated to a member association that organises a league (or leagues) and represents the common interests of its clubs, for example, by acting as the employer of all club players.

Specified Transaction: a Transaction where all of the parties involved are defined and identified.

Transaction: (i) the employment, registration or deregistration of a player with a club or a Single-Entity League; (ii) the employment of a coach with a club, Single-Entity League or a member association; (iii) the transfer of the registration of a player from one club to another; (iv) the creation, termination or variation of an Individual's terms of employment.

Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice versa.

GENERAL RULES

I.

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Article 1: Objectives

1. FIFA has a statutory obligation to regulate all matters relating to the football transfer system. The core objectives of the football transfer system are to:

   a) protect the contractual stability between professional players and clubs;
   b) encourage the training of young players;
   c) promote a spirit of solidarity between elite and grassroots football;
   d) protect minors;
   e) maintain competitive balance; and
   f) ensure the regularity of sporting competitions.

2. Regulation of the occupation of Football Agent ensures that the conduct of a Football Agent is consistent with both the core objectives of the football transfer system and the following objectives:

   a) Raising and setting minimum professional and ethical standards for the occupation of Football Agent;
   b) Ensuring the quality of the service provided by Football Agents to Clients at fair and reasonable service fees that are uniformly applicable;
   c) Limiting conflicts of interest to protect Clients from unethical conduct;
   d) Improving financial and administrative transparency;
   e) Protecting players who lack experience or information relating to the football transfer system;
   f) Enhancing contractual stability between players, coaches and clubs; and
   g) Preventing abusive, excessive and speculative practices.

Article 2: Scope

1. These Regulations govern the occupation of Football Agents within the international transfer system and apply:

   a) to all Representation Agreements with an international dimension; or
   b) any conduct connected to an international transfer or international Transaction.

2. A Representation Agreement will have an international dimension whenever:

   a) it governs Football Agent Services related to a Specified Transaction in connection with an international transfer (or a move of a coach to a club affiliated to a different member association from that of their previous employer or to another member association than that of their previous employer); or
   b) it governs Football Agent Services related to more than one Specified Transaction, one of which is connected to an international transfer (or a move of a coach to a club affiliated to a different member association from that of their previous employer or to another member association than that of their previous employer).

3. If the conduct is connected to a national transfer or national Transaction or a Representation Agreement governs Football Agent Services not related to Specified Transactions connected to an international transfer, the national football agent regulations of where the Client is registered or domiciled at the time the Representation Agreement is signed shall apply.

Article 3: National football agent regulations

1. Member associations shall implement and enforce national football agent regulations by 30 September 2023.

2. The national football agent regulations govern the occupation of Football Agents within the territory under the jurisdiction of the relevant member associations and apply to all Representation Agreements that do not have an international dimension. The national football agent regulations must be consistent with these Regulations. In particular, they shall:

   a) incorporate articles 11 to 21 of these Regulations by reference;

   b) incorporate references to any mandatory element of national law;

   c) provide jurisdiction to a national-level body for the determination of any disputes, as established in these Regulations; and

   d) provide jurisdiction to a national-level body to take disciplinary measures, as established in these Regulations.

3. Member associations may introduce in their national football agent regulations stricter measures than those stipulated in articles 11 to 21 of these Regulations. They may also deviate from those provisions where they conflict with stricter mandatory provisions of the law applicable in the territory of the member association.

4. Upon request, member associations must provide FIFA with a copy of their national football agent regulations for review.

BECOMING A FOOTBALL AGENT

II.

FIFA®

Article 4: General provisions

1. A natural person may become a Football Agent by:

   a) submitting a complete licence application via the Platform;
   b) complying with the eligibility requirements;
   c) successfully passing the exam conducted by FIFA; and
   d) paying an annual fee to FIFA.

2. By applying for a licence, an applicant agrees to abide by these Regulations and the FIFA Statutes, FIFA Code of Ethics, FIFA Disciplinary Code and RSTP, all of which are available on www.fifa.com.

Article 5: Eligibility requirements

1. An applicant must:

   a) upon submitting their licence application (and subsequently thereafter, including after being granted a licence):
      i. have made no false or misleading or incomplete statements in their application;
      ii. never have been convicted of a criminal charge, including any related settlements, regarding matters related to: organised crime, drug trafficking, corruption, bribery, money laundering, tax evasion, fraud, match manipulation, misappropriation of funds, conversion, breach of fiduciary duty, forgery, legal malpractice, sexual abuse, violent crimes, harassment, exploitation or child or vulnerable young adult trafficking;
      iii. never have been the subject of a suspension of two years or more, disqualification or striking off by any regulatory authority or sports governing body for failure to comply with rules relating to ethics and professional conduct;
      iv. not be an official or employee of FIFA, a confederation, a member association, a league, a club, a body that represents the interests of clubs or leagues or any organisation connected directly or indirectly with such organisations and entities; the only exception is where an applicant has been appointed or elected to a body of FIFA, a confederation or a member association, representing the interests of Football Agents;
      v. not hold, either personally or through their Agency, any Interest in a club, academy, league or Single-Entity League.
   b) in the 24 months before the submission of a licence application, never have been found performing Football Agent Services without the required licence;

c) in the five years before the submission of a licence application (and subsequently thereafter, including after being granted a licence):

i. never have declared or been declared personally bankrupt or been a majority shareholder, director or key office holder of a business that has declared bankruptcy, entered administration and/or undergone liquidation;

d) in the 12 months before the submission of a licence application (and subsequently thereafter, including after being granted a licence):

i. not have held any Interest in any entity, company or organisation that brokers, arranges or conducts sports betting activities whereby a wager is placed on the outcome of a sporting event in order to win money.

2. An applicant must satisfy the eligibility requirements:

a) at the time of their application, in order to take the exam; and

b) at all times after obtaining a licence, in accordance with article 17.

3. The FIFA general secretariat is responsible for investigating compliance with the eligibility requirements.

Article 6: Exam procedure

1. If an applicant satisfies the eligibility requirements, FIFA will invite the applicant to sit the exam.

2. The format, frequency and date of exams will be communicated by circular.

Article 7: Licence fee

1. If an applicant passes the exam, they shall pay the annual licence fee to FIFA.

2. The requirements related to the annual licence fee will be communicated annually by circular.

3. The applicant must pay the annual fee within 90 days of passing the exam. Failure to do so will result in their application being automatically declared void.

Article 8: Issue of licence

1. A licence:

a) is issued to a natural person for an indefinite period, subject to article 17;

b) is strictly personal and non-transferable; and

c) authorises a Football Agent to conduct Football Agent Services on a worldwide basis.

Article 9: Continuing professional development

1. To maintain their licence, a Football Agent shall comply with the CPD requirements on an annual basis.

2. The CPD requirements will be communicated annually by circular.

Article 10: Request for a suspension or termination of licence

1. A Football Agent may request a temporary suspension or permanent termination of their licence by submitting a substantiated request in the Platform.

2. To practise as a Football Agent in future, a person that has previously terminated their licence must complete the full licence application process as described in these Regulations.

ACTING AS A FOOTBALL AGENT

III.

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Article 11: General provisions

1. Only a Football Agent may perform Football Agent Services.

2. A Football Agent must always satisfy the eligibility requirements in article 5 of these Regulations.

3. A Football Agent may conduct their business affairs through an Agency. Any employees or contractors hired by the Agency that are not Football Agents may not perform Football Agent Services or make any Approach to a potential Client to enter into a Representation Agreement. A Football Agent remains fully responsible for any conduct by their Agency, its employees, contractors or other representatives should they violate these Regulations.

4. The following natural or legal persons may not have an Interest in any affairs of a Football Agent or their Agency:

   a) Clients
   b) Any person who is ineligible to become a Football Agent under article 5 of these Regulations
   c) Any person or entity that owns or holds, whether directly or indirectly, any rights relating to the registration of a player, in violation of article 18bis or article 18ter of the RSTP

Article 12: Representation

1. A Football Agent may only perform Football Agent Services for a Client after having entered into a written Representation Agreement with that Client.

2. Only a Football Agent may Approach a potential Client or enter into a Representation Agreement with a Client for the provision of Football Agent Services.

3. A Representation Agreement concluded between an Individual and a Football Agent may not exceed two years. This term may be extended by a new Representation Agreement only. Any automatic renewal provision, or any other provision that purports to extend any term of the Representation Agreement beyond the maximum period, shall be null and void.

4. A Football Agent may only execute one Representation Agreement with the same Individual at any one time. Before entering into a Representation Agreement with an Individual, or before amending an existing Representation Agreement with an Individual, the Football Agent shall:

   a) inform the Individual in writing that they should consider taking independent legal advice in relation to the Representation Agreement; and
   b) obtain the Individual's written confirmation that they have either obtained or decided not to take such independent legal advice.

5. A Representation Agreement concluded between an Engaging Entity or Releasing Entity and a Football Agent is not subject to a maximum duration.

6. A Football Agent may execute multiple Representation Agreements with the same Engaging Entity or Releasing Entity at any one time, subject to those agreements relating to different Transactions.

7. A Representation Agreement is valid only if it contains the following minimum requirements:

a) The names of the parties
b) The duration (if applicable)
c) The amount of the service fee due to the Football Agent
d) The nature of the Football Agent Services to be provided
e) The parties' signatures

8. A Football Agent may only perform Football Agent Services and Other Services for one party in a Transaction, subject to the sole exception in this article.

a) Permitted dual representation: a Football Agent may perform Football Agent Services and Other Services for an Individual and an Engaging Entity in the same Transaction, provided that prior explicit written consent is given by both Clients.

9. A Football Agent may, in particular, not perform Football Agent Services or Other Services in the same Transaction for:

a) a Releasing Entity and Individual; or
b) a Releasing Entity and Engaging Entity; or
c) all parties within the same Transaction.

10. A Football Agent and a Connected Football Agent may not perform Football Agent Services or Other Services for different Clients in the same Transaction, except in accordance with paragraph 8 of this article.

11. Any relevant transfer or employment agreement in a Transaction that is concluded following the provision of Football Agent Services shall specify the Football Agent's name, their Client, their FIFA licence number and their signature.

12. A Client may negotiate and conclude a Transaction without engaging a Football Agent. If this is the case, this shall be explicitly stated in the relevant transfer or employment agreement.

13. Any clause in a Representation Agreement that:

a) limits an Individual's ability to autonomously negotiate and conclude an employment contract without the involvement of a Football Agent; and/or

b) penalises an Individual if they autonomously negotiate and/or conclude an employment contract without the involvement of a Football Agent,

will be null and void.

14. A Representation Agreement may be terminated at any time by either party if there is just cause to do so. A party revoking or terminating a Representation Agreement without just cause must compensate the other party for any resulting damage. There is just cause to terminate a Representation Agreement when a party can no longer reasonably be expected, according to the principle of good faith, to continue the contractual relationship for the agreed term. This includes, but is not limited to, the following situations:

a) the withdrawal or suspension of a Football Agent licence;

b) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity;

c) a ban on registering new players, either nationally or internationally, for at least one entire registration period.

Article 13: Representation of minors

1. An Approach (and/or any subsequent execution of a Representation Agreement) to a minor or their legal guardian in relation to any Football Agent Services may only be made no more than six months before the minor reaches the age where they may sign their first professional contract in accordance with the law applicable in the country or territory where the minor will be employed. This Approach may only be made once prior written consent has been obtained from the minor's legal guardian.

2. A Football Agent that wishes to represent a minor or represent a club in a Transaction involving a minor shall first successfully complete the designated CPD course on minors and comply with any requirement to represent a minor established by the law applicable in the country or territory of the member association where the minor will be employed.

3. A Representation Agreement between a Football Agent and a minor shall only be enforceable where:

a) the Representation Agreement meets the minimum requirements provided in article 12 paragraph 7;

b) the Football Agent has complied with paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article; and

c) the Representation Agreement is signed by the minor and their legal guardian as provided by the law applicable in the country or territory of the member association where the minor will be employed.

4. Any violation of paragraph 1 shall be sanctioned, at a minimum, with a fine and a suspension of a Football Agent licence of up to two years.

Article 14: Service fee – general principles

1. A Football Agent may charge a service fee to a Client as agreed in a Representation Agreement.

2. Payment of the service fee due under a Representation Agreement shall be made exclusively by the Client of the Football Agent. A Client may not contract with or authorise any third party to make such payment.

3. The only exception to the principle in paragraph 2 of this article is when a Football Agent is representing an Individual and their negotiated annual Remuneration is less than USD 200,000 (or equivalent), not counting any conditional payments. In such cases, an Engaging Entity may agree with an Individual to pay the service fee for that Transaction to their Football Agent in accordance with the Representation Agreement. All of the following conditions must apply:

   a) The service fee payment made by the Engaging Entity on behalf of the Individual shall not affect the fiduciary duty of the Football Agent to the Individual. It must also not create any dependency or subordination of the Football Agent towards the Engaging Entity.

   b) The service fee payment made by the Engaging Entity on behalf of the Individual must be no higher than the agreed service fee in the Representation Agreement between the Individual and Football Agent.

   c) The Engaging Entity may not deduct any service fee payment made pursuant to paragraph 3 of this article from the Individual's Remuneration.

4. The service fee due to a Football Agent shall be paid on an invoice basis.

5. A Football Agent is entitled to receive a service fee only if the fee corresponds to the services stipulated in advance in a Representation Agreement, and the Representation Agreement is in force at the time at which the relevant Football Agent Services are performed.

   a) Where an employment contract has a duration longer than the associated Representation Agreement, a Football Agent may receive a service fee after expiry of the Representation Agreement as long as the Individual's negotiated employment contract is still in effect, and provided that this is expressly agreed with the Client in the Representation Agreement.

6. Payment of any service fee shall be made after the closure of the relevant registration period and in instalments every three months for the duration of the negotiated employment contract.

7. Only the Remuneration actually received by an Individual shall be subject to the payment of a service fee, calculated on a pro-rata basis.

8. Where a negotiated employment contract is less than six months in duration, payment shall be made in a single instalment at the expiry of the negotiated employment contract.

9. A Football Agent may not receive a service fee when engaged to perform Football Agent Services relating to a minor unless the relevant player is signing their first or subsequent professional contract in accordance with the law applicable in the country or territory of the member association where the minor will be employed.

10. Where a Football Agent acts on behalf of an Engaging Entity and an Individual in the same Transaction under article 12 paragraph 8 a) of these Regulations (permitted dual representation), the Engaging Entity may pay up to 50% of the total service fee due.

11. A Releasing Entity shall pay a service fee to a Football Agent following receipt of each instalment of the transfer compensation due to the Releasing Entity. The Releasing Entity shall duly inform the Football Agent of any such instalments received.

12. A Football Agent is not entitled to receive any service fee not yet due deriving from a negotiated employment contract where:

a) the Individual transfers to another Engaging Entity before the negotiated employment contract expires; or

b) the negotiated employment contract is prematurely terminated by the Individual without just cause and the Football Agent still represents the Individual at the time of that termination.

13. All service fee payments to Football Agents shall be made through the FIFA Clearing House in accordance with the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

a) If the FIFA Clearing House Regulations do not regulate service fee payments to Football Agents when these Regulations enter into force, payment shall be made directly to the Football Agent until such time that the FIFA Clearing House Regulations regulate service fee payments.

Article 15: Service fee cap

1. The service fee payable to a Football Agent for the performance of Football Agent Services shall be calculated as follows:

   a) When representing an Individual or Engaging Entity: based on the Individual's Remuneration

   b) When representing a Releasing Entity: based on the transfer compensation for the relevant Transaction

2. The maximum service fee payable for the provision of Football Agent Services in a Transaction, regardless of the number of Football Agents providing Football Agent Services to a particular Client, is:

Client	Service fee cap	
	Individual's annual Remuneration less than or equal to USD 200,000 (or equivalent)	Individual's annual Remuneration above USD 200,000 (or equivalent)
Individual	5% of the Individual's Remuneration	3% of the Individual's Remuneration
Engaging Entity	5% of the Individual's Remuneration	3% of the Individual's Remuneration
Engaging Entity and Individual (permitted dual representation)	10% of the Individual's Remuneration	6% of the Individual's Remuneration
Releasing Entity (transfer compensation)	10% of the transfer compensation	

For the avoidance of doubt, the following shall apply:

a) The calculation to determine the relevant service fee cap of the Individual's Remuneration may not take into account any conditional payments.

b) If an Individual's Remuneration is above USD 200,000 (or equivalent), the annual excess above that amount shall be subject to a service fee cap of 3% if the Football Agent is representing an Individual or an Engaging Entity or 6% if they are representing both an Engaging Entity and an Individual (permitted dual representation).

c) The calculation of the transfer compensation may not include:

   i. any amount paid as compensation for breach of contract pursuant to article 17 or Annexe 2 of the RSTP; and/or

   ii. any sell-on fee.

3. Where a Football Agent or a Connected Football Agent, in the 24 months prior to or following a Transaction, performs Other Services for a Client involved in that Transaction, it shall be presumed that the Other Services formed part of the Football Agent Services performed in that Transaction, unless proven to the contrary.

4. Where a Football Agent and/or Client fails to rebut the presumption in paragraph 3 of this article, the fees paid for the Other Services shall be deemed to be part of the service fee paid for the Football Agent Services performed in that Transaction.

Article 16: Rights and obligations

1. A Football Agent may:

a) provide Football Agent Services to any Client that executes a written Representation Agreement that contains the minimum terms described in article 12 of these Regulations;

b) not Approach a Client that is bound by an exclusive Representation Agreement with another Football Agent, except in the final two months of that exclusive Representation Agreement;

c) not enter into a Representation Agreement with a Client that is bound by an exclusive Representation Agreement with another Football Agent, except in the final two months of that exclusive Representation Agreement.

2. A Football Agent shall:

a) always act in the best interests of their Client(s);

b) respect and adhere to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the competent bodies of FIFA, the confederations and member associations;

c) avoid conflicts of interest while providing their Football Agent Services;

d) ensure that their name, licence number, signature and the name of their Client appear in any contracts resulting from the provision of their Football Agent Services;

e) always meet the eligibility requirements while licensed, as described in articles 5 and 17 of these Regulations;

f) pay an annual licence fee to FIFA within the deadline stipulated on the Platform, as described in articles 7 and 17 of these Regulations;

g) comply with the CPD requirements, as described in articles 9 and 17 of these Regulations;

h) comply with the ongoing disclosure and reporting requirements, as described under j) below and in paragraph 4 of this article;

i) immediately report any breaches of these Regulations, or FIFA, confederation or member association rules, regulations or codes of conduct to the relevant authority or body;

j) upload to the Platform:

i. within 14 days of execution, amendment or termination of a Representation Agreement: the relevant Representation Agreement and the information requested on the Platform;

ii. within 14 days of execution: any agreement with a Client other than a Representation Agreement, including but not limited to agreements relating to Other Services and the information requested on the Platform;

iii. within 14 days of payment of a service fee: the information requested on the Platform;

iv. within 14 days of payment of a fee related to any agreement entered into with a Client other than a Representation Agreement: the information requested on the Platform;

v. within 14 days of occurrence: any contractual or other arrangement between Football Agents to cooperate in the provision of any services or to share the revenue or profits of any part of their Football Agent Services;

vi. within 14 days of occurrence: any information that may impact the obligation to meet the eligibility requirements; and

vii. within 14 days of occurrence: any settlement agreement entered into with a Client or another Football Agent.

k) if they conduct their business affairs through an Agency, upload to the Platform:

i. within 14 days of the first Transaction involving the Agency: its ownership structure, the identity of the shareholders, the percentage owned in its share capital and/or identity of its beneficial owners;

ii. within 14 days of the first Transaction involving the Agency: the number of Football Agents that use the same Agency to conduct their business affairs and the name of all its employees; and

iii. within 30 days of occurrence: any changes to any of the information previously provided in relation to the Agency.

3. A Football Agent may not engage, or attempt to engage, in the following conduct:

a) Approach, enter into negotiations, take any steps, solicit or in any way facilitate discussions between parties with a view to a Transaction (including the making of statements to the media), regarding any Individual with the aim of inducing them to prematurely terminate their employment contract without just cause or violate any obligations in their employment contract.

b) Offer or pay any undue personal, pecuniary or other advantage, either directly or indirectly, to:

i. any official or employee of a member association, club or Single Entity League in connection with Football Agent Services; or

ii. an Individual (or any family member or legal guardian or friend of that Individual) in relation to a Representation Agreement with that Football Agent.

c) Conceal material facts from a Client, including without limitation:

i. failing to declare a conflict of interest (even if such conflict would otherwise be permitted in accordance with these Regulations); or

ii. failing to report a written offer (by any means of communication) made to a Client.

d) Circumvent the cap established by these Regulations, either directly or indirectly, by, for example and without limitation, intentionally increasing the service fee charged or that otherwise would have been charged to the Client for Other Services.

e) Accept payment of any transfer compensation or training reward that is payable in connection with a player's transfer between clubs. This includes, without limitation, any rights as described in article 18ter of the RSTP.

f) Be involved, directly or indirectly, in a bridge transfer as defined in the RSTP or own or hold any rights relating to the registration of a player, in violation of article 18bis or article 18ter of the RSTP.

g) Violate these Regulations in any other way.

4. With regard to disclosure and reporting, a Football Agent shall:

a) immediately inform a Client of any written offer (by any means of communication) they have received in relation to their Client;

b) provide to a Client, on request, a copy of the relevant Representation Agreement or any other written agreements in relation to Other Services, a copy of the employment contract or any other written documents obtained in relation to the Football Agent Services, a schedule detailing payments of any kind whatsoever made to the Football Agent in relation to a Transaction in which they were involved; and

c) upon request, cooperate with the relevant body of each member association, confederation and/or FIFA with respect to any request for any type of information in any form.

Article 17: Compliance with ongoing licensing requirements

1. If a Football Agent fails to:

   a) meet the eligibility requirements at any time;
   b) pay the annual licence fee to FIFA within the deadline stipulated on the Platform;
   c) comply with the CPD requirements in a calendar year; or
   d) comply with their reporting obligations;

   their licence shall automatically be provisionally suspended.

2. The FIFA general secretariat is responsible for investigating compliance with the requirements in paragraph 1 of this article.

3. If paragraph 1 a) of this article applies:

   a) the FIFA general secretariat will notify the Football Agent that it believes there are grounds to consider that they do not meet the eligibility requirements, and of the automatic provisional suspension; and
   b) the matter will be referred to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee for its decision.

4. If one or more of the circumstances described in paragraphs 1 b), c) or d) of this article apply:

   a) the FIFA general secretariat will notify the Football Agent of their non-compliance and of the automatic provisional suspension; and
   b) if the Football Agent fails to rectify their non-compliance within 60 days of their licence being automatically provisionally suspended, their licence shall be withdrawn.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF CLIENTS

IV.

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Article 18: Engagement of Football Agents

1. Clients:

a) may engage a Football Agent to perform Football Agent Services, provided that they do not choose to undertake such activities themselves;

b) shall pay the service fee agreed with a Football Agent in a timely manner established by these Regulations and in accordance with the respective Representation Agreement, employment contract and transfer agreement (as applicable);

c) shall satisfy themselves that a Football Agent is appropriately licensed by FIFA prior to signing the relevant Representation Agreement;

d) shall cooperate with the relevant body of each member association, confederation and/or FIFA with respect to any request in relation to a Football Agent made by those bodies;

e) may request from the Football Agent a schedule detailing all payments of any kind whatsoever (including all remuneration, fees and expenses) made by and/or regarding that Client;

f) (for clubs) shall upload to the FIFA Transfer Matching System (TMS) within 14 days of occurrence:

i. the information requested in TMS on completion of each Transaction that is an international transfer in which the club is involved;

ii. any amendment to, or termination of, a relevant Representation Agreement;

iii. any agreement with a Football Agent other than a Representation Agreement, including but not limited to Other Services, and the information requested in TMS;

iv. the information requested in TMS following the payment of a fee related to any agreement entered into with a Football Agent other than a Representation Agreement; and

g) shall immediately report any breaches of these Regulations to FIFA, the confederations or member associations.

2. Clients (and their officials, when applicable) may not engage, or attempt to engage, in the following conduct:

a) Engage or appoint an unlicensed person to perform Football Agent Services;

b) Accept or request any undue personal, pecuniary or other advantage from a Football Agent;

c) Give, offer or seek to offer consideration or a promise of any kind, either directly or indirectly, to a Football Agent (or to any family member of, or other person connected with, that Football Agent), other than the service fee agreed;

d) For member associations, clubs and Single-Entity Leagues, interfere in, or influence, the freedom of an Individual to select a Football Agent;

e) Participate, or assist, directly or indirectly, in any circumvention of the service fee cap established by these Regulations;

f) Have an Interest in an Agency or the affairs of a Football Agent, in accordance with article 11 paragraph 4 of these Regulations;

g) For member associations, clubs and Single-Entity Leagues, either directly or indirectly, induce or coerce an Individual to breach the terms of their Representation Agreement with their Football Agent;

h) Fail to immediately report any breach of these Regulations to FIFA;

i) Permit a Football Agent or their Agency to have an Interest in them; or

j) Any other breach of these Regulations.

DISCLOSURE AND PUBLICATION

V.

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Article 19: Disclosure and publication

1. FIFA shall make available:

a) the names and details of all Football Agents;

b) the Clients that Football Agents represent, the exclusivity or non-exclusivity of their representation and the expiry date of the Representation Agreement;

c) the Football Agent Services provided to each Client;

d) any sanctions imposed on Football Agents and Clients; and

e) details of all Transactions involving Football Agents, including the service fee amounts paid to Football Agents.

DISPUTES

VI.

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Article 20: Jurisdiction

1. Without prejudice to the right of a Football Agent or a Client to seek redress before an ordinary court of law, the Agents Chamber of the Football Tribunal has jurisdiction to determine disputes:

   a) arising out of, or in connection with, a Representation Agreement with an international dimension (see art. 2 par. 2 of these Regulations);

   b) where a claim is lodged in accordance with the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal; and

   c) where no more than two years have elapsed from the event giving rise to the dispute; the application of this time limit shall be examined *ex officio* in each case.

2. The detailed procedures for the resolution of disputes are set out in the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal.

3. Without prejudice to the right of a Football Agent or a Client to seek redress before an ordinary court of law, for disputes arising out of, or in connection with, a Representation Agreement without an international dimension, the decision-making body identified in the national football agent regulations of the relevant member association has jurisdiction to determine such disputes (cf. art. 2 par. 3).

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

VII.

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Article 21: Competence and enforcement

1. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee and, where relevant, the independent Ethics Committee are competent to impose sanctions on any Football Agent or Client that violates these Regulations, the FIFA Statutes or any other FIFA regulations, in accordance with these Regulations, the FIFA Disciplinary Code and the FIFA Code of Ethics. FIFA has jurisdiction regarding:

   a) any conduct connected to a Representation Agreement with an international dimension (cf. article 2 par. 2); or

   b) any conduct connected to an international transfer or international Transaction.

2. The relevant member association is responsible for imposing sanctions on any Football Agent or Client that violates their national football agent regulations. The relevant member association has jurisdiction regarding:

   a) any conduct connected to a Representation Agreement without an international dimension (cf. article 2 par. 3); or

   b) any conduct connected to a national transfer or national Transaction.

3. The FIFA general secretariat shall monitor compliance with these Regulations. In particular:

   a) Any party that receives a notice requesting information shall cooperate in full by complying, upon reasonable notice, with requests for any documents, information or any other material of any nature held by it, as well as with requests to procure and provide any documents, information or any other material of any nature not held by the party but which the party is entitled to obtain. Failure to comply with these requests from the FIFA general secretariat may lead to sanctions being imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. If requested by the FIFA general secretariat, a document (or an excerpt) shall be provided in English, French or Spanish.

   b) Electronic notifications through the Platform or TMS or sent by email to the address provided on the Platform or TMS by the parties are considered valid means of communication and will be deemed sufficient to establish time limits.

   c) Following an investigation, the FIFA general secretariat may refer cases of non-compliance with these Regulations to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

   d) Following an investigation, the FIFA general secretariat may refer cases of ethical misconduct in relation to these Regulations to the independent Ethics Committee in accordance with the FIFA Code of Ethics.

FINAL PROVISIONS

VIII.

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Article 22: Transitory provisions

1. Representation Agreements that expire on or after 1 October 2023 in force at the time at which these Regulations are approved, notwithstanding those that do not meet the minimum requirements provided in article 12 paragraph 7, shall remain valid (but not be extended) until they expire.

2. Any new Representation Agreements or renewals of existing Representation Agreements concluded after the approval of these Regulations shall be in compliance with these Regulations as from 1 October 2023.

3. A person that has executed any such Representation Agreement shall obtain a licence pursuant to these Regulations to continue providing Football Agent Services as from 1 October 2023.

Article 23: Agents formerly licensed pursuant to the FIFA Players' Agent Regulations

1. A person formerly licensed as an agent pursuant to the FIFA Players' Agent Regulations (1991, 1995, 2001 or 2008 editions) is exempt from the requirement to pass the exam established by these Regulations, provided that:

   a) they submit an application for a licence pursuant to these Regulations up to and including 30 September 2023;

   b) they provide proof that they were licensed as an agent pursuant to the FIFA Players' Agent Regulations (1991, 1995, 2001 or 2008 editions);

   c) upon application, they comply with the eligibility requirements under article 5 of these Regulations;

   d) as part of their application, they provide proof that they were registered as an intermediary, or were the owner, director, or employee of a legal person registered as an intermediary at a member association between 1 April 2015 and the date of the approval of these Regulations, pursuant to the RWWI or equivalent national regulations; and

   e) after being confirmed as exempt from the exam by the FIFA general secretariat, they comply with article 7 of these Regulations.

2. If a former licensed agent meets the relevant conditions, they shall be issued a licence in accordance with article 8 of these Regulations. They shall subsequently be subject to the ongoing licensing requirements set out by these Regulations, with the exception that they shall be required to earn a certain number of credits per CPD calendar year for five years, as set out in the annual circular.

3. The FIFA general secretariat is responsible for investigating compliance with paragraph 1 of this article.

Article 24: Recognition of national law licensing systems

1. A licensing system for sports agents established pursuant to national law, which permits a person to perform equivalent services to Football Agent Services in a country or territory, may be recognised by FIFA, where it establishes:

   a) eligibility requirements for all applicants and licensees; and

   b) a requirement for applicants to successfully pass an exam that includes questions related to football regulations or other substantial educational requirements.

2. An application for FIFA to recognise a licensing system for sports agents established pursuant to national law must be sent to the FIFA general secretariat through the Platform by the relevant member association of the country or territory where such system is applicable.

3. A person licensed to perform equivalent services to Football Agent Services in a certain country or territory in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article is exempt from the requirement to pass the exam established by these Regulations, provided that:

   a) the member association of the country or territory where such national licensing system applies has been recognised by FIFA in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article;

   b) such person provides proof that they were licensed to perform services equivalent to Football Agent Services in the relevant country or territory, in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article before the entry into force of these Regulations (see art. 28 par. 1 a) of these Regulations);

   c) upon application, they comply with the eligibility requirements under article 5 of these Regulations; and

   d) they comply with article 7 of these Regulations.

4. If an applicant pursuant to paragraph 3 of this article meets the relevant conditions, they shall be issued a licence in accordance with article 8 of these Regulations. They shall subsequently be subject to the ongoing licensing requirements set out by these Regulations, with the exception that they shall be required to earn a certain number of credits per CPD calendar year for five years, as set out in the annual circular.

5. The FIFA general secretariat is responsible for deciding any application made pursuant to this article.

Article 25: Football Agent Working Group

1. FIFA will establish a Football Agent Working Group composed of representatives of professional football stakeholders and agent organisations.

2. The Football Agent Working Group will act as a permanent consultative body in relation to any Football Agent-related matters.

Article 26: Matters not provided for

1. Any matters not provided for in these Regulations shall be determined by the FIFA general secretariat.

2. Cases of force majeure affecting these Regulations shall be decided by the FIFA Council, the decisions of which are final.

Article 27: Official languages

1. If there are any discrepancies in the interpretation of the texts in the various languages in which these Regulations are published, the English text shall be authoritative.

Article 28: Enforcement

1. These Regulations were approved by the FIFA Council on 10 December 2024 and enter into force on 1 January 2025.

Zurich, 10 December 2024

For the FIFA Council:

President:	Secretary General:
Gianni Infantino	Mattias Grafström





FIFA ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS

2021 edition



FIFA

Article

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International federations such as FIFA and the IOC have played a pioneering role in the fight against doping in sport. FIFA introduced regular Doping Controls in 1966 to ensure that the results of the Matches in its International Competitions are a fair reflection of the strength of the contenders.

The fundamental aims of Doping Control are threefold. They are to:

a) safeguard the physical health and mental integrity of players;

b) uphold and preserve the ethics of sport;

c) ensure that all competitors have an equal chance.

FIFA and its Medical Committee acknowledge their responsibility in the fight against doping through stringent anti-doping provisions, ongoing data collection and support for the research promoted by experts.

The FIFA Medical Committee has overall responsibility for implementing Doping Control at all FIFA Competitions and Out-of-Competition as well as for approving applications for therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs). It delegates the management and administration of doping tests to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit, which coordinates the FIFA Doping Control Officers. It delegates the evaluation and the approval of TUEs to the FIFA TUE Advisory Group. FIFA follows a strategy of basing any decisions and regulations on the specifics of the game, scientific evidence and analysis of validated doping statistics.

Any aspect of Doping Control or anti-doping Education may also be delegated by FIFA to a Delegated Third Party. However, FIFA shall require the Delegated Third Party to perform such aspects in compliance with the Code, WADA's International Standards, and these Regulations. FIFA and its Medical Committee shall always remain fully responsible for ensuring that any delegated aspects are performed in compliance with the Code.

FIFA has accepted the World Anti-Doping Code 2021 and implemented the applicable provisions of this Code and the International Standards in these Regulations. Thus, in the event of questions, the comments annotating various provisions of the World Anti-Doping Code 2021 and the International Standards shall be used to construe these Regulations where applicable. The Code and the International Standards shall be considered integral parts of these Regulations and shall prevail in the event of any conflict.

PRELIMINARY TITLE

1. **ADAMS:** the Anti-Doping Administration and Management System is a web-based database management tool for data entry, storage, sharing, and reporting designed to assist stakeholders and WADA in their anti-doping operations in conjunction with data protection legislation.

2. **Administration:** providing, supplying, supervising, facilitating, or otherwise participating in the Use or Attempted Use by another Person of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method. However, this definition shall not include the actions of bona fide medical personnel involving a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method used for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or other acceptable justification and shall not include actions involving Prohibited Substances which are not prohibited in Out-of-Competition Testing unless the circumstances as a whole demonstrate that such Prohibited Substances are not intended for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or are intended to enhance sport performance.

3. **Adverse Analytical Finding:** a report from a WADA-accredited laboratory or other WADA-approved laboratory that, consistent with the International Standard for Laboratories establishes in a Sample the presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers or evidence of the Use of a Prohibited Method.

4. **Adverse Passport Finding:** a report identified as an Adverse Passport Finding as described in the applicable International Standards.

5. **Aggravating Circumstances:** circumstances involving, or actions by, a Player or other Person which may justify the imposition of a period of Ineligibility greater than the standard sanction. Such circumstances and actions shall include, but not be limited to: the Player or other Person Using or Possessing multiple Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Methods, Using or Possessing a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method on multiple occasions or committing multiple other anti-doping rule violations; a normal individual would be likely to enjoy the performance-enhancing effects of the anti-doping rule violation(s) beyond the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility; the Player or other Person engaging in deceptive or obstructing conduct to avoid the detection or adjudication of an anti-doping rule violation; or the Player or other Person engaging in Tampering during the Results Management or hearing process. For the avoidance of doubt, the

examples of circumstances and conduct described herein are not exclusive and other similar circumstances or conduct may also justify the imposition of a longer period of Ineligibility.

6. **Anti-Doping Activities:** anti-doping Education and information, test distribution planning, maintaining a Registered Testing Pool, managing Athlete Biological Passports, conducting Testing, organising the analysis of Samples, gathering intelligence and conducting investigations, processing of TUE applications, Results Management, hearings, monitoring and enforcing compliance with any Consequences imposed, and all other activities related to anti-doping to be carried out by or on behalf of an Anti-Doping Organisation, as set out in the Code and/or the International Standards.

7. **Anti-Doping Organisation:** WADA or a Signatory that is responsible for adopting rules for initiating, implementing or enforcing any part of the Doping Control process. This includes, for example, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, other Major Event Organisations that conduct Testing at their events, international federations and NADOs.

8. **Association:** a football Association recognised by FIFA. It is a member of FIFA unless a different meaning is evident from the context.

9. **Athlete Biological Passport:** the programme and methods of gathering and collating data as described in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations and the International Standard for Laboratories

10. **Attempt:** purposely engaging in conduct that constitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in the commission of an anti-doping rule violation. However, there shall be no anti-doping rule violation based solely on an Attempt to commit a violation if the Person renounces the Attempt prior to it being discovered by a third party not involved in the Attempt.

11. **Atypical Finding:** a report from a WADA-accredited laboratory or other WADA-approved laboratory which requires further investigation as provided by the International Standard for Laboratories or related Technical Documents prior to the determination of an Adverse Analytical Finding.

12. **Atypical Passport Finding:** a report described as an Atypical Passport Finding as described in the applicable International Standards.

13. **CAS:** the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne, Switzerland.

14. **Chain of Custody:** the sequence of individuals or organisations who have responsibility for the custody of a Sample from the provision of the Sample until the Sample has been delivered to the laboratory for analysis.

15. **Chaperone:** an official who is suitably trained and authorised by FIFA to carry out specific duties including one or more of the following (at FIFA's discretion): notification of the Player selected for Sample collection; accompanying and observing the Player until arrival at the Doping Control room; accompanying and/or observing the Players who are present in the Doping Control room and/or witnessing and verifying the provision of the Sample where the training specifically qualifies them to do so.

16. **Code:** the World Anti-Doping Code.

17. **Competition:** a series of football Matches conducted together under one ruling body (e.g. the Olympic Games, FIFA World Cup™). "Competition" in the official FIFA terminology corresponds to "event" in the World Anti-Doping Code.

18. **Competition Period:** the time between the beginning and end of a Competition, as established by the ruling body of the Competition. "Competition Period" in the official FIFA terminology corresponds to "event period" in the World Anti-Doping Code.

19. **Competition Venues:** venues designated by the ruling body for the Competition, including, but not limited to, stadiums, team hotels, hospitals and training sites. "Competition Venues" in the official FIFA terminology corresponds to "event venues" in the World Anti-Doping Code.

20. **Confederation:** a group of Associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographic region).

21. **Consequences of Anti-Doping Rule Violations ("Consequences"):** a Player's or other Person's violation of an anti-doping rule may result in one or more of the following: (a) Disqualification, meaning the Player's results in a particular Competition are invalidated, with all the resulting Consequences including the forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes; (b) Ineligibility, meaning the Player or other Person is barred on account of an anti-doping rule violation for a specified period of time from participating in any Competition or other activity or funding as provided in art. 20 (Ineligibility for presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method); (c) Provisional Suspension, meaning the Player or other Person is barred temporarily from participating in any Competition or activity prior to the final decision at a hearing conducted under art. 64 (Right to a fair hearing); (d) Financial Consequences, meaning a financial sanction imposed for an anti-doping rule violation or to recover costs associated with an anti-doping rule violation; and (e) Public Disclosure, meaning the dissemination or distribution of information to the general public or Persons beyond those Persons entitled to earlier notification in accordance with art. 71 (Public Disclosure). Teams may also be subject to Consequences as provided in art. 33 (Sanction on the club or Association).

22. **Contaminated Product:** a product that contains a Prohibited Substance that is not disclosed on the product label or in information available in a reasonable internet search.

23. **Decision Limit:** the value of the result for a threshold substance in a Sample, above which an Adverse Analytical Finding shall be reported, as defined in the International Standard for Laboratories.

24. **Delegated Third Party:** any Person to which FIFA delegates any aspect of Doping Control or anti-doping Education programmes including, but not limited to, third parties or other Anti-Doping Organisations that conduct Sample collection or other Doping Control services or anti-doping educational programmes for FIFA, or individuals serving as independent contractors who perform Doping Control services for FIFA (e.g. non-employee Doping Control Officers or Chaperones). This definition does not include CAS.

25. **Disqualification:** see "Consequences of Anti-Doping Rule Violations" above.

26. **Doping Control:** all steps and processes from test distribution planning through to ultimate disposition of any appeal and the enforcement of Consequences, including all steps and processes in between, including but not limited to, Testing, investigations whereabouts, TUEs, Sample collection and handling, laboratory analysis, Results Management, hearings and appeals, and investigations or proceedings relating to violations of art. 30 (Status during Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension).

27. **Education:** the process of instilling values and developing behaviour that foster and protect the spirit of sport, and to prevent intentional and unintentional doping.

28. **Fault:** Fault is any breach of duty or any lack of care appropriate to a particular situation. Factors to be taken into consideration in assessing a Player's or other Person's degree of Fault include, for example, the Player's or other Person's experience, whether the Player or other Person is a Protected Person, special considerations such as impairment, the degree of risk that should have been perceived by the Player and the level of care and investigation exercised by the Player in relation to what should have been the perceived level of risk. In assessing the Player's or other Person's degree of Fault, the circumstances considered must be specific and relevant to explain the Player's or other Person's departure from the expected standard of behaviour. Thus, for example, the fact that a Player would lose the opportunity to earn large sums of money during a period of Ineligibility, or the fact that the Player only has a short time left in his career, or the timing of the sporting calendar, would not be relevant factors to be considered in reducing the period of Ineligibility under art. 23 par. 1 or 2 (Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence).

29. **FIFA Anti-Doping Unit:** the functional body to which the FIFA Medical Committee delegates the management and administration of Doping Control.

30. **FIFA Disciplinary Committee:** a FIFA judicial body, embodied in the FIFA Statutes, that is authorised to sanction any breach of FIFA Regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body.

31. **FIFA Doping Control Officer:** a natural Person who carries out Sample collections for FIFA. The FIFA Doping Control Officer must be a

doctor. If national legislation allows professionals other than doctors to collect Samples of bodily fluids (with all consequences including medical confidentiality according to medical ethics and the Hippocratic Oath), an exception may be made by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit.

32. **FIFA Regulations:** the Statutes, regulations, guidelines, directives and circulars of FIFA and the Beach Soccer and Futsal Laws of the Game issued by FIFA as well as the Laws of the Game issued by The International Football Association Board.

33. **Financial Consequences:** see "Consequences of Anti-Doping Rule Violations" above.

34. **In-Competition:** the period commencing at 23:59 on the day before a Match in which the Player is scheduled to participate through to the end of said Match and including the Sample collection process relating to said Match.

35. **Independent Observer Programme:** a team of observers and/or auditors, under the supervision of WADA, who observe and provide guidance on the Doping Control process prior to or during certain Competitions and report on their observations as part of WADA's compliance monitoring programme.

36. **Independent Witness:** a person invited by FIFA, the laboratory or WADA to witness parts of the analytical testing process. The Independent Witness shall be independent of the Player and his representative(s), the laboratory, FIFA, the Confederations, Member Associations or WADA, as applicable. The Independent Witness may be compensated for his service.

37. **Ineligibility:** see "Consequences of Anti-Doping Rule Violations" above.

38. **Institutional Independence:** hearing panels on appeal shall be fully independent institutionally of the Anti-Doping Organisation responsible for Results Management. They must not, therefore, in any way be administered by, connected or subject to the Anti-Doping Organisation which is responsible for Results Management.

39. **International Competition:** a Competition where the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, an

international federation, a Major Event Organisation, or another international sports organisation is the ruling body for the Competition or appoints the technical officials for the Competition ("International Competition" in the official FIFA terminology corresponds to "international event" in the World Anti-Doping Code).

40. **International-Level Player:** a Player designated by FIFA or a Confederation as being within FIFA's or the Confederation's Registered Testing Pool and/or a Player who participates regularly in International Competitions (as defined in these Regulations) and/or Competitions under the jurisdiction of a Confederation.

41. **International Standard:** a standard adopted by WADA in support of the Code. Compliance with an International Standard (as opposed to another alternative standard, practice or procedure) shall be sufficient to conclude that the procedures addressed by the International Standard were performed properly. International Standards shall include any Technical Documents issued pursuant to the International Standard.

42. **Major Event Organisations:** the continental associations of National Olympic Committees and other international multi-sport organisations that function as the ruling body for any continental, regional or other International Competition.

43. **Marker:** a compound, group of compounds or biological variable(s) that indicates the Use of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method.

44. **Match:** a single football Match. "Match" in the official FIFA terminology corresponds to "Competition" in the World Anti-Doping Code.

45. **Match Officials:** the referee, assistant referees, fourth official, Match Commissioner, referee inspector, the Person in charge of safety, and any other Persons appointed by FIFA to assume responsibility in connection with a Match.

46. **Medical Committee:** the FIFA standing committee, embodied in the FIFA Statutes, that deals with all medical aspects of football, including any doping-related matters.

47. **Member Association:** an Association that has been admitted into membership of FIFA by the FIFA Congress.

48. **Metabolite:** any substance produced by a biotransformation process.

49. **Minimum Reporting Level:** the estimated concentration of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolite(s) or Marker(s) in a Sample below which WADA-accredited laboratories should not report that Sample as an Adverse Analytical Finding.

50. **Minor:** a natural Person who has not reached the age of 18 years.

51. **National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO):** the entity(ies) designated by each country as possessing the primary authority and responsibility to adopt and implement anti-doping rules, direct the collection of Samples, the management of test results, and the conduct of hearings at national level. If this designation has not been made by the competent public authority(ies), the entity shall be the country's National Olympic Committee or its designee.

52. **National Competition:** a sports Competition that may involve National- or International-Level Players and that is not an International Competition.

53. **National-Level Player:** a Player who competes in sport at national level, as defined by each NADO, consistent with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

54. **National Olympic Committee:** the organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee. The term National Olympic Committee shall also include the national sport confederation in those countries where the national sport confederation assumes typical National Olympic Committee responsibilities in the anti-doping area.

55. **No Fault or Negligence:** the Player or other Person's establishing that he or she did not know or suspect, and could not reasonably have known or suspected even with the exercise of utmost caution, that he or she had Used or been administered the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method or otherwise violated an anti-doping rule. Except in the case of a Protected Person or Recreational Player, for any violation of art. 6 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or

Markers in a Player's Sample), the Player must also establish how the Prohibited Substance entered the Player's system.

56. **No Significant Fault or Negligence:** the Player or other Person's establishing that any Fault or negligence, when viewed in the totality of the circumstances and taking into account the criteria for No Fault or negligence, was not significant in relationship to the anti-doping rule violation. Except in the case of a Protected Person or Recreational Player, for any violation of art. 6 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample), the Player must also establish how the Prohibited Substance entered the Player's system.

57. **Official:** every board member, committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other Person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in FIFA, a Confederation, Association, League or club as well as all other Persons obliged to comply with the FIFA Statutes (except Players).

58. **Operational Independence:** this means that (1) board members, staff members, commission members, consultants and Officials of FIFA or its affiliates, as well as any Person involved in the investigation and pre-adjudication of a matter, cannot be appointed as members and/or clerks (to the extent that such clerk is involved in the deliberation process and/or drafting of any decision) of hearing panels of FIFA and (2) hearing panels shall be in a position to conduct the hearing and decision-making process without interference from FIFA or any third party. The objective is to ensure that members of the hearing panel or individuals otherwise involved in the decision of the hearing panel, are not involved in the investigation of, or decisions to proceed with, the case.

59. **Out-of-Competition:** any period which is not In-Competition.

60. **Participant:** any Player or Player Support Personnel.

61. **Person:** a natural Person or an organisation or other entity.

62. **Player:** any football Player licensed by an Association.

63. **Player Support Personnel:** any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical or paramedical personnel, parent or any other Person working with, treating or assisting a Player participating in or preparing for sports competition.

64. **Possession:** the actual, physical possession, or the constructive possession (which shall be found only if the Person has exclusive control or intends to exercise control over the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method or the premises in which a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method exists); provided, however, that if the Person does not have exclusive control over the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method or the premises in which a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method exists, constructive Possession shall only be found if the Person knew about the presence of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method and intended to exercise control over it. However, there shall be no anti-doping rule violation based solely on Possession if, prior to receiving notification of any kind that the Person has committed an anti-doping rule violation, the Person has taken concrete action demonstrating that the Person never intended to have Possession and has renounced Possession by explicitly declaring it to an Anti-Doping Organisation. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this definition, the purchase (including by any electronic or other means) of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method constitutes Possession by the Person who makes the purchase.

65. **Prohibited List:** the list identifying the Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods.

66. **Prohibited Method:** any method so described on the Prohibited List.

67. **Prohibited Substance:** any substance, or class of substances, so described on the Prohibited List.

68. **Protected Person:** a Player or other natural Person who at the time of the anti-doping rule violation: (i) has not reached the age of 16 years; (ii) has not reached the age of 18 years and is not included in any Registered Testing Pool and has never competed in any International Competition in an open category; or for whom (iii) for reasons other than age, it has been determined lacks legal capacity under the applicable national legislation.

69. **Provisional Hearing:** for the purposes of art. 64 (Right to a fair hearing), an expedited abbreviated hearing occurring prior to a hearing under these Regulations that provides the Player with notice and an opportunity to be heard in either written or oral form.

70. **Provisional Suspension:** see "Consequences of Anti-Doping Rule Violations" above.

71. **Public Disclosure or Publicly Disclose:** see "Consequences of Anti-Doping Rule Violations" above.

72. **Recreational Player:** a natural Person who is so defined by the relevant NADO; provided, however, the term shall not include any Person who, within the five years prior to committing any anti-doping rule violation, has been an International-Level Player (as defined by FIFA or a Confederation) or a National-Level Player (as defined by the relevant NADO), has represented any country in an International Competition in an open category or has been included in any Registered Testing Pool or other whereabouts information pool maintained by FIFA, a Confederation or a NADO.

73. **Regional Anti-Doping Organisation:** a regional entity designated by member countries to coordinate and manage delegated areas of their national anti-doping programmes, which may include the adoption and implementation of anti-doping rules, the planning and collection of Samples, the management of results, the review of TUEs, the conduct of hearings and the conduct of Educational programmes at a regional level.

74. **Registered Testing Pool:** a pool of high-priority Players established separately at international level by FIFA, and national level by NADOs, who are subject to focused In-Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing as part of FIFA's or the NADO's test distribution plan and therefore are required to provide whereabouts information as provided in Annexe C of these Regulations and the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

75. **Results Management:** the process encompassing the timeframe between notification in accordance with art. 5 of the International Standard for Results Management, or in certain cases (e.g. Atypical Finding, Athlete Biological Passport, whereabouts failure), such pre-notification steps expressly provided for in art. 5 of the International Standard for Results Management, through the charge until the final resolution of the matter, including the end of the hearing process at first instance or on appeal (if an appeal was lodged).

76. **Sample or Specimen:** any biological material collected for the purposes of Doping Control.

77. **Sample Collection Session:** all of the sequential activities that directly involve the Player from the point that initial contact is made until the Player leaves the Doping Control room after having provided his Sample(s).

78. **Signatories:** those entities accepting the Code and agreeing to implement the Code, as provided in art. 23 of the WADA Code 2021.

79. **Specified Method:** see art. 17 par. 3 (Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods identified on the Prohibited List).

80. **Specified Substance:** see art. 17 par. 3 (Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods identified on the Prohibited List).

81. **Strict Liability:** the rule which provides that under art. 6 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample) and art. 7 (Use or Attempted Use by a Player of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method), it is not necessary that intent, Fault, negligence, or knowing Use on the Player's part be demonstrated by the Anti-Doping Organisation in order to establish an anti-doping rule violation.

82. **Substance of Abuse:** see art. 17 par. 4 (Substances of Abuse).

83. **Substantial Assistance:** for the purposes of art. 24 par. 1 (Substantial Assistance in discovering or establishing Code violations), a Person providing Substantial Assistance must: (1) fully disclose in a signed written statement or recorded interview all information he or she possesses in relation to anti-doping rule violations or other proceeding described in art. 24 par. 1 (Substantial Assistance in discovering or establishing Code violations), and (2) fully cooperate with the investigation and adjudication of any case or matter related to that information, including, for example, presenting testimony at a hearing if requested to do so by an Anti-Doping Organisation or hearing panel. Further, the information provided must be credible and must comprise an important part of any case or proceeding which is initiated or, if no case or proceeding is initiated, must have provided a sufficient basis on which a case or proceeding could have been brought.

84. **Suitable Specific Gravity for Analysis:** for Samples with a minimum volume of 90ml and less than 150ml, this shall be specific gravity measured at 1.005 with a refractometer, or 1.010 or higher with lab sticks. For Samples with a volume of 150ml and above, it shall be specific gravity measured at 1.003 or higher with a refractometer only.

85. **Tampering:** intentional conduct which subverts the Doping Control process but which would not otherwise be included in the definition of Prohibited Methods. Tampering shall include, without limitation, offering or accepting a bribe to perform or fail to perform an act, preventing the collection of Sample, affecting or making impossible the analysis of a Sample, falsifying documents submitted to an Anti-Doping Organisation or TUE committee or hearing panel, procuring false testimony from witnesses, committing any other fraudulent act upon the Anti-Doping Organisation or hearing body to affect Results Management or the imposition of Consequences, and any other similar intentional interference or Attempted interference with any aspect of Doping Control.

86. **Target Testing:** selection of specific Players for Testing based on criteria set forth in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

87. **Team Activity:** all sporting activities (e.g. training, travelling, tactical sessions) on a collective basis with the Player's team or other activities under the supervision of the team (e.g. treatment by a team doctor).

88. **Technical Document:** a document adopted and published by WADA from time to time that contains mandatory technical requirements on specific anti-doping topics as set forth in an International Standard.

89. **Testing:** the parts of the Doping Control process involving test distribution planning, Sample collection, Sample handling, and Sample transport to the laboratory.

90. **Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE):** a therapeutic use exemption allows a Player with a medical condition to use a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, but only if the conditions set out in art. 19 (Therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs)) and the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions are met.

91. **Trafficking:** selling, giving, transporting, sending, delivering or distributing (or Possessing for any such purpose) a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method (either physically or by any electronic or other means) by a Player, Player Support Personnel or any other Person subject to the authority of an Anti-Doping Organisation to any third party; provided, however, this definition shall not include the actions of "bona fide" medical personnel involving a Prohibited Substance Used for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or other acceptable justification, and shall not include actions involving Prohibited Substances which are not prohibited in Out-of-Competition Testing unless the circumstances as a whole demonstrate such Prohibited Substances are not intended for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or are intended to enhance sport performance.

92. **UNESCO Convention:** the International Convention against Doping in Sport adopted by the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference on 19 October, 2005, including any and all amendments adopted by the States Parties to the Convention and the Conference of Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport.

93. **Unsuccessful Attempt Report:** a detailed report of an unsuccessful Attempt to collect a Sample from a Player in a Registered Testing Pool or Testing pool setting out the date of the Attempt, the location visited, the exact arrival and departure times at the location, the steps taken at the location to try to find the Player (including details of any contact made with third parties), and any other relevant details about the Attempt.

94. **Use:** the utilisation, application, ingestion, injection or consumption by any means whatsoever of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method.

95. **WADA:** the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Reference to the competent FIFA bodies in these Regulations applies to the equivalent body at Association or Confederation level.

Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa.

References to "include" or "in particular", "e.g." or similar are to be construed as being inclusive and without limitation to the listed examples.

References to "days" mean actual (calendar) days, not business days.

References to "chapters", "sections", "articles" and/or "paragraphs" are, unless expressly stated otherwise, references to the chapters, sections, articles or paragraphs of these Regulations.

References to the male gender in these Regulations are for simplification and apply to both men and women.

All Annexes attached to these Regulations form an integral part of these Regulations.

The various headings and sub-headings used in these Regulations are for convenience only and shall not be deemed part of the substance of these Regulations or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.

All capitalised terms shall have the meanings as defined in this Chapter I.

1 Scope of application: substantive law

1.
These Regulations shall apply to FIFA, its Member Associations and the Confederations, including their board members, directors, officers, and to specified employees, and to Delegated Third Parties and their employees, any of whom are involved in any aspect of Doping Control, and to Players, clubs, Player Support Personnel, Match Officials, Officials and other Persons who participate in activities, Matches or Competitions organised by FIFA or its Associations by virtue of their agreement, membership, affiliation, authorisation, accreditation or participation.

Each of the above-mentioned Persons is deemed, as a condition of his participation or involvement in the sport, to have agreed to and be bound by these Regulations, and to have submitted to the authority of FIFA to enforce these Regulations, including any Consequences for the breach thereof, and to the jurisdiction of the hearing panels specified in these Regulations and the FIFA Disciplinary Code to hear and determine cases and appeals brought under these Regulations.

2.
These Regulations shall apply to all Doping Controls over which FIFA and, respectively, its Associations have jurisdiction.

2 Obligations of Member Associations and Confederations

1.
All Associations shall undertake to comply with the Code, the International Standards and these Regulations. These Regulations shall be incorporated either directly, or by reference, into the rules of each Association. Each Association shall include in its rules the procedural regulations necessary to implement these Regulations and any changes that may be made to them. In the event of a discrepancy between these Regulations and the rules of a Member Association or Confederation, these Regulations shall prevail and apply to the case at hand.

2.
In respect of the Confederations' remit, reference in these Regulations to the Associations shall, where appropriate, be understood as meaning the Confederations.

3.
The rules of each Association shall specifically provide that all Players, clubs, Player Support Personnel, Officials and other Persons under the jurisdiction of the Association shall be bound by these Regulations and the Results Management authority of FIFA.

4.
Taking into account the Associations' responsibilities introduced under these Regulations and the Code, it is the particular responsibility of each Association to collect Samples for Doping Control at National Competitions and to initiate and direct Out-of-Competition Testing on its Players, conduct anti-doping educational programmes in accordance with the International Standard for Education, and to ensure that all national level Testing on its Players and the Results Management from such tests comply with these Regulations. In respect of this schedule of responsibilities, reference in these Regulations to FIFA shall, where appropriate, be understood as meaning the Association concerned.

5.
It is recognised that in some countries the Association will conduct the Testing, Results Management process and educational anti-doping programmes itself whilst, in others, some or all of the Association's responsibilities may be delegated or assigned to a NADO. In respect of these countries, reference in these Regulations to the Association shall, where appropriate, be understood as meaning the NADO. Irrespective of the different situation in every country, the Association remains ultimately responsible for every aspect of the process. The Confederation and/or National Association shall provide FIFA with any information relating to an anti-doping rule violation and decisions taken by the NADO duly translated into an official FIFA language.

3 Special obligations of Players and teams, Player Support Personnel and other Persons

1.
Players, Player Support Personnel and other Persons subject to these Regulations shall be responsible for knowing what constitutes an anti-doping rule violation, the substances and methods that have been included in the Prohibited List and for familiarising themselves and complying with these Regulations.

2.
In the context of anti-doping, Players shall be responsible for what they ingest and Use and to make sure that any medical treatment received does not violate these Regulations. Players are obliged to undergo Testing as set forth in these Regulations. In particular, every Player designated to undergo a doping test by a responsible Official, whether as a result of Target Testing or drawing by lots, is obliged to provide a urine Sample and, if requested, a blood Sample, to undergo any medical examination that the responsible Official deems necessary and to cooperate with the latter in this respect.

3.
The Player's rights include the right to:

a) have the team doctor or other representative present;

b) be informed and ask for additional information about the Sample collection process.

4.
The Player's obligations include the requirement to:

a) remain within direct observation of the FIFA Doping Control Officer, his assistant or the Chaperone at all times from the point of notification until completion of the Sample collection;

b) comply with Sample collection procedures (the Player shall be advised of the possible consequences of failure to comply);

c) report immediately for a test, unless there are valid reasons for a delay, as determined in accordance with Annexe D;

d) disclose the identity of their Player Support Personnel upon request by any Anti-Doping Organisation with authority over the Player.

5.
The obligations of the Player, the Player Support Personnel and other Persons include the requirement to:

a) disclose to their NADO, Confederation, Association and FIFA any decision by any organisation that is not a Signatory to the Code that finds that they committed an anti-doping rule violation within the previous ten years;

b) cooperate with any Anti-Doping Organisation investigating anti-doping rule violations.

Failure by any Player, Player Support Personnel or other Person to cooperate in full with FIFA when it investigates potential anti-doping rule violation(s) may result in a disciplinary measure under the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

Offensive conduct towards a Doping Control Officer or other Person involved in Doping Control by any Player, Player Support Personnel or other Person, which does not otherwise constitute Tampering, may result in a disciplinary measure under the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

Player Support Personnel and other Persons subject to these Regulations shall not Use any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method without valid justification. Any such Use may result in a disciplinary measure under the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

6.
Every Player/team that has been identified for inclusion in a national or international Registered Testing Pool is obliged to provide whereabouts information as set forth in Annexe C. Players may delegate the whereabouts provision to a designated team representative. Regardless of such delegation, Players remain personally responsible for duly filing complete and accurate whereabouts information. Failure to do so may lead to the consequences mentioned in art. 9 of these Regulations as well as their Annexe C.

4 Testing authority of FIFA

1.
FIFA has testing authority over all clubs and their Players who are affiliated to a Member Association or who participate in any Match or Competition organised by FIFA.

2.
FIFA shall focus its Testing under these Regulations on Players in the FIFA International Registered Testing Pool (IRTP) and on Players who compete, or who are preparing to compete, in Matches or Competitions organised by FIFA.

5 Definition of doping

1.
Doping is strictly forbidden under these Regulations.

2.
Doping is defined as the occurrence of one or more of the anti-doping rule violations set forth in these Regulations.

FIRST TITLE: SUBSTANTIVE LAW

The purpose of arts 6 to 16 is to specify the circumstances and conduct which constitute anti-doping rule violations. Hearings in doping cases will proceed based on the assertion that one or more of these specific rules have been violated.

6 Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample

1.
It is the Player's personal duty to ensure that no Prohibited Substance enters his body. Players are responsible for any Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers found to be present in their Samples. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, Fault, negligence or knowing Use on the Player's part be demonstrated in order to establish an anti-doping rule violation under art. 6.

2.
Sufficient proof of an anti-doping rule violation under art. 6 is established by any of the following: presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in the Player's "A" Sample where the Player waives analysis of the "B" Sample and the "B" Sample is not analysed; or where the Player's "B" Sample is analysed and the analysis of the Player's "B" Sample confirms the presence of the Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers found in the Player's "A" Sample; or where the Player's "A" or "B" Sample is split into two parts and the analysis of the confirmation part of the split Sample confirms the presence of the Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers found in the first part of the split Sample or the Player waives analysis of the confirmation part of the split Sample.

3.
Excepting those substances for which a Decision Limit is specifically identified in the Prohibited List or a Technical Document, the presence of any reported quantity of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample shall constitute an anti-doping rule violation.

4.
As an exception to the general rule of art. 6, the Prohibited List, International Standards or Technical Documents may establish special criteria for the reporting or the evaluation of certain Prohibited Substances.

7 Use or Attempted Use by a Player of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method

1.
It is the Player's personal duty to ensure that no Prohibited Substance enters his body and that no Prohibited Method is Used. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, Fault, negligence or knowing Use on the Player's part be demonstrated in order to establish an anti-doping rule violation for Use of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method.

2.
The success or failure of the Use or Attempted Use of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method is not material. It is sufficient that the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method was Used or Attempted to be Used for an anti-doping rule violation to be committed.

8 Evading, refusing of failing to submit to Sample collection

Evading Sample collection; or refusing or failing to submit to Sample collection without compelling justification after notification by a duly authorised Person.

9 Whereabouts failures

Any combination of three missed tests and/or filing failures, as defined in the International Standard for Results Management, within a 12-month period by a Player in a Registered Testing Pool.

10 Tampering or Attempted Tampering with any part of Doping Control by a Player or other Person

Tampering or Attempted Tampering with any part of Doping Control by a Player or other Person.

11 Possession of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method by a Player or Player Support Person

1.
Possession by a Player In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method, or Possession by a Player Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method which is prohibited Out-of-Competition unless the Player establishes that the Possession is consistent with a therapeutic use exemption (TUE) granted in accordance with art. 18 (Therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs)) or other acceptable justification.

2.
Possession by a Player Support Person In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method, or Possession by a Player Support Person Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method which is prohibited Out-of-Competition in connection with a Player, Match or training, unless the Player Support Person establishes that the Possession is consistent with a TUE granted to a Player in accordance with art. 18 (Therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs)) or other acceptable justification.

12 Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method by a Player or other Person

Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method by a Player or other Person.

13 Administration or Attempted Administration by a Player or other Person to any Player In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, or Administration or Attempted Administration to any Player Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method that is prohibited Out-of-Competition

Administration or Attempted Administration by a Player or other Person to any Player In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, or Administration or Attempted Administration to any Player Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method that is prohibited Out-of-Competition.

14 Complicity or Attempted Complicity by a Player or other Person

Assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up or any other type of intentional complicity or Attempted Complicity involving an anti-doping rule violation, Attempted anti-doping rule violation or violation of art. 30 par. 1 (Prohibition of participation during Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension) by another Person.

15 Prohibited association by a Player or other Person

Association by a Player or other Person subject to the authority of FIFA or other Anti-Doping Organisation in a professional or sport-related capacity with any Player Support Personnel who:

1.
If subject to the authority of an Anti-Doping Organisation, is serving a period of Ineligibility; or

2.
If not subject to the authority of an Anti-Doping Organisation and where Ineligibility has not been addressed in a Results Management process pursuant to the Code, has been convicted or found in a criminal, disciplinary or professional proceeding to have engaged in conduct which would have constituted a violation of anti-doping rules if Code-compliant rules had been applicable to such Person. The disqualifying status of such Person shall be in force for the longer of six years from the criminal, professional or disciplinary decision or the duration of the criminal, disciplinary or professional sanction imposed; or

3.
Is serving as a front or intermediary for an individual described in art. 15 par. 1 or par. 2 (Prohibited association by a Player or other Person).

To establish a violation of art. 15, an Anti-Doping Organisation must establish that the Player or other Person knew of the Player Support Person's disqualifying status.

The burden shall be on the Player or other Person to establish that any association with a Player Support Person described in art. 15 par. 1 or par. 2

is not in a professional or sport-related capacity and/or that such association could not have been reasonably avoided.

If FIFA is aware of any Player Support Personnel who meet the criteria described in art. 15 pars 1, 2 or 3, FIFA shall submit that information to WADA.

16 Acts by a Player or other Person to discourage or retaliate against reporting to authorities

Where such conduct does not otherwise constitute a violation of art. 10:

a) Any act which threatens or seeks to intimidate another Person with the intent of discouraging the Person from the good-faith reporting of information that relates to an alleged anti-doping rule violation or alleged non-compliance with these Regulations and/or the Code to WADA, FIFA, a NADO or other Anti-Doping Organisation, a law enforcement, regulatory or professional disciplinary body, a hearing body or a Person conducting an investigation for WADA, FIFA, a NADO or other Anti-Doping Organisation.

b) Retaliation against a Person who, in good faith, has provided evidence or information that relates to an alleged anti-doping rule violation or alleged non-compliance with these Regulations and/or the Code to WADA, FIFA, NADO or other Anti-Doping Organisation, a law enforcement, regulatory or professional disciplinary body, a hearing body or a Person conducting an investigation for WADA, FIFA, NADO or other Anti-Doping Organisation.

For the purposes of this article, retaliation, threatening and intimidation include an act taken against such Person either because the act lacks a good faith basis or is a disproportionate response.

17 Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods identified on the Prohibited List

1.
Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods

The Prohibited list shall identify those Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods which are prohibited as doping at all times (both In-Competition and Out-of-Competition) because of their potential to enhance performance in future Matches or their masking potential, and those substances and methods which are prohibited In-Competition only.

2.
Publication and revision of the Prohibited List

Unless otherwise communicated by FIFA, the Prohibited List and its revisions shall come into effect under these Regulations three months after publication of the Prohibited List by WADA without requiring any further action by FIFA or its Member Associations. All Players and other Persons shall be bound by the Prohibited List, and any revisions thereto, from the date they go into effect, without further formality. It is the responsibility of all Players and other Persons to familiarise themselves with the most up-to- date version of the Prohibited List and all revisions thereto.

3.
Specified Substances or Specified Methods

For the purpose of the application of chapter V (Sanctions on individuals), all Prohibited Substances shall be Specified Substances except those identified in the Prohibited List. No Prohibited Method shall be a Specified Method unless it is specifically identified as a Specified Method on the Prohibited List.

4.
Substances of Abuse

For the purposes of the application of chapter V (Sanctions on individuals), Substances of Abuse shall include those Prohibited Substances which are specifically identified as Substances of Abuse on the Prohibited List because they are frequently abused in society outside the context of sport.

18 WADA's determination of the Prohibited List

WADA's determination of the Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods that will be included on the Prohibited List, the classification of substances into categories on the Prohibited List, the classification of a substance as prohibited at all times or In-Competition only, and the classification of a substance or method as a Specified Substance, Specified Method or Substance of Abuse is final and shall not be subject to any challenge by a Player or other Person, including, but not limited to, any challenge based on an argument that the substance or method was not a masking agent or did not have the potential to enhance performance, represent a health risk or violate the spirit of sport.

19 Therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs)

1.
The presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers, and/or the Use or Attempted Use, Possession or Administration or Attempted Administration of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, shall not be considered an anti-doping rule violation if it is consistent with the provisions of a TUE granted in accordance with the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions.

2.
Any Player who consults a doctor and is prescribed treatment or medication for therapeutic reasons shall enquire whether the prescription contains Prohibited Substances and/or Prohibited Methods. If so, the Player shall request alternative treatment.

3.
If there is no alternative treatment, the Player with a documented medical condition requiring the use of a Prohibited Substance and/or a Prohibited Method must first obtain a TUE. However, TUEs will only be granted in cases of clear and compelling clinical need where no competitive advantage can be gained by the Player.

4.
The application for and approval of a TUE strictly follow the procedure laid out in the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemption and in the FIFA TUE policy in force.

5.
Players who are International-Level Players must obtain TUEs in accordance with the rules stipulated by FIFA in its TUE policy document. FIFA publishes a list of those International Competitions for which a TUE from FIFA is required. Details of the application procedure shall be found in Annexe B. TUEs granted by FIFA under these rules shall be reported to the Player's Association and to WADA.

6.
Players who are not International-Level Players must obtain a TUE from their NADO. NADOs shall in all cases be responsible for promptly reporting the granting of any TUEs under these Regulations to FIFA and WADA.

7.
If FIFA chooses to collect a Sample from a Player who is not an International-Level Player or a National-Level Player, and that Player is Using a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method for therapeutic reasons, FIFA shall permit that Player to apply for a retroactive TUE.

8.
Expiration, cancellation, withdrawal or reversal of a TUE

a) A TUE granted pursuant to these Regulations: (a) shall expire automatically at the end of any term for which it was granted, without the need for any further notice or other formality; (b) may be withdrawn if the Player does not promptly comply with any requirements or conditions imposed by the FIFA TUE Advisory Group upon grant of the TUE; (c) may be withdrawn by the FIFA TUE Advisory Group if it is subsequently determined that the criteria for grant of a TUE are not in fact met; or (d) may be reversed on review by WADA or on appeal.

b) In such event, the Player shall not be subject to any Consequences based on his Use or Possession or Administration of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method in question in accordance with the TUE prior to the effective date of expiry, withdrawal or reversal of the TUE. The review pursuant to these Regulations and to the International Standard for Results Management of any subsequent Adverse Analytical Finding, reported shortly after the TUE's expiration, withdrawal or reversal, shall include consideration of whether such finding is consistent with Use of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method prior to that date, in which event no anti-doping rule violation shall be asserted.

Section 1: Imposition of a period of Ineligibility

20 Ineligibility for presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method

The period of Ineligibility for a violation of arts 6 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample), 7 (Use or Attempted Use by a Player of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method) or 11 (Possession of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method by a Player or Player Support Person) shall be as follows, subject to potential elimination, reduction or suspension pursuant to arts 22 (Elimination of the Period of Ineligibility where there is No Fault or Negligence), 23 (Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence) or 24 (Elimination, reduction, or suspension of period of Ineligibility or other consequences for reasons other than Fault):

1.
Subject to art. 20 par. 4 of these Regulations, the period of Ineligibility shall be four years where:

a) the anti-doping rule violation does not involve a Specified Substance, unless the Player or other Person can establish that the anti-doping rule violation was not intentional;

b) the anti-doping rule violation involves a Specified Substance and FIFA can establish that the anti-doping rule violation was intentional.

2.
If art. 20 par. 1 does not apply, the period of Ineligibility shall be two years, subject to art. 20 par. 4 of these Regulations.

3.
As used in art 20 (Ineligibility for presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method), the term "intentional" is meant to identify those Players or other Persons who engage in conduct which they knew constituted an anti-doping rule violation or knew that there was a significant risk that the conduct might constitute or result in an anti-doping rule violation and manifestly disregarded that risk. An anti-doping rule violation resulting from an Adverse Analytical Finding for a substance which is only prohibited

In-Competition shall be rebuttably presumed to be not intentional if the substance is a Specified Substance and the Player can establish that the Prohibited Substance was Used Out-of-Competition. An anti-doping rule violation resulting from an Adverse Analytical Finding for a substance which is only prohibited In-Competition shall not be considered "intentional" if the substance is not a Specified Substance and the Player can establish that the Prohibited Substance was Used Out-of-Competition in a context unrelated to sport performance.

4.
Notwithstanding any other provision in art. 20, where the anti-doping rule violation involves a Substance of Abuse:

a) If the Player can establish that any ingestion or Use occurred Out-of-Competition and was unrelated to sport performance, then the period of Ineligibility shall be three months' Ineligibility. In addition, the period of Ineligibility calculated under this paragraph may be reduced to one month's Ineligibility if the Player or other Person satisfactorily completes a Substance of Abuse treatment programme approved by FIFA. The period of Ineligibility established in this paragraph is not subject to any reduction based on any provision in art. 23.

b) If the ingestion, Use or Possession occurred In-Competition, and the Player can establish that the context of the ingestion, Use or Possession was unrelated to sport performance, then the ingestion, Use or Possession shall not be considered intentional for the purposes of art. 20 par. 1 and shall not provide a basis for a finding of Aggravating Circumstances.

21 Ineligibility for other anti-doping rule violations

The period of Ineligibility for anti-doping rule violations other than as provided in art. 20 (Ineligibility for presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method) shall be as follows, unless arts 23 (Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence) or 24 (Elimination, reduction, or suspension of period of Ineligibility or other consequences for reasons other than Fault) are applicable:

1.
For violations of art. 8 (Evading, refusing or failing to submit to Sample collection) or art. 10 (Tampering or Attempted Tampering with any part of Doping Control by a Player or other Person), the period of Ineligibility shall be four years except: (i) in the case of failing to submit to Sample collection, if the Player can establish that the commission of the anti-doping rule violation was not intentional, the period of Ineligibility shall be two years; (ii) in all other cases, if the Player or Person can establish exceptional circumstances that justify a reduction of the period of Ineligibility, the period of Ineligibility shall be in a range from two years to four years, depending on the Players or Person's degree of Fault; or (iii) in a case involving a Protected Person or Recreational Player, the period of Ineligibility shall be in a range between a maximum of two years and, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, depending on the Protected Person's or Recreational Player's degree of Fault.

2.
For violations of art. 9 (Whereabouts failures), the period of Ineligibility shall be two years, subject to reduction down to a minimum of one year, depending on the Player's degree of Fault. The flexibility between two years and one year of Ineligibility in this article is not available to Players where a pattern of last-minute whereabouts changes or other conduct raises a serious suspicion that the Player was trying to avoid being available for Testing.

3.
For violations of art. 12 (Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method by a Player or other Person) or art. 13 (Administration or Attempted Administration by a Player or other Person to any Player In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, or Administration or Attempted Administration to any Player Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method that is prohibited Out-of-Competition), the period of Ineligibility shall be a minimum of four years up to lifetime Ineligibility, depending on the seriousness of the violation. An art. 12 or art. 13 violation involving a Protected Person shall be considered a particularly serious violation and, if committed by Player Support Personnel for violations other than for Specified Substances, shall result in lifetime Ineligibility for Player Support Personnel. In addition, significant violations of art. 12 or art. 13 which may also violate non-sporting laws and regulations shall be reported to the competent administrative, professional or judicial authorities.

4.
For violations of art. 14 (Complicity or Attempted Complicity by a Player or other Person), the period of Ineligibility imposed shall be a minimum of two years, up to lifetime Ineligibility, depending on the seriousness of the violation.

5.
For violations of art. 15 (Prohibited association by a Player or other Person), the period of Ineligibility shall be two years, subject to reduction down to a minimum of one year, depending on the Player's or other Person's degree of Fault and other circumstances of the case.

6.
For violations of art. 16 (Acts by a Player or other Person to discourage or retaliate against reporting to authorities), the period of Ineligibility shall be a minimum of two years, up to lifetime Ineligibility, depending on the seriousness of the violation by the Player or other Person.

Section 2: Elimination, reduction or suspension of period of Ineligibility

22 Elimination of the period of Ineligibility where there is No Fault or Negligence

If a Player or other Person establishes in an individual case that he bears No Fault or Negligence, the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility shall be eliminated.

23 Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence

1.
Reduction of sanctions in particular circumstances for violations of art. 6 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample), 7 (Use or Attempted Use by a Player of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method) or 11 (Possession of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method by a Player or Player Support Person)

All reductions under this paragraph 1 are mutually exclusive and not cumulative.

a) Specified Substances or Specified Methods
Where the anti-doping rule violation involves a Specified Substance (other than a Substance of Abuse) or Specified Method, and the Player or other Person can establish No Significant Fault or Negligence, then the period of Ineligibility shall be, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, and at a maximum, two years of Ineligibility, depending on the Player's or other Person's degree of Fault.

b) Contaminated Products
In cases where the Player or other Person can establish both No Significant Fault or Negligence and that the detected Prohibited Substance (other than Substance of Abuse) came from a Contaminated Product, then the period of Ineligibility shall be, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, and at a maximum, two years' Ineligibility, depending on the Player's or other Person's degree of Fault.

c) Protected Persons or Recreational Players
Where the anti-doping rule violation not involving a Substance of Abuse is committed by a Protected Person or Recreational Player and the Protected Person or Recreational Player can establish No Significant Fault or Negligence, then the period of Ineligibility shall be, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of ineligibility, and at a maximum, two years Ineligibility, depending on the Protected Person's or Recreational Player's degree of Fault.

2.
Application of No Significant Fault or Negligence beyond the application of art. 23 par. 1

If a Player or other Person establishes in an individual case where art. 23 par. 1 is not applicable that he bears No Significant Fault or Negligence, then, subject to further reduction or elimination as provided in art. 24, the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be reduced based on the Player or other Person's degree of Fault, but the reduced period of Ineligibility may not be less than one half of the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable. If the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility is a lifetime, the reduced period under this article may be no less than eight years.

24 Elimination, reduction, or suspension of period of Ineligibility or other consequences for reasons other than Fault

1. Substantial Assistance in discovering or establishing Code violations

a) FIFA may, prior to an appellate decision under art. 76 (Decisions subject to appeal) or the expiration of the time to appeal, suspend a part of the Consequences (other than Disqualification and mandatory Public Disclosure) imposed in an individual case in which it has Results Management authority where the Player or other Person has provided Substantial Assistance to an Anti-Doping Organisation, criminal authority or professional disciplinary body which results in: (i) the Anti-Doping Organisation discovering or bringing forward an anti-doping rule violation by another Person, or (ii) which results in a criminal or disciplinary body discovering or bringing forward a criminal offence or the breach of professional rules committed by another Person and the information provided by the Person providing Substantial Assistance is made available to FIFA or other Anti-Doping Organisation with Results Management responsibility; or (iii) which results in WADA initiating a proceeding against a Signatory, WADA-accredited laboratory or Player passport management unit (as defined in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations) for non-compliance with the Code, International Standard or Technical Document; or (iv) with the approval by WADA, which results in a criminal or disciplinary body bringing forward a criminal offence or the breach of professional or sport rules arising out of a sport integrity violation other than doping. After an appellate decision under art. 76 (Decisions subject to appeal) or the expiration of time to appeal, FIFA may only suspend a part of the otherwise applicable Consequences with the approval of WADA. The extent to which the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be suspended shall be based on the seriousness of the anti-doping rule violation committed by the Player or other Person and the significance of the Substantial Assistance provided by the Player or other Person to the effort to eliminate doping in sport, non-compliance with the Code and/or sport integrity violations. No more than three quarters of the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility may be suspended. If the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility is a lifetime, the non-suspended period under this article must be no less than eight years.

For the purposes of this paragraph, the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility shall not include any period of Ineligibility that could be added under art. 25 par. 4 b) of these Regulations. If so requested by a Player or other Person who seeks to provide Substantial Assistance, FIFA shall allow the Player or other Person to provide the information to the Anti-Doping Organisation subject to a without-prejudice agreement. If the Player or other Person fails to continue to cooperate and to provide the complete and credible Substantial Assistance upon which a suspension of the Consequences was based, FIFA shall reinstate the original Consequences. If FIFA decides to reinstate suspended Consequences or decides not to reinstate suspended Consequences, that decision may be appealed by any Person entitled to appeal under art. 77 par. 3 of these Regulations.

b) To further encourage Players and other Persons to provide Substantial Assistance to Anti-Doping Organisations, at the request of FIFA or the Anti-Doping Organisation conducting Results Management or at the request of the Player or other Person who has, or has been asserted to have, committed an anti-doping rule violation or other violation of the Code, WADA may agree at any stage of the Results Management process, including after an appellate decision under art. 76 (Decisions subject to appeal), to what it considers to be an appropriate suspension of the otherwise-applicable period of Ineligibility and other Consequences. In exceptional circumstances, WADA may agree to suspensions of the period of Ineligibility and other Consequences for Substantial Assistance greater than those otherwise provided in this article, or even no period of Ineligibility, no mandatory Public Disclosure and/or no return of prize money or payment of fines or costs. WADA's approval shall be subject to reinstatement of the Consequences, as otherwise provided in this article. Notwithstanding section 6 of chapter X (Appeals), WADA's decisions in the context of this paragraph may not be appealed.

c) If FIFA suspends any part of an otherwise applicable sanction because of Substantial Assistance, then notice providing justification for the decision shall be provided to the other Anti-Doping Organisations with a right to appeal under art. 77 par. 3 of these Regulations. In unique circumstances where WADA determines that it would be in the best interests of anti-doping, WADA may authorise FIFA to enter into appropriate confidentiality agreements limiting or delaying the disclosure of the Substantial Assistance agreement or the nature of Substantial Assistance being provided.

2.

Admission of an anti-doping rule violation in the absence of other evidence

Where a Player or other Person voluntarily admits to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee that he has committed an anti-doping rule violation before having received notice of a Sample collection which could establish an anti-doping rule violation (or, in the case of an anti-doping rule violation other than art. 6 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample), before receiving first notice of the admitted violation pursuant to section 3 of chapter IX (Results Management)) and that admission is the only reliable evidence of the violation at the time of admission, the period of Ineligibility may be reduced, but not below one half of the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable.

3.

Application of multiple grounds for reduction of a sanction

Where a Player or other Person establishes entitlement to a reduction in sanction under more than one provision of art. 22 (Elimination of the period of Ineligibility where there is No Fault or Negligence), art. 23 (Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence) or art. 24 (Elimination, reduction, or suspension of period of Ineligibility or other consequences for reasons other than Fault), before applying any reduction or suspension under art. 24, the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility shall be determined in accordance with arts 20 (Ineligibility for presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method), 21 (Ineligibility for other anti-doping rule violations), 22, and 23. If the Player or other Person establishes entitlement to a reduction or suspension of the period of Ineligibility under art. 24, the period of Ineligibility may be reduced or suspended, but not below one fourth of the otherwise applicable period of Ineligibility.

4.

Results Management agreement

Where a Player or other Person, after being notified by FIFA of a potential anti-doping rule violation that carries an asserted period of Ineligibility of four or more years (including any period of Ineligibility asserted under Aggravating Circumstances), admits the violation and accepts the asserted period of Ineligibility no later than 20 days after receiving notice of an anti-doping rule violation charge, the Player or Person may receive a one-year reduction in the period of Ineligibility asserted by FIFA. Where the Player or other Person receives the one-year reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility under this article, no further reduction in the asserted period of Ineligibility shall be allowed under any other article.

5.

Case resolution agreement

Where the Player or other Person admits an anti-doping rule violation after being confronted with the anti-doping rule violation by FIFA and agrees to the Consequences acceptable to FIFA and WADA, at their sole discretion, then:

a) the Player or other Person may receive a reduction in the period of Ineligibility based on an assessment by FIFA and WADA of the application of chapter V section 2 of these Regulations to the asserted anti-doping rule violation, the seriousness of the violation, the Player or other Person's degree of Fault and how promptly the Player or other Person admitted the violation; and

b) the period of Ineligibility may start as early as the date of Sample collection or the date on which another anti-doping rule violation last occurred. In each case, however, where this article is applied, the Player or other Person shall serve at least one half of the agreed-upon period of Ineligibility going forward from the earlier of the date the Player or other Person accepted the imposition of a sanction or Provisional Suspension which was subsequently respected by the Player or other Person. The decision by FIFA and WADA to enter or not to enter into a case resolution agreement, and the amount of the reduction to, and the starting date of, the period of Ineligibility are not matters for determination or review by a hearing body and are not subject to appeal under chapter X section 6 of these Regulations. If so requested by a Player or other Person who seeks to enter into a case resolution agreement under this article, FIFA shall allow the Player or other Person to discuss an admission of the anti-doping rule violation with the Anti-Doping Organisation subject to a without-prejudice agreement.

Section 3: Increasing the period of Ineligibility and multiple violations

25 Multiple violations

1.

Second or third anti-doping rule violation

For a Player or other Person's second anti-doping rule violation, the period of Ineligibility shall be the greater of:

a) A six-month period of Ineligibility; or

b) A period of Ineligibility in the range between:

- the sum of the period of Ineligibility imposed for the first anti-doping rule violation plus the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable to the second anti-doping rule violation treated as if it were a first violation, and

- twice the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable to the second anti-doping rule violation treated as if it was a first violation.

The period of Ineligibility within this range shall be determined based on the entirety of the circumstances and the Player or other Person's degree of Fault with respect to the second violation.

The period of Ineligibility established above may then be further reduced by the application of art. 24.

2.
A third anti-doping rule violation will always result in a lifetime period of Ineligibility, except if the third violation fulfils the condition for elimination or reduction of the period of Ineligibility under art. 22 (Elimination of the period of Ineligibility where there is No Fault or Negligence) or 23 (Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence), or involves a violation of art. 9 (Whereabouts failures). In these particular cases, the period of Ineligibility shall be from eight years to lifetime Ineligibility.

The period of Ineligibility established above may then be further reduced by the application of art. 24.

3.
An anti-doping rule violation for which a Player or other Person has established No Fault or Negligence shall not be considered a violation for the purposes of this art. 25. In addition, an anti-doping rule violation sanctioned under art. 20 par. 4 of these Regulations shall not be considered a violation for purposes of this art. 25.

4.
Additional rules for certain potential multiple violations

a) For the purpose of imposing sanctions under art. 25 (Multiple violations), except as provided in art. 25 par. 4 of these Regulations, an anti-doping rule violation will only be considered a second violation if FIFA can establish that the Player or other Person committed the additional anti-doping rule violation after the Player or other Person received notice pursuant to Section 3 of chapter IX (Results Management) or after FIFA made reasonable efforts to give notice of the first anti-doping rule violation. If FIFA cannot establish this, the violations shall be considered together as one single first violation, and the sanction imposed shall be based on the violation that carries the more severe sanction, including the application of Aggravating Circumstances. Results in all Matches dating back to the earlier anti-doping rule violation will be Disqualified as provided in art. 26 (Disqualification of results).

b) If FIFA establishes that a Player or other Person committed an additional anti-doping rule violation prior to notification, and that the additional violation occurred 12 months or more before or after the first-noticed violation, then the period of Ineligibility for the additional violation shall be calculated as if the additional violation were a stand-alone first violation and this period of Ineligibility is served consecutively, rather than concurrently, with the period of Ineligibility imposed for the earlier-noticed violation. Where this paragraph applies, the violations taken together shall constitute a single violation for the purposes of art. 25 (Multiple violations).

c) If FIFA establishes that a Player or other Person committed a violation of art. 10 (Tampering or Attempted Tampering with any part of Doping Control by a Player or other Person) in connection with the Doping Control process for an underlying asserted anti-doping rule violation, the violation of art. 10 shall be treated as a standalone first violation and the period of Ineligibility for such violation shall be served consecutively, rather than concurrently, with the period of Ineligibility, if any, imposed for the underlying anti-doping rule violation. Where this paragraph is applied, the violations taken together shall constitute a single violation for the purposes of art. 25 (Multiple violations).

d) If FIFA establishes that a Person has committed a second or third anti-doping rule violation during a period of Ineligibility, the periods of Ineligibility for the multiple violations shall run consecutively, rather than concurrently.

5.
Multiple anti-doping rule violations during ten-year period
For the purpose of art. 25 (Multiple violations), each anti-doping rule violation must take place within the same ten-year period in order to be considered multiple violations.

6.
Aggravating circumstances which may increase the period of ineligibility
If FIFA establishes in an individual case involving an anti-doping rule violation other than violations under art. 12 (Trafficking or Attempted Trafficking in any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method by a Player or other Person), art. 13 (Administration or Attempted Administration by a Player or other Person to any Player In-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method, or Administration or Attempted Administration to any Player Out-of-Competition of any Prohibited Substance or any Prohibited Method that is prohibited Out-of-Competition), art. 14 (Complicity or Attempted Complicity by a Player or other Person) and art. 16 (Acts by a Player or other Person to discourage or retaliate against reporting to authorities) that Aggravating Circumstances are present which justify the imposition of a period of Ineligibility greater than the standard sanction, then the period of Ineligibility otherwise applicable shall be increased by an additional period of Ineligibility of up to two years depending on the seriousness of the violation and the nature of the Aggravating Circumstances, unless the Player or other Person can establish that he not knowingly commit the anti-doping rule violation.

Section 4: Common provisions regarding sanctions on individuals

26 Disqualification of results

1.
Automatic disqualification of individual awards
An anti-doping rule violation in connection with an In-Competition test automatically leads to Disqualification of any awards received by individual Players in that Match.

2.
Disqualification of results in the Competition during which an anti-doping rule violation occurs
An anti-doping rule violation occurring during or in connection with a Competition may, upon the decision of the ruling body of the Competition, lead to Disqualification of all of the Player's individual results obtained in that Competition with all Consequences, including forfeiture of all awards, except as provided in paragraph 3 of this article.

Factors to be included in considering whether to Disqualify other results in a Competition might include, for example, the seriousness of the Player's anti-doping rule violation and whether the Player tested negative in the other Matches.

3.
If the Player establishes that he bears No Fault or Negligence for the violation, the Player's individual results in the other Matches shall not be Disqualified, unless the Player's results in Matches other than the Match in which the anti-doping rule violation occurred were likely to have been affected by the Player's anti-doping rule violation.

4.
Disqualification of results in Matches subsequent to Sample collection or commission of an anti-doping rule violation
In addition to the automatic Disqualification of the results in the Match which produced the positive Sample under paragraph 1 of this article, all other competitive results of the Player obtained from the date a positive Sample was collected (whether In-Competition or Out-of-Competition), or other anti-doping rule violation occurred, through the commencement of any Provisional Suspension or Ineligibility period, shall, unless fairness requires otherwise, be Disqualified with all of the resulting Consequences.

27 Forfeited prize money

If FIFA has recovered prize money forfeited as a result of an anti-doping rule violation, it shall take reasonable measures to allocate and distribute this prize money to the Players who would have been entitled to it had the forfeiting Player not competed.

28 Financial consequences

1.
On account of anti-doping rule violations, financial sanctions may be imposed in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

2.
However, no financial sanction may be considered as grounds for reducing the period of Ineligibility or other sanction that would otherwise be applicable under these Regulations.

3.
Repayment of prize money or other financial support
As a condition of regaining eligibility after being found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation, the Player may first be obliged to repay all prize money or other financial support obtained from sports organisations, and from the date a positive Sample was collected or other anti-doping rule violation occurred, until the commencement of any Provisional Suspension or period of Ineligibility.

4.
After being found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation, the Player or other person may be requested to reimburse the proportionate expenses of the Sample collection and the Results Management of his case.

29 Commencement of period of Ineligibility

Where a Player is already serving a period of Ineligibility for an anti-doping rule violation any new period of Ineligibility shall commence on the first day after the current period of Ineligibility has been served. Otherwise, except as provided below, the period of Ineligibility shall start on the date of the final-hearing decision providing for Ineligibility or, if the hearing is waived or there is no hearing, on the date the Ineligibility is accepted or otherwise imposed.

1.
Delays not attributable to the Player or other Person
Where there have been substantial delays in the hearing process or other aspects of Doping Control and the Player or other Person can establish that such delays are not attributable to the Player or other Person, the FIFA

Disciplinary Committee may decide that the period of Ineligibility shall start at an earlier date, commencing as early as the date of Sample collection or the date on which another anti-doping rule violation last occurred. All competitive results achieved during the period of Ineligibility, including retroactive Ineligibility, shall be Disqualified.

2.

Credit for Provisional Suspension or period of Ineligibility served

a) If a Provisional Suspension is respected by the Player or other Person, then the Player or other Person shall receive a credit for such period of Provisional Suspension against any period of Ineligibility which may ultimately be imposed. If the Player or other Person does not respect a Provisional Suspension, then the Player or other Person shall receive no credit for any period of the Provisional Suspension served. If a period of Ineligibility is served pursuant to a decision that is subsequently appealed, the Player or other Person shall receive a credit for such period of Ineligibility served against any period of Ineligibility which may ultimately be imposed on appeal.

b) If a Player or other Person voluntarily accepts a Provisional Suspension in writing from FIFA and thereafter respects the Provisional Suspension, the Player or other Person shall receive a credit for such period of voluntary Provisional Suspension against any period of Ineligibility which may ultimately be imposed. A copy of the Player or other Person's voluntary acceptance of a Provisional Suspension shall be provided promptly to each party entitled to receive notice of an asserted anti-doping rule violation as provided in these Regulations (art. 70: Information concerning asserted anti-doping rule violations).

c) No credit against a period of Ineligibility shall be given for any time period before the effective date of the Provisional Suspension or voluntary Provisional Suspension regardless of whether the Player elected not to compete or was suspended by a team.

d) Where a period of Ineligibility is imposed upon a team, unless fairness requires otherwise, the period of Ineligibility shall start on the date of the final hearing decision providing for Ineligibility or, if the hearing is waived, on the date Ineligibility is accepted or otherwise imposed. Any period of team Provisional Suspension (whether imposed or voluntarily accepted) shall be credited against the total period of Ineligibility to be served.

30 Status during Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension

1. Prohibition of participation during Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension

No Player or other Person who has been declared Ineligible or is subject to a Provisional Suspension may, during a period of Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension, participate in any capacity in a Match or activity (other than authorised anti-doping Education or rehabilitation programmes) authorised or organised by FIFA, any Association, any other Signatory of the Code, a club or other member organisation of an Association or of any Signatory to the Code, or In-Competitions authorised or organised by any professional league or any international or national-level Competition organisation or any elite or national-level sporting activity funded by a governmental agency.

A Player or other Person subject to a period of Ineligibility longer than four years may, after completing four years of the period of Ineligibility, participate as a Player in local sports competitions not approved or otherwise under the authority of FIFA, the Associations or Confederations, or any other Signatory to the Code or its member, but only so long as the local sports competition is not at a level that could otherwise qualify such Player or other Person directly or indirectly to compete in (or accumulate points towards) a national championship or International Competition, and does not involve the Player or other Person working in any capacity with Protected Persons.

A Player or other Person subject to a period of Ineligibility shall remain subject to Testing and any possible requirement by FIFA or other Anti-Doping Organisation to provide whereabouts information.

2. Return to training

As an exception to art. 30 par. 1, a Player may return to train with a team or to use the facilities of a club or other member organisation of a FIFA Member Association or any other Signatory to the Code during the shorter of: (1) the last two months of the Player's period of Ineligibility, or (2) the last one quarter of the period of Ineligibility imposed.

3.
Violation of the prohibition of participation during Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension

Where a Player or other Person who has been declared ineligible violates the prohibition against participation during Ineligibility as described in art. 30 par. 1, the results of such participation shall be Disqualified and a new period of Ineligibility equal in length up to the original period of Ineligibility shall be added to the end of the original period of Ineligibility. The new period of Ineligibility, including a reprimand and no period of Ineligibility, may be adjusted based on the Player or other Person's degree of Fault and other circumstances of the case. The determination of whether a Player or other Person has violated the prohibition against participation, and whether an adjustment is appropriate, shall be made by FIFA or the Anti-Doping Organisation whose Results Management led to the imposition of the initial period of Ineligibility. This decision may be appealed as provided in these Regulations.

A Player or other Person who violates the prohibition against participation during a Provisional Suspension described in this article shall receive no credit for any period of Provisional Suspension served and the results of such participation shall be Disqualified. Where a Player Support Person or other Person assists a Person in violating the prohibition against participation during Ineligibility or a Provisional Suspension, FIFA shall impose sanctions for a violation of art. 14 (Complicity or Attempted Complicity by a Player or other Person) for such assistance.

4.
Withholding of financial support during Ineligibility

In addition, for any anti-doping rule violation not involving a reduced sanction as described in art. 22 (Elimination of the period of Ineligibility where there is No Fault or Negligence) or art. 23 (Reduction of the period of Ineligibility based on No Significant Fault or Negligence), some or all sport-related financial support or other sport-related benefits received by such Person will be withheld by FIFA, its Member Associations or the Confederations.

31 Automatic publication of sanction

A mandatory part of each sanction shall include automatic publication (Public Disclosure), as provided in art. 71 (Public Disclosure).

32 Target Testing of the team

Where more than one member of a team has been notified of an anti-doping rule violation under Section 3 of chapter IX (Results Management) in connection with a Competition, the ruling body for the Competition shall conduct appropriate Target Testing of the team during the Competition Period.

33 Sanction on the club or Association

1.
If a Member Association's NADO is declared to be non-compliant according to the International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall recognise the effects of the asserted non-compliance and apply them to the relevant Member Association, including but not limited to the possibility of excluding all or some members of that Member Association from specified future Competitions or all Competitions conducted within a specified period of time in line with the International Standard for Code Compliance by Signatories.

2.
If more than two members of a team are found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation during a Competition Period, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, if FIFA is the ruling body, or otherwise the Association concerned, shall impose an appropriate sanction on the team and on the Association or club to which the members of the team belong in addition to any consequences imposed upon the individual Player(s) committing the anti-doping rule violation.

3.
The sanctions provided for under the FIFA Disciplinary Code in force are applicable.

34 Jurisdiction

1.
Where it is asserted that an anti-doping rule has been violated in connection with any test conducted by FIFA, the chairman of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall be responsible for imposing the relevant Provisional Suspension.

2.
For the purposes of this chapter, references hereafter to the chairman of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall, where appropriate, be understood as meaning the relevant Person or body of the Association, and references to the Player shall, where appropriate, be understood as meaning any Player Support Personnel or other Person.

35 Mandatory Provisional Suspension

1.
When an Adverse Analytical Finding or Adverse Passport Finding (upon the completion of the Adverse Passport Finding review process) is received for a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method, other than a Specified Substance or Specified Method, a Provisional Suspension shall be imposed promptly upon or after the review and notification required under art. 53 (Initial review regarding Adverse Analytical/Atypical Findings and notification).

2.
The mandatory Provisional Suspension may be eliminated if (i) the Player demonstrates to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee that the violation is likely to have involved a Contaminated Product, or (ii) the violation involves a Substance of Abuse and the Player establishes entitlement to a reduced period of Ineligibility under art. 20 par. 4 of these Regulations. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee's decision not to eliminate a mandatory Provisional Suspension on account of the Player's assertion regarding a Contaminated Product shall not be appealable.

3.
A mandatory Provisional Suspension may not be imposed unless the Player or other Person is given: (a) an opportunity for a Provisional Hearing, either

before imposition of the mandatory Provisional Suspension or on a timely basis after imposition of the mandatory Provisional Suspension; or (b) an opportunity for an expedited hearing in accordance with art. 64 (Right to a fair hearing) on a timely basis after imposition of a mandatory Provisional Suspension. The imposition of a mandatory Provisional Suspension, or the decision not to impose a mandatory Provisional Suspension, may be appealed in an expedited process in accordance with art. 77 (Appeals against decisions regarding anti-doping rule violations, Consequences, Provisional Suspensions, implementation of decisions and authority).

4.
A mandatory Provisional Suspension shall start on the date on which it is notified (or deemed to be notified) by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee to the Player or other Person and shall end with the final decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, unless earlier lifted in accordance with the rules under this section. However, the period of the mandatory Provisional Suspension shall not exceed the maximum length of the period of Ineligibility that may be imposed on the Player or other Person based on the relevant anti-doping rule violation(s).

36 Optional Provisional Suspension based on an Adverse Analytical Finding for Specified Substances, Specified Methods, Contaminated Products, or other anti-doping rule violations

1.
In the case of an Adverse Analytical Finding for a Specified Substance, Specified Method, Contaminated Products or other anti-doping rule violations not covered by art. 35, a Provisional Suspension may be imposed prior to analysis of the Player's "B" Sample or final hearing as described in art. 64 (Right to a fair hearing).

2.
A Provisional Suspension may not be imposed unless the Player or other Person is given: (a) an opportunity for a Provisional Hearing, either before imposition of the Provisional Suspension or on a timely basis after imposition of the Provisional Suspension; or (b) an opportunity for an expedited hearing in accordance with art. 64 (Right to a fair hearing) on a timely basis after imposition of a Provisional Suspension. The imposition of a Provisional Suspension, or the decision not to impose a Provisional Suspension, may be appealed in an expedited process in accordance with

art. 77 (Appeals against decisions regarding anti-doping rule violations, Consequences, Provisional Suspensions, implementation of decisions and authority).

3.
A Provisional Suspension shall start on the date on which it is notified (or deemed to be notified) by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee to the Player or other Person and shall end with the final decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, unless earlier lifted in accordance with the rules under this section. However, the period of the Provisional Suspension shall not exceed the maximum length of the period of Ineligibility that may be imposed on the Player or other Person based on the relevant anti-doping rule violation(s).

37 Voluntary acceptance of Provisional Suspension

1.
Players may, on their own initiative, voluntarily accept a Provisional Suspension if done so prior to the later of: (i) the expiration of ten days from the report of the "B" Sample (or waiver of the "B" Sample) or ten days from the notice of any other anti-doping rule violation, or (ii) the date on which the Player first competes after such report or notice.

Other Persons on their own initiative may voluntarily accept a Provisional Suspension if done so within ten days from the notice of the anti-doping rule violation.

Upon such voluntary acceptance, the Provisional Suspension shall have the full effect and be treated in the same manner as if the Provisional Suspension had been imposed under art. 35 or art. 36 of these Regulations provided, however, at any time after voluntarily accepting a Provisional Suspension, the Player or other Person may withdraw such acceptance, in which event the Player or other Person shall not receive any credit for time previously served during the Provisional Suspension.

2.
The Player or other Person may accept a voluntary Provisional Suspension provided that this is confirmed in writing to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

3.
A voluntary Provisional Suspension shall be effective only from the date of receipt of the Player's or other Person's written confirmation of such by FIFA. Therefore, the Association concerned has to promptly submit a copy of the Player's or other Person's voluntary acceptance of a Provisional Suspension if it was addressed to the relevant Person or body of the Association.

38 Notification

1.
A Player or other Person who has been Provisionally Suspended, or whose Provisional Suspension has been lifted, shall be notified immediately, as set forth in the International Standard for Results Management, the FIFA Disciplinary Code and in these Regulations.

2.
In any case where an Association imposes or declines to impose a Provisional Suspension or a Player or other Person accepts a voluntary suspension, the Association shall inform the FIFA Disciplinary Committee of this fact immediately.

39 "B" Sample proves negative

1.
If a Provisional Suspension is imposed based on an "A" Sample Adverse Analytical Finding and a subsequent "B" Sample analysis (if requested by the Player or FIFA) does not confirm the "A" Sample analysis, then the Player shall not be subject to any further Provisional Suspension on account of a violation of art. 6 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample).

2.
In circumstances where the Player or team has been removed from a Competition based on a violation of art. 6 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample) and the subsequent "B" Sample analysis does not confirm the "A" Sample finding,

where, without otherwise affecting the Competition, it is still possible for the Player or team to be reinstated, the Player or team may continue to take part in the Competition.

3.
With reference to par. 2, in any other case where a reinstatement affects the Competition, the Player or team shall not continue to take part in the Competition and shall not make any claim for damages or compensation.

40 Statute of limitations

No anti-doping rule violation proceeding may be commenced against a Player or other Person unless he has been notified of the anti-doping rule violation as provided in these Regulations, or notification has been reasonably Attempted, within ten years of the date the violation is asserted to have occurred.

SECOND TITLE: TESTING AND PROCEDURAL RULES

Section 1: Testing

41 General rules for Testing

1.
Under these Regulations, every Player may be subject to In-Competition Testing at the Matches in which he competes and to Out-of-Competition Testing at any time and place by FIFA or the relevant Association. Testing shall include, but shall not be limited to, urine tests and blood tests.

2.
Within its jurisdiction, FIFA may delegate Testing under these Regulations to any Association, Confederation, WADA, governmental agency, NADO or Delegated Third Party that it deems to be suitably qualified for the purpose. In this case, reference to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit or the FIFA Doping Control Officer shall, where appropriate, be understood as meaning the mandated party or Person. Irrespective of the foregoing, the overall responsibility remains with FIFA.

3.
Only a single organisation shall have the authority to conduct In-Competition Testing.

a) At International Competitions, FIFA or another international organisation that is the ruling body for the Match/Competition shall have authority to conduct Testing.

b) At National Competitions, the designated NADO of that country shall have authority to conduct Testing.

c) If an Anti-Doping Organisation is not responsible for initiating and directing Testing at a Competition, but would otherwise have Testing authority and desires to conduct Testing of Players at the Competition Venues during the Competition Period, it shall first contact FIFA or the other ruling body of the Match/Competition to obtain the appropriate permission. If the Anti-Doping Organisation is not satisfied with the response of FIFA or the other ruling body, it may ask WADA for permission to conduct Testing and to determine how to coordinate such Testing. WADA shall not grant any such approval before it has

consulted with and informed FIFA or the other ruling body for the Match/Competition. WADA's decision shall be final and not subject to appeal. Unless otherwise provided in the authorisation to conduct Testing, such tests shall be considered Out-of-Competition tests. Results Management for any such test shall be the responsibility of the Anti-Doping Organisation initiating the test, unless provided otherwise in the rules of the ruling body of the Match/Competition.

4.
In addition to FIFA and the relevant Association, the following organisations shall be responsible for initiating and directing Out-of-Competition Testing:

a) the IOC in connection with the Olympic Games;

b) the NADO of the country or territory of which the Player is a national or resident and/or in which the Player is present;

5.
WADA shall have In-Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing authority as set out in article 20.7.10 of the Code.

6.
Testing of individual Players shall be performed in line with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations. Testing shall be performed with no advance notice. For In-Competition Testing, place holder selection may be known in advance, but shall not be revealed to the Player until notification.

42 Test distribution plan

1.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall develop a test distribution plan for efficient and effective In-Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing for all Players over whom FIFA has jurisdiction, including but not limited to Players in the FIFA IRTP.

2.
In developing the test distribution plan, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall consider the risk of doping in football based on:

a) the FIFA Doping Control database on positive tests and the respective substances detected;

b) the WADA statistics;

c) which Prohibited Substances and/or Prohibited Methods a Player would consider most likely to enhance performance in football;

d) the history of doping in football as well as the outcomes of previous test distribution planning cycles including past Testing strategies;

e) the Competition calendar, including seasonal breaks which enables identification of the time(s) during the year the Player would be most likely to benefit from Prohibited Substances and/or Prohibited Methods;

f) the number of Players;

g) the physical and other demands of football;

h) available statistics and research on doping trends;

i) information received/intelligence developed on possible doping practices in football (e.g. laboratory recommendations; reports; Player testimony; information from criminal investigations);

j) at what points during a Player's career he would be most likely to benefit from Prohibited Substances and/or Prohibited Methods;

k) the rewards and/or potential incentives for doping available at different levels of football and the nations participating in football.

3.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall also take the anti-doping activities of the Member Associations and Confederations and the strength of the national anti-doping programme of the particular nation into account. The plan shall be updated, if necessary, on the basis of this regular review, particularly with regard to the relative merits of Out-of-Competition and In-Competition Testing in football.

4.
The timing of Testing and the number of Sample collections shall be determined by the type of Sample collection, including Out-of-Competition,

In-Competition, blood and urine Sample collection, in order to ensure optimum deterrence and detection of doping in football.

5.
Player Support Personnel and/or any other Person with a conflict of interest shall not be involved in test distribution planning for their Players or in the process of selecting Players for Testing.

6.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall maintain a record of test distribution planning data in order to coordinate Testing activities with other Anti-Doping Organisations.

7.
The Chain of Custody of the Samples shall ensure that Samples and the respective documentation forms arrive together at the laboratory.

43 Selection of Players for Testing

1.
In implementing the test distribution plan, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall select Players for Sample collection using random selection methods and Target Testing, as applicable, in line with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations. Following the respective risk assessment, Target Testing shall be prioritised, where possible and reasonable.

2.
Target Testing shall be based on an intelligent assessment of the risks of doping and the most effective use of resources to ensure optimum detection and deterrence. Target Testing shall be a priority, i.e. a significant amount of the Testing undertaken as part of FIFA's test distribution plan shall be Target Testing of Players within its overall pool. If more than one Player in a team has been tested positive, Target Testing shall be performed on all Players in the team. For individual Players, Target Testing may be performed as a consequence of behaviour indicating doping, abnormal biological parameters (blood parameters, steroid profiles, etc.), injury, repeated failure to meet whereabouts requirements, Player test history and when a Player is reinstated after a period of Ineligibility.

3.
Testing that is not Target Testing shall be determined by random selection in accordance with the International Standard for Testing and Investigation. In-Competition, the FIFA Doping Control Officer shall be authorised to select additional Players for Sample collection, e.g. for behaviour indicating doping. Out-of-Competition, the FIFA Doping Control Officer shall follow the instructions for the selection of the Player(s) as given on the respective authorisation form by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit.

44 Sample collection personnel: FIFA Doping Control Officers, assistants, Chaperones

1.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall designate an accredited FIFA Doping Control Officer to carry out In-Competition tests at the Matches in question and for Out-of-Competition doping tests as defined in the test distribution plan.

2.
The FIFA Doping Control Officer must have undergone specific training as a FIFA Doping Control Officer. He shall be responsible for the entire doping test procedure, including blood sampling and the immediate dispatch of urine Samples to the relevant laboratory and of copies of the forms to FIFA. FIFA shall provide him with the material required to carry out the tests.

3.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit may also appoint one or several assistants to the FIFA Doping Control Officer, if necessary, e.g. in the case of double headers. Furthermore, the FIFA Doping Control Officer may be supported by Chaperones.

4.
The FIFA Doping Control Officer may delegate the urine sampling procedure or parts thereof to his assistant. The blood sampling procedure may not be delegated unless the assistant is a doctor. Nevertheless, if national legislation allows professionals other than doctors to collect Samples of bodily fluids (with all consequences including medical confidentiality according to medical ethics and the Hippocratic Oath), an exception may be made regarding the assistant by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit. In the case of delegation, reference to the FIFA Doping Control Officer shall, where appropriate, be understood as meaning the assistant.

5.
All other Sample collection personnel, in addition to the FIFA Doping Control Officer, shall have been trained for their assigned responsibilities, shall not have a conflict of interest in the outcome of the Sample collection for which they are appointed and shall not be Minors.

6.
All Sample collection personnel shall have official identification that is provided either by FIFA or the FIFA-authorised Anti-Doping Organisation/ relevant competent body. The minimum identification requirement is official documentation naming FIFA or the FIFA-authorised Anti-Doping Organisation by which the Person has been authorised. In the case of FIFA Doping Control Officers, this documentation shall include their name and photograph and an expiry date.

45 Failure to comply with Doping Control

1.
When any member of the Sample collection personnel becomes aware of any matters occurring before, during or after a Sample Collection Session that may lead to a determination of a failure to comply, he must inform the FIFA Doping Control Officer immediately.

2.
The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall then:

a) inform the Player or other Person of the Consequences of a possible failure to comply;

b) complete the Player's Sample Collection Session, if possible;

c) provide a detailed written report of any possible failure to comply to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit.

3.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall then:

a) inform the Player or other Person and WADA of the possible failure to comply in writing and grant an opportunity to respond;

b) instigate a review of the possible failure to comply based on all relevant information and documentation and without unnecessary delay;

c) document the evaluation process;

d) make the final determination available to other Anti-Doping Organisations in accordance with section 4 of chapter X (Confidentiality and reporting).

4.
If the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit determines that there has been a potential failure to comply, it shall:

a) promptly notify the Player or other Person in writing of the possible Consequences, i.e. that a potential failure to comply will be investigated by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee or its equivalent at Association level and that appropriate follow-up action will be taken in accordance with these Regulations and the FIFA Disciplinary Code;

b) notify the FIFA Disciplinary Committee of all relevant facts.

5.
Any additional necessary information about the potential failure to comply shall be obtained from all relevant sources, including the Player or other Person, as soon as possible and recorded.

6.
The FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall investigate the potential failure to comply and take appropriate follow-up action in accordance with these Regulations and the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

7.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall establish a system for ensuring that the outcomes of its reviews into the potential failure to comply are considered for the purposes of Results Management and, if applicable, for further planning and Target Testing.

46 Whereabouts information

The provisions to be respected by the Players governing whereabouts information are set forth under Annexe C of these Regulations.

Section 2: Analysis of Samples

47 Use of accredited, approved and other laboratories

1.
For the purpose of directly establishing an Adverse Analytical Finding under art. 6 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample), analysis of the Samples shall be carried out in WADA-accredited laboratories or laboratories otherwise approved by WADA (see Annexe F). The choice of the WADA accredited or WADA approved laboratory used for the Sample analysis shall be determined exclusively by the FIFA Anti- Doping Unit.

Facts related to anti-doping rule violations may be established by any reliable means. This would include, for example, reliable laboratory or other forensic testing not conducted in WADA-accredited or approved laboratories.

2.
Samples and related analytical data or Doping Control information shall be analysed to detect Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods identified on the Prohibited List and other substances as may be directed by WADA pursuant to its monitoring programme; or to assist FIFA in profiling relevant parameters in a Player's urine, blood or other matrix, including for DNA or genomic profiling; or for any other legitimate anti- doping purpose.

3.
Samples, related analytical data and Doping Control information may be used for anti-doping research purposes, although no Sample may be used for research without the Player's written consent. Moreover, Samples and related analytical data or Doping Control information used for research purposes shall first be processed in such a manner as to prevent Samples and related analytical data or Doping Control information being traced back to a particular Player. Any research involving Samples and related

analytical data or Doping Control information shall adhere to the principles set out in article 19 of the Code.

48 Standards for Sample analysis and reporting

1.
Laboratories shall analyse Samples and report results in conformity with the International Standard for Laboratories. The head of the laboratory shall send the test results immediately by encrypted email to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit.

2.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit may request that laboratories analyse its Samples using more extensive menus than those described in the Technical Document of WADA.

3.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit may request that laboratories analyse its Samples using less extensive menus than those described in the Technical Document of WADA only if the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit has satisfied WADA that, because of the particular circumstances as set out in a test distribution plan, less extensive analysis would be appropriate.

4.
Laboratories may, at their own initiative and expense, analyse Samples for Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Methods not included on the standard Sample analysis menu. If additional analyses not included on the standard sample analysis menu are requested by FIFA, FIFA shall bear the respective costs. Results from any such analysis shall be reported to FIFA and have the same validity and Consequences as any other analytical result.

49 Further analysis of Samples

Any Sample may be stored and subjected to further analysis for the purpose of detection of Prohibited Substances and/or Prohibited Methods and other substances as described in this chapter prior to FIFA notifying a Player that the Sample is the basis for an anti-doping rule violation charge. If after such notification FIFA wishes to conduct an additional analysis of that

Sample, it may do so only with the consent of the Player or the approval of a hearing body. Other circumstances and conditions for further analysis of Samples shall conform to the requirements of the International Standard for Laboratories and the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

50 Property

All Samples provided by Players in Doping Controls conducted under the responsibility of FIFA shall immediately become the property of FIFA.

51 Guidance

If, at any stage, any question or issue arises concerning the analysis or interpretation of the results of a Sample, the Person responsible for the analysis at the laboratory may consult the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit for guidance.

Section 3: Results Management

52 Management process

1.
FIFA's Results Management process is set forth below and in the International Standard for Results Management.

2.
In the case of a Player tested by FIFA or where a Player has to file whereabouts information pursuant to Annexe C of these Regulations to FIFA, the Results Management process shall be conducted by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit as the Results Management authority. In all other cases, it shall be conducted by the relevant Person or body of the Player's Association. Requests for assistance in conducting, or information about, the Results Management process may be made to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit at any time.

3.
For the purposes of this chapter, references hereafter to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall, where appropriate, be understood as meaning the

relevant Person or body of the Association and references to the Player shall, where appropriate, be understood as meaning any Player Support Personnel or other Person.

53 Initial review regarding Adverse Analytical/Atypical Findings and notification

1.
Upon receipt of an Adverse Analytical or an Atypical Finding in an "A" Sample, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall conduct a review to determine whether:

a) an applicable TUE has been granted or will be granted to the Player for the Prohibited Substance;

b) there is any apparent departure from the International Standard for Laboratories, the International Standard for Testing and Investigations or other applicable provision in these Regulations that caused the Adverse Analytical Finding/Atypical Finding such as to undermine the validity of the finding.

c) it is apparent that the Adverse Analytical Finding or Atypical Finding was caused by ingestion of the relevant Prohibited Substance through a permitted route.

2.
If the initial review of an Adverse Analytical Finding does not reveal an applicable TUE or entitlement to a TUE or departure from the International Standards that caused the Adverse Analytical Finding or ingestion through a permitted route, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall at once confidentially notify the Player, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, the Player's Association, the Player's Confederation, the NADO with testing authority over the Player and/or club and WADA, in the manner set forth under this article.

3.
If the initial review of an Atypical Finding does not reveal an applicable TUE or an apparent departure from the International Standards that caused the Atypical Finding or ingestion through a permitted route, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall conduct the required investigation. If, after the investigation has been completed, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit decides to

bring forward the Atypical Finding as an Adverse Analytical Finding, the Player (in the manner provided below), his club, the Confederation, the Association concerned, the NADO with testing authority over the Player and WADA shall be notified in the manner set forth under this article.

4.
If, at any point during the Results Management process up until the charge, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit decides not to move forward with a matter, it must notify the Player or other Person (provided the Player or other Person has already been informed of the ongoing Results Management) and give notice (with reasons) to the Anti-Doping Organisation(s) with a right of appeal under art. 77 par. 3 (Persons entitled to appeal).

5.
In the case of an Adverse Analytical Finding, the Player shall be promptly notified of the following (see art. 62 (Addressees of decisions and other documents) and chapter X section 4 (Confidentiality and reporting)):

a) the Adverse Analytical Finding;

b) the fact that the Adverse Analytical Finding may result in an anti-doping rule violation of art. 6 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample) and/or 7 (Use or Attempted Use by a Player of a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method) and the applicable Consequences;

c) his right to promptly request the analysis of the "B" Sample and, failing such request within the time limit set by these Regulations, of the fact that the "B" Sample analysis may be deemed irrevocably waived. The Player shall be advised at the same time that, if the "B" Sample analysis is requested, all related laboratory costs shall be borne by the Player, unless the "B" Sample fails to confirm the "A" Sample, in which case the costs shall be borne by FIFA;

d) the fact that analysis of the "B" Sample may be conducted at the request of FIFA regardless of the Player's decision in this respect;

e) the scheduled date, time and place for the "B" Sample analysis if the Player or FIFA chooses to request an analysis of the "B" Sample. These items may also be promptly communicated in a subsequent letter after the Player (or FIFA) has requested the "B" Sample analysis;

f) the opportunity for the Player and/or the Player's representative to attend the "B" Sample opening and analysis in accordance with the International Standard for Laboratories;

g) the Player's right to request copies of the "A" Sample laboratory documentation package, which includes information as required by the International Standard for Laboratories.

h) the fact that the case will be handed over to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee for further evaluation of the case;

i) that the Player will be informed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee about his opportunity to provide an explanation within a short deadline;

j) that the Player has an opportunity to provide Substantial Assistance, admit the anti-doping rule violation and potentially benefit from a one-year reduction in the period of Ineligibility as set out in art. 24 (Elimination, reduction, or suspension of period of Ineligibility or other consequences for reasons other than Fault) or to seek to enter into a case resolution agreement;

k) any matters relating to a Provisional Suspension (including the possibility for the Player to accept a voluntary suspension as set out in art. 37 (Voluntary acceptance of Provisional Suspension).

6.
Notice of an Atypical Finding will not be provided before completion of the investigation under this article and before the decision as to whether to bring forward the Atypical Finding as an Adverse Analytical Finding unless one of the following circumstances exists:

a) If the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit determines that the "B" Sample should be analysed prior to the conclusion of its investigation under art. 53 par. 4, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit may conduct the "B" Sample analysis after notifying the Player accordingly, such notice to include a description of the Atypical Finding and the information described in art. 53 par. 4 c) to j).

b) If FIFA receives a request, either from a Major Event Organisation shortly before one of its international events or from a sports organisation responsible for meeting an imminent deadline for selecting team members for an international event, to disclose whether

any Player identified on a list provided by the Major Event Organisation or sports organisation has a pending Atypical Finding, FIFA shall so identify any such Player after first providing notice of the Atypical Finding to the Player; or if the Atypical Finding is, in the opinion of qualified medical or expert personnel, likely to be connected to a serious pathology that requires urgent medical attention.

54 Analysis of the "B" Sample in Adverse Analytical Findings

1.
The Player has the right to request the analysis of the "B" Sample, within 12 (In-Competition)/48 (Out-of-Competition) hours of being notified. The request of the analysis of the "B" Sample has no impact on a Provisional Suspension of the Player.

If the Player requests the "B" Sample analysis but claims that he and/or his representative will not be available on the scheduled date, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall liaise with the laboratory and propose at least two alternative dates.

2.
A Player may accept an "A" Sample analytical result by waiving his right to the "B" Sample analysis. The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit may, however, request the analysis of the "B" Sample at any time if it believes that such analysis will be relevant for consideration of the Player's case.

3.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall communicate the request for analysis of the "B" Sample immediately to the head of the laboratory where the "B" Sample is being kept. The analysis of the "B" Sample should be carried out within 48 hours of FIFA's request or as soon as possible.

a) The laboratory is required to be ready to perform the "B" Sample analysis within this time frame, as laid down in the agreement between FIFA and the respective laboratory prior to the Match/Competition where controls are being conducted;

b) If the laboratory is unable to perform the "B" Sample analysis within this time frame for technical or logistical reasons, the analysis shall take place at the next available date for the laboratory. This shall

not be considered as a deviation from the International Standard for Laboratories susceptible to invalidate the analytical procedure and analytical results. No other reason shall be accepted for changing the date of the "B" Sample analysis.

4
The Player and/or his representative shall be allowed to be present at the opening of the "B" Sample analysis and to attend the analysis throughout. A representative of the Player's Association or club may also be present and attend throughout, as may a representative of FIFA.

If the Player and his representative claim not to be available on the alternative dates proposed, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall instruct the laboratory to proceed regardless and appoint an Independent Witness to verify that the "B" Sample container shows no signs of Tampering and that the identifying numbers match those on the collection documentation.

5.
The results of the "B" Sample analysis shall be sent immediately by encrypted email to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit. If the results of the "B" Sample confirm the results of the "A" Sample analysis, the Player shall be promptly notified of such results and be provided with an opportunity to give an explanation or supplement his explanations within a short deadline. The Player shall also be afforded the possibility to admit the anti-doping rule violation in order to potentially benefit from a one-year reduction in the period of Ineligibility under art. 24 par. 4 (Results Management agreement), if applicable, and/or to voluntarily accept a Provisional Suspension as per art. 37 (Voluntary acceptance of Provisional Suspension). Any communication provided to the Player shall simultaneously be provided to the Player's NADO, Association and WADA.

55 Review of Atypical Passport Findings and Adverse Passport Findings

A review of Atypical Passport Findings and Adverse Passport Findings shall take place as provided in Annexe C to the International Standard for Results Management. At such time as FIFA is satisfied that an anti-doping rule violation has occurred, it shall promptly give the Player (and simultaneously the Player's NADO, Association and WADA) notice of the anti-doping rule violation asserted and the basis of that assertion.

56 Review of whereabouts failures

FIFA shall review potential filing failures and missed tests, as defined in the International Standard for Results Management, in respect of Players who are in the FIFA IRTP and file their whereabouts information with FIFA, in accordance with Annexe B to the International Standard for Results Management. At such time as FIFA is satisfied that an anti-doping rule violation has occurred under art. 9 (Whereabouts failures), it shall promptly give the Player (and simultaneously the Player's NADO, Association and WADA) notice that it is asserting a violation of art. 9 and the basis of that assertion.

57 Review of other anti-doping rule violations

1.
In the case of any possible anti-doping rule violation where there is no Adverse Analytical Finding and no Atypical Finding, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall conduct any investigation based on the facts of the case that it deems to be necessary.

2.
At such time as the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit has reason to believe that an anti-doping rule violation might have occurred, it shall promptly notify the Player or other Person, the Player's or other Person's NADO, club and Association, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee and WADA of:

a) the anti-doping rule that appears to have been violated and the applicable Consequences;

b) the relevant factual circumstances upon which the allegations are based;

c) the relevant evidence in support of those facts that the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit considers to demonstrate that the Player or other Person may have committed (an) anti-doping rule violation(s);

d) the fact that the case will be handed over to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee for further evaluation of the case;

e) the fact that the Player or other Person will be informed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee about his opportunity to provide an explanation within a short deadline;

f) the opportunity for the Player or other Person to provide Substantial Assistance, admit the anti-doping rule violation and potentially benefit from a one-year reduction in the period of Ineligibility as set out in art. 24 (Elimination, reduction, or suspension of period of Ineligibility or other consequences for reasons other than Fault) or to seek to enter into a case resolution agreement;

g) any matters relating to Provisional Suspension (including the possibility for the Player or other Person to accept a voluntary Provisional Suspension as per art. 37 (Voluntary acceptance of Provisional Suspension).

58 Letter of charge

1.
If, after receipt of the Player's or other Person's explanation or expiry of the deadline to provide such explanation, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee is (still) satisfied that the Player or other Person has committed (an) anti-doping rule violation(s), the FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall promptly charge the Player or other Person with the anti-doping rule violation(s) they are asserted to have breached. In this letter of charge, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall:

a) set out the provision(s) of its anti-doping rules asserted to have been violated by the Player or other Person;

b) provide a detailed summary of the relevant facts upon which the assertion is based, enclosing any additional underlying evidence not already provided in the notification under art. 53 (Initial review regarding Adverse Analytical/Atypical Findings and notification);

c) indicate the specific Consequence(s) being sought in the event that the asserted anti-doping rule violation(s) is/are upheld and that such Consequence(s) shall have a binding effect on all Confederations and Member Associations, as well as all Signatories to the Code in all sports and countries;

d) grant a deadline of 20 days from receipt of the letter of charge (which may be extended in exceptional cases) to the Player or other Person to admit the anti-doping rule violation asserted and to accept the proposed Consequences by signing, dating and returning an acceptance of Consequences form, which shall be enclosed with the letter;

e) in the event that the Player or other Person does not accept the proposed Consequence(s), it shall grant a deadline of 20 days from receipt of the letter of charge (which may be extended in exceptional cases) to challenge in writing the FIFA Disciplinary Committee's assertion of an anti-doping rule violation and/or proposed Consequence(s) and/or make a written request for a hearing before the relevant hearing panel;

f) indicate that if the Player or other Person does not challenge the FIFA Disciplinary Committee's assertion of an anti-doping rule violation or proposed Consequence(s) nor request a hearing within the prescribed deadline, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall be entitled to deem that the Player or other Person has waived his right to a hearing and be entitled to issue a decision based on the evidence on file;

g) indicate that the Player or other Person may be able to obtain a suspension of the Consequence(s) if he provides Substantial Assistance under art. 24 par. 1 (Substantial Assistance in discovering or establishing Code violations), may admit the anti-doping rule violation(s) within 20 days from receipt of the letter of charge and potentially benefit from a one-year reduction in the period of Ineligibility under art. 24 par. 4 (Results Management agreement) (if applicable) and/or seek to enter into a case resolution agreement by admitting the anti-doping rule violation(s) under art. 24 par. 5 (Case resolution agreement);

h) set out any matters relating to Provisional Suspension.

2.
The letter of charge notified to the Player or other Person shall simultaneously be notified to the Player's or other Person's Confederation, Association, NADO and WADA.

3.
In the event that the Player or other Person either (i) admits the anti doping rule violation and accepts the proposed Consequence(s) or (ii) is deemed to have admitted the violation and accepted the Consequence(s), the FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall promptly issue the decision and notify it to the

Player or other Person and to other Persons with a right to appeal as set out in art. 77 (Appeals against decisions regarding anti-doping rule violations, Consequences, Provisional Suspensions, implementation of decisions and authority).

59 Retirement from sport

1.
If a Player or other Person retires while FIFA is conducting the Results Management process, FIFA retains the authority to complete its Results Management process.

2.
If a Player or other Person retires before any Results Management process has begun, and FIFA would have had Results Management authority over the Player or other Person at the time the Player or other Person committed an anti-doping rule violation, FIFA has the authority to conduct Results Management in respect of that anti-doping rule violation.

60 Retired Players returning to Competition

1.
If an International- or National-Level Player in a Registered Testing Pool retires and then wishes to return to active participation in sport, the Player shall not compete in International Competitions or National Competitions until the Player has made himself available for Testing, by giving six months' prior written notice to FIFA and his NADO. WADA, in consultation with FIFA and the relevant NADO, may grant an exemption to the six-month written notice rule where the strict application of that rule would be unfair to a Player. This decision may be appealed under art. 77 (Appeals against decisions regarding anti-doping rule violations, Consequences, Provisional Suspensions, implementation of decisions and authority).

2.
If a Player retires from sport while subject to a period of Ineligibility, the Player must notify FIFA or other Anti-Doping Organisation that imposed the period of Ineligibility in writing of such retirement. If the Player then

wishes to return to active competition in sport, the Player shall not compete in International Competitions or National Competitions until the Player has made himself available for Testing by giving six months' prior written notice (or notice equivalent to the period of Ineligibility remaining as of the date the Player retired, if that period was longer than six months) to FIFA and the Player's NADO. FIFA may grant an exemption to the six-month written notice rule where the strict application of that rule would be unfair to a Player. This decision may not be appealed.

Section 1: General provisions

61 Jurisdiction

1.
Where it is asserted that an anti-doping rule has been violated in connection with any test conducted by FIFA, the case shall be submitted to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. In all other cases, it shall be submitted to the relevant hearing panel of a Confederation or Association.

2.
The FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall decide appropriate sanctions in compliance with these Regulations and the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

3.
In the case of a Player tested by FIFA, FIFA has the exclusive right to publish the test results and the relevant measures thereof.

4.
For the purpose of chapter X, references hereafter to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall, where appropriate, be understood as meaning the relevant hearing panel of the Association and references to the Player shall, where appropriate, be understood as meaning any Player Support Personnel or other person.

62 Addressees of decisions and other documents

Decisions and other documents intended for Players, clubs, Match Officials, Officials and other Persons are addressed to the Association concerned on the condition that it forwards the documents to the parties concerned without delay and that it confirms to FIFA that it has performed this step.

In the event that the documents were not also or solely sent to the party concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee the day after receipt of the document by the respective Association.

63 Form of decisions

1.
Decisions rendered pursuant to these Regulations shall include the full reasons for the decision, including the basis of jurisdiction and applicable rules, detailed factual background, the anti-doping rule violation(s) committed or Provisional Suspension imposed, the applicable Consequences and, if applicable, justification for why the maximum potential Consequences were not imposed as well as the appeal routes and deadlines to appeal for the Player or other Person. Where the decision is not in one of the four official FIFA languages (English, French, Spanish or German), the relevant hearing panel of the Association or Confederation shall provide a short summary of the decision and the supporting reasons in English, French, Spanish or German.

2.
Decisions communicated by registered letter or electronic mail shall be legally binding.

3.
In exceptional circumstances, the parties may be informed solely of the terms of the decision. The motivated decision will be communicated in full, written form. The time limit to lodge an appeal, where applicable, begins upon receipt of this motivated decision.

Section 2: Fair hearing

64 Right to a fair hearing

1.
For every Player or other Person who is asserted to have committed an anti-doping rule violation, FIFA shall ensure, at a minimum, that the Player or other Person receives a fair hearing in front of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee within a reasonable period of time in accordance with these Regulations, the FIFA Disciplinary Code and the International Standard for Results Management.

2.
Anti-doping rule violations asserted against International-Level Players, National-Level Players or other Persons may, with the consent of the Player or other Person, FIFA and WADA, be heard in a single hearing directly at CAS under CAS procedures. Nothing set out in this paragraph precludes the Player or other Person and FIFA (where it has Results Management responsibility) to waive their right to appeal by agreement. Such waiver, however, only binds the parties to such agreement and not any other entity with a right of appeal under the Code.

3.
A Player or other Person against whom an anti-doping rule violation is asserted may waive a hearing expressly and accept the Consequences proposed by FIFA.

However, if the Player or other Person against whom an anti-doping rule violation is asserted fails to dispute that assertion within the deadline specified in the letter of charge sent by FIFA, then they shall be deemed to have waived a hearing.

In the above cases, a hearing before the FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall not be required. Instead, FIFA shall promptly issue a written decision that conforms with article 9 of the International Standard for Results Management and that includes the full reasons for the decision, the period of Ineligibility imposed, the Disqualification of results under art. 26 (Disqualification of results), and if applicable, a justification for why the greatest potential Consequences were not imposed.

FIFA shall notify that decision to the Player or other Person and to other Anti-Doping Organisations with a right to appeal under art. 77 par. 3 of these Regulations and shall promptly enter it in ADAMS. FIFA shall Publicly Disclose that decision in accordance with art. 71 (Public Disclosure).

65 Hearing principles

The FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall be fair, impartial and Operationally Independent and the hearing process shall respect the following rights of the Player or other Person:

a) the right to be assisted by counsel and an interpreter at the Player's or other Person's own expense;

b) the right to be informed in a fair and timely manner of the asserted anti-doping rule violation;

c) the right to respond to the asserted anti-doping rule violation and resulting consequences;

d) the right of access to and to present evidence, including the right to call and question witnesses;

e) the right to a timely, written and reasoned decision, specifically including an explanation of the reason(s) for any period of Ineligibility;

f) the right of the Player or other Person to request a public hearing.

66 Considerations of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

1.
At the hearing, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall consider first whether or not an anti-doping rule violation has been committed.

2.
The FIFA Disciplinary Committee may draw an adverse inference against the Player or other Person who is asserted to have committed an anti-doping rule violation based on the Player's or other Person's refusal, after a request made in a reasonable time in advance of the hearing, to appear at the hearing (either in person or by telephone or video conference as directed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee) and to answer questions from the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

3.
If the FIFA Disciplinary Committee considers that an anti-doping rule violation has been committed, it shall consider the appropriate measures applicable under arts 20 (Ineligibility for presence, Use or Attempted Use, or Possession of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method) and 21 (Ineligibility for other anti-doping rule violations) prior to the imposition of any period of Ineligibility. The Player and other Person shall have the opportunity to establish that there are specific or exceptional circumstances

in his case that justify a reduction or elimination of the sanction otherwise applicable.

4.
Where no hearing occurs, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall consider whether an anti-doping rule violation was committed and, if so, the appropriate measures to take based on the content of the file, and render a reasoned decision explaining the actions taken.

67 Procedure at a Competition

The chairman of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may expedite the procedure at a Competition. He may conduct the hearing on his own or take other measures at his discretion, especially where the resolution of an anti-doping rule violation may affect the participation of a Player in the Competition.

Section 3: Proof of doping

68 Burdens and standards of proof

1.
FIFA shall have the burden of establishing that an anti-doping rule violation has occurred. The standard of proof shall be whether FIFA has established an anti-doping rule violation to the comfortable satisfaction of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation which is made. In all cases, this standard of proof is greater than a mere balance of probability but less than proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

2.
Where the Code or these Regulations place the burden of proof upon the Player or other Person alleged to have committed an anti-doping rule violation to rebut a presumption or establish specified facts or circumstances, except as provided in art. 69 par. 2 b) and c), the standard of proof shall be by a balance of probability.

69 Methods of establishing facts and presumptions

1.
Facts related to anti-doping rule violations may be established by any reliable means, including admissions.

2.
The following rules of proof shall be applicable in doping cases:

a) Analytical methods or Decision Limits approved by WADA after consultation within the relevant scientific community or which have been the subject of peer review are presumed to be scientifically valid. Any Player or other Person seeking to challenge whether the conditions for such presumption have been met or to rebut this presumption of scientific validity shall, as a condition precedent to any such challenge, first notify WADA of the challenge and the basis of the challenge. The initial hearing body, appellate body or CAS, on its own initiative, may also inform WADA of any such challenge. Within ten days of WADA's receipt of such notice, and the case file related to such challenge, WADA shall also have the right to intervene as a party, appear as amicus curiae, or otherwise provide evidence in such proceeding. In cases before CAS, at WADA's request, the CAS panel shall appoint an appropriate scientific expert to assist the panel in its evaluation of the challenge.

b) WADA-accredited laboratories, and other laboratories approved by WADA, are presumed to have conducted Sample analysis and custodial procedures in accordance with the International Standard for Laboratories. The Player or other Person may rebut this presumption by establishing that a departure from the International Standard for Laboratories occurred which could reasonably have caused the Adverse Analytical Finding. If the Player or other Person rebuts the preceding presumption by showing that a departure from the International Standard for Laboratories occurred which could reasonably have caused the Adverse Analytical Finding, then FIFA shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the Adverse Analytical Finding.

c) Departures from any other International Standard or other anti-doping rule or policy set forth in the Code or in these Regulations shall not

invalidate analytical results or other evidence of an anti-doping rule violation, and shall not constitute a defence to an anti-doping rule violation; provided, however, that if the Player or other Person establishes that a departure from one of the specific International Standard provisions listed below could reasonably have caused an anti-doping rule violation based on an Adverse Analytical Finding or whereabouts failure, then FIFA shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the Adverse Analytical Finding or whereabouts failure:

i. a departure from the International Standard for Testing and Investigations related to Sample collection or Sample handling which could reasonably have caused an anti-doping rule violation based on an Adverse Analytical Finding, in which case FIFA shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the Adverse Analytical Finding;

ii. a departure from the International Standard for Results Management or International Standard for Testing and Investigations related to Adverse Passport Findings which could reasonably have caused an anti-doping rule violation, in which case FIFA shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the anti-doping rule violation;

iii. a departure from the International Standard for Results Management related to the requirement to provide notice to the Player of the "B" Sample opening which could reasonably have caused an anti-doping rule violation based on an Adverse Analytical Finding, in which case FIFA shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the Adverse Analytical Finding;

iv. a departure from the International Standard for Results Management related to Player notification which could reasonably have caused an anti-doping rule violation based on a whereabouts failure, in which case FIFA shall have the burden to establish that such departure did not cause the whereabouts failure

d) The facts established by a decision of a court or professional disciplinary tribunal of competent jurisdiction which is not the subject of a pending appeal shall be irrebuttable evidence against the Player or other Person to whom the decision pertained of those facts unless the Player or other Person establishes that the decision violated principles of natural justice.

e) The hearing panel in a hearing on an anti-doping rule violation may draw an inference adverse to the Player or other Person who is asserted to have committed an anti-doping rule violation based on the Player's or other Person's refusal, after a request made in a reasonable time in advance of the hearing, to appear at the hearing (either in person or via video conference as directed by the hearing panel) and to answer questions from the hearing panel or FIFA.

Section 4: Confidentiality and reporting

70 Information concerning asserted anti-doping rule violations

1.
The Player or other Person shall be notified of an anti-doping rule violation asserted against him as provided in section 3 of chapter IX (Results Management).

2.
FIFA or the Anti-Doping Organisation that is responsible for managing the results shall notify the Player's Association, NADO, FIFA and WADA by no later than completion of the process described under arts 53 (Initial review regarding Adverse Analytical/Atypical Findings and notification), 55 (Review of Atypical Passport Findings and Adverse Passport Findings), 56 (Review of whereabouts failures) and 57 (Review of other anti-doping rule violations), simultaneously with the notification of the Player or other Person.

3.
Notification of an anti-doping rule violation shall include: the Player's or other Person's name, country, sport, club, the Player's competitive level, whether the test was In-Competition or Out-of-Competition, the date of Sample collection, the analytical result reported by the laboratory, and other information as required by the International Standard for Testing and Investigations and the International Standard for Results Management or, for anti-doping rule violations other than art. 6 (Presence of a Prohibited Substance or its Metabolites or Markers in a Player's Sample), the rule violated and the basis of the asserted violation.

4.
Except with respect to investigations which have not resulted in a notice of an anti-doping rule violation as described above, the same Persons and

Anti-Doping Organisations shall be regularly updated on the status and findings of any review or proceedings conducted pursuant to section 3 of chapter IX (Results Management), chapter VII (Provisional Suspension), sections 2 and 6 of chapter X (Fair hearing and Appeals respectively) and shall be provided with a prompt written reasoned explanation or decision explaining the resolution of the matter.

5.
FIFA shall be notified in accordance with art. 38 (Notification) of the decision of the hearing panel pursuant to sections 2 and 6 of chapter X (Fair hearing and Appeals respectively).

6.
The recipient organisations shall not disclose this information beyond those Persons with a need to know (which would include the appropriate personnel at the applicable National Olympic Committee, Association, club and team) until FIFA or the Association concerned, according to the Results Management responsibility, has made Public Disclosure as permitted under art. 71 (Public Disclosure).

7.
An Anti-Doping Organisation that declares, or that receives notice of, a whereabouts-related failure in respect of a Player shall not disclose that information beyond those Persons with a need to know unless and until that Player is found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation under art. 9 (Whereabouts failures) based on such whereabouts-related failure. Such Persons who need to know shall also maintain the confidentiality of such information until the same point.

8.
FIFA shall ensure that information concerning Adverse Analytical Findings, Atypical Findings, and other asserted anti-doping rule violations remains confidential until such information is Publicly Disclosed in accordance with art. 71 (Public Disclosure). FIFA shall ensure that its employees (whether permanent or otherwise), contractors, agents, consultants, and Delegated Third Parties are subject to a fully enforceable contractual duty of confidentiality and to fully enforceable procedures for the investigation and disciplining of improper and/or unauthorised disclosure of such confidential information.

71 Public Disclosure

1.
Except as provided in pars 2 and 4 below, no Anti-Doping Organisation, Member Association or WADA-accredited laboratory, or any official of any such body, shall publicly comment on the specific facts of any pending case (as opposed to a general description of process and science) except in response to public comments attributed to, or based on information provided by, the Player, other Person or their entourage or other representatives.

2.
After notice has been provided to the Player or other Person in accordance with the International Standard for Results Management, and to the applicable Anti-Doping Organisations in accordance with art. 53 (Initial review regarding Adverse Analytical/Atypical Findings and notification), the identity of any Player or other Person who is notified of a potential anti-doping rule violation, the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method and nature of the violation involved, and whether the Player or other Person who is subject to a Provisional Suspension may be Publicly Disclosed by FIFA.

3.
No later than 20 days after it has been determined in an appellate decision under art. 77 pars 1 and 2 of these Regulations or such appeal has been waived, or a hearing in accordance with art. 64 (Right to a fair hearing) has been waived, or the assertion of an anti-doping rule violation has not been timely challenged or the matter has been resolved under art. 24 par. 6 of these Regulations, or a new period of Ineligibility, or reprimand, has been imposed under art. 30 par. 1 of these Regulations, FIFA or the Association concerned, depending on who has responsibility for managing the results, must Publicly Disclose the disposition of the anti-doping matter including the anti-doping rule violated, the name of the Player or other Person committing the violation, the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method involved (if any) and the Consequences imposed, according to their communication policy. FIFA or the Association concerned must also Publicly Disclose within 20 days the results of appelate decisions concerning anti-doping rule violations, including the information described above.

4.
After an anti-doping rule violation has been determined to have been committed in an appellate decision under art. 77 (Appeals against

decisions regarding anti-doping rule violations, Consequences, Provisional Suspensions, implementation of decisions and authority) or such appeal has been waived, or in a hearing in accordance with art. 64 (Right to a fair hearing) or where such hearing has been waived, or the assertion of an anti-doping rule violation has not otherwise been timely challenged, or the matter has been resolved under art. 24 par. 6 of these Regulations, FIFA or the Association concerned may make public such determination or decision and may comment publicly on the matter.

5.
In any case where it is determined, after a hearing or appeal, that the Player or other Person did not commit an anti-doping rule violation, the fact that the decision has been appealed may be Publicly Disclosed. However, the decision itself and the underlying facts may not be Publicly Disclosed except with the consent of the Player or other Person who is the subject of the decision. FIFA or the Association shall make reasonable efforts to obtain such consent, and if consent is obtained, shall Publicly Disclose the decision in its entirety or in such revised form as the Player or other Person may approve.

6.
For the purposes of this article, publication shall be accomplished at a minimum by placing the required information on the FIFA or the Association's website and leaving the information up for the longer of one month or the duration of any period of Ineligibility.

7.
The mandatory Public Disclosure described in this article shall not be required where the Player or other Person who has been found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation is a Minor, Protected Person or Recreational Player. Any optional Public Disclosure in a case involving a Minor, Protected Person or Recreational Player shall be proportionate to the facts and circumstances of the case.

72 Information concerning whereabouts and Testing

1.
The current whereabouts information of Players who have been identified by FIFA for inclusion in its IRTP shall be provided to WADA and to other

Anti-Doping Organisations having the authority to test the Player through ADAMS, as provided in article 5 of the Code. Whereabouts information shall be maintained in strict confidence at all times; shall be used exclusively for the purposes of planning, coordinating or conducting Doping Controls; shall provide information relevant to the Athlete Biological Passport or other analytical results to support an investigation into a potential anti-doping rule violation or to support proceedings alleging an anti-doping rule violation; and shall be destroyed after it is no longer relevant for these purposes in accordance with the International Standards for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information. FIFA may, in accordance with the International Standard for Testing and Investigations, collect whereabouts information from Players who are not included within the IRTP. If FIFA chooses to collect whereabouts information from such Players, a Player's failure to provide requested whereabouts information on or before the date required by FIFA or the Player's failure to provide accurate whereabouts information shall result in FIFA including the Player in FIFA's IRTP.

2.
FIFA shall report all In-Competition and Out-of-Competition tests to WADA by entering the Doping Control forms in ADAMS in accordance with the requirements and timelines contained in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations. This information will be made accessible, where appropriate and in accordance with the applicable rules, to the Player, the Player's Association, the National Olympic Committee, the NADO, and the International Olympic Committee, and any other Anti-Doping Organisations with Testing authority over the Player.

3.
FIFA shall, at least annually, publish a general statistical report of its Doping Control activities, with a copy provided to WADA.

73 Data privacy

Handling of the personal information relating to Players, other Persons or third parties that is collected, stored, processed or disclosed when performing the obligations under these Regulations has to comply with the applicable data protection and privacy laws and FIFA Data Protection Regulations, as well as the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information issued by WADA.

Section 5: Implementation of decisions

74 Implementation of decisions

1.
A decision regarding an anti-doping rule violation made by a Signatory Anti-Doping Organisation, an appellate body or CAS shall, after the parties to the proceeding are notified, automatically be binding beyond the parties to the proceeding and upon FIFA and its Associations, as well as every Signatory in every sport with the effects described below:

1.1 A decision by any of the above-mentioned bodies imposing a Provisional Suspension (after a Provisional Hearing has occurred or the Player or other Person has either accepted the Provisional Suspension or has waived the right to a Provisional Hearing, expedited hearing or expedited appeal offered in accordance with art. 35 (Mandatory Provisional Suspension) and art. 36 (Optional Provisional Suspension based on an Adverse Analytical Finding for Specified Substances, Specified Methods, Contaminated Products, or other anti-doping rule violations) automatically prohibits the Player or other Person from participation in all sports within the authority of any Signatory during the Provisional Suspension.

1.2 A decision by any of the above-mentioned bodies imposing a period of Ineligibility (after a hearing has occurred or been waived) automatically prohibits the Player or other Person from participation in all sports within the authority of any Signatory for the period of Ineligibility.

1.3 A decision by any of the above-mentioned bodies accepting an anti-doping rule violation automatically binds all Signatories.

1.4 A decision by any of the above-mentioned bodies to Disqualify results under art. 26 (Disqualification of results) for a specified period automatically Disqualifies all results obtained within the authority of any Signatory during the specified period.

2.
FIFA and its Associations shall recognise and implement a decision and its effects as required by this article, without any further action required, on the earlier of the date FIFA receives actual notice of the decision or the date the decision is entered in ADAMS.

3.
A decision by an Anti-Doping Organisation, a national appellate body or CAS to suspend, or lift, Consequences shall be binding upon FIFA and its Associations without any further action required, on the earlier of the date FIFA receives actual notice of the decision or the date the decision is entered in ADAMS.

4.
Notwithstanding any provision in this article, however, a decision of an anti-doping rule violation by a Major Event Organisation made in an expedited process during a Competition shall not be binding on FIFA or its Associations unless the rules of the Major Event Organisation provide the Player or other Person with an opportunity to an appeal under non-expedited procedures.

5.
FIFA and its Associations may decide to implement other anti-doping decisions rendered by Anti-Doping Organisations not described in paragraphs 1-4 above, such as a Provisional Suspension prior to a Provisional Hearing or acceptance by the Player or other Person.

6.
An anti-doping decision by a body that is not a Signatory to the Code shall be implemented by FIFA and its Associations if they find that the decision purports to be within the authority of that body and the anti-doping rules of that body are otherwise consistent with the Code.

75 Recognition by Associations and Confederations

1.
Where Doping Controls have been carried out by FIFA, an Association or a Confederation in accordance with these Regulations, every Association and Confederation shall recognise the results of such Doping Controls.

2.
Where decisions have been taken by FIFA or an Association regarding a breach of these Regulations, every Association and Confederation shall recognise such decisions and shall take all necessary action to render such decisions effective.

Section 6: Appeals

76 Decisions subject to appeal

Decisions made under these Regulations may be appealed as set forth below in arts 77 to 82 or as otherwise provided in these Regulations, the Code or International Standards. Such decisions shall remain in effect while under appeal unless the appellate body orders otherwise.

1.
Scope of review not limited
The scope of review on appeal includes all issues relevant to the matter and is expressly not limited to the issues or scope of review before the initial decision-maker. Any party to the appeal may submit evidence, legal arguments and claims that were not raised in the first-instance hearing so long as they arise from the same cause of action or same general facts or circumstances raised or addressed in the first-instance hearing.

2.
CAS shall not defer to the findings being appealed
In making its decision, CAS does not need to give deference to the discretion exercised by the body whose decision is being appealed.

3.
WADA not required to exhaust internal remedies
Where WADA has a right to appeal under arts 76 to 82 and no other party has appealed a final decision within FIFA's process, WADA may appeal such decision directly to CAS without having to exhaust other remedies in FIFA's process.

77 Appeals against decisions regarding anti-doping rule violations, Consequences, Provisional Suspensions, implementation of decisions and authority

A decision that an anti-doping rule violation was committed, a decision imposing Consequences or not imposing Consequences for an anti-doping rule violation, or a decision that no anti-doping rule violation was committed; a decision that an anti-doping rule violation proceeding cannot go forward for procedural reasons (including, for example,

prescription); a decision by WADA not to grant an exception to the six months' notice requirement for a retired Player to return to Competition under art. 60 (Retired Players returning to Competition); a decision by WADA assigning Results Management under art. 7.1 of the Code; a decision by FIFA not to bring forward an Adverse Analytical Finding or an Atypical Finding as an anti-doping rule violation, or a decision not to go forward with an anti-doping rule violation after an investigation under these Regulations and in accordance with the International Standard for Results Management; a decision to impose, or lift, a Provisional Suspension as a result of a Provisional Hearing; FIFA's failure to comply with chapter VII; a decision that FIFA lacks authority to rule on an alleged anti-doping rule violation or its Consequences; a decision to suspend, or not suspend, Consequences or to reinstate, or not reinstate, Consequences under art. 24 par. 1 (Substantial assistance in discovering or establishing Code violations); failure to comply with art. 24 par. 4 of these Regulations, failure to comply with art. 24 par. 5 of these Regulations; a decision under art. 30 par. 3 (Violation of the prohibition of participation during Ineligibility); and a decision by FIFA not to implement another Anti-Doping Organisation's decision under art. 74 (Implementation of decisions), and a decision under art. 88 par. 5 d) of these Regulations may be appealed exclusively as provided in arts 77 to 82.

1.

Appeals involving International-Level Players or International Competitions

In cases arising from participation in an International Competition or in cases involving International-Level Players, the decision may be appealed exclusively to CAS.

2.

Appeals involving other Players or other Persons

In cases where art. 77 par. 1 (Appeals involving International-Level Players or International Competitions) is not applicable, the decision may be appealed to an appellate body in accordance with rules adopted by the NADO having jurisdiction over the Player or other Person. The rules for such appeal shall respect the following principles: a timely hearing; a fair, impartial and operationally and institutionally independent hearing panel; the right to be represented by counsel at the Player's or other Person's own expense; and a timely, written, reasoned decision. If no such body as described above is in place and available at the time of appeal, the Player or other Person shall have a right to appeal to CAS.

3.

Persons entitled to appeal

In cases under art. 77 par. 1 (Appeals involving International-Level Players or International Competitions), the following parties shall have the right to appeal to CAS: (a) the Player or other Person who is the subject of the decision being appealed; (b) the other party to the case in which the decision was rendered; (c) FIFA; (d) the NADO of the Person's country of residence or countries where the Person is a national or licence holder; (e) the International Olympic Committee or International Paralympic Committee, as applicable, where the decision may have an effect in relation to the Olympic Games or Paralympic Games, including decisions affecting eligibility for the Olympic Games or Paralympic Games; and (f) WADA.

In cases under art. 77 par. 2 (Appeals involving other Players or other Persons), the parties having the right to appeal to the national-level appeal body shall be as provided in the NADO's rules but, at a minimum, shall include the following parties: (a) the Player or other Person who is the subject of the decision being appealed; (b) the other party to the case in which the decision was rendered; (c) FIFA; (d) the NADO of the Person's country of residence or countries where the Person is a national or licence holder; (e) the International Olympic Committee or International Paralympic Committee, as applicable, where the decision may have an effect in relation to the Olympic Games or Paralympic Games, including decisions affecting eligibility for the Olympic Games or Paralympic Games; and (f) WADA. For cases under art. 77 par. 2 (Appeals involving other Players or other Persons), WADA, the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, and FIFA shall also have the right to appeal to CAS with respect to the decision of the national-level appeal body. Any party filing an appeal shall be entitled to assistance from CAS to obtain all relevant information from the Anti-Doping Organisation whose decision is being appealed and the information shall be provided if CAS so directs.

Notwithstanding any other provision herein, the only Person who may appeal against the imposition of a Provisional Suspension is the Player or other Person upon whom the Provisional Suspension is imposed.

4.

Duty to notify

All parties to any CAS appeal must ensure that FIFA, WADA and all other parties with a right to appeal have been given timely notice of the appeal.

5.

Cross-appeals and other subsequent appeals allowed

Cross-appeals and other subsequent appeals by any respondent named in cases brought to CAS under the Code are specifically permitted. Any party with a right to appeal under the Appeals section of these Regulations must file a cross-appeal or subsequent appeal with the party's answer at the latest.

78 Failure to render a timely decision

1.

Where, in a particular case, FIFA fails to render a decision with respect to whether an anti-doping rule violation was committed within a reasonable deadline set by WADA, WADA may elect to appeal directly to CAS as if FIFA had rendered a decision finding no anti-doping rule violation. If the CAS hearing panel determines that an anti-doping rule violation was committed and that WADA acted reasonably in electing to appeal directly to CAS, WADA's costs and attorney fees in prosecuting the appeal shall be reimbursed to WADA by FIFA.

2.

Where, in a particular case, a Member Association or Confederation fails to render a decision with respect to whether an anti-doping rule violation was committed within a reasonable deadline set by FIFA, FIFA may elect to appeal directly to CAS as if the Member Association or Confederation had rendered a decision finding no anti-doping rule violation. If the CAS hearing panel determines that an anti-doping rule violation was committed and that FIFA acted reasonably in electing to appeal directly to CAS, FIFA's costs and attorney fees in prosecuting the appeal shall be reimbursed to FIFA by a Member Association or Confederation.

79 Appeals relating to TUEs

TUE decisions may be appealed exclusively as provided in art. 19 (Therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs)) and art. 84 (Appeals against decisions granting or denying a therapeutic use exemption).

80 Notification of appeal decisions

Any Anti-Doping Organisation that is a party to an appeal shall promptly provide the appeal decision to the Player or other Person and to the other Anti-Doping Organisations that would have been entitled to appeal under art. 77 par. 3 (Persons entitled to appeal) as provided under art. 70 (Information concerning asserted anti-doping rule violations).

81 Appeal against decisions pursuant to article 85 (Sanctions and costs assessed against sporting bodies)

Decisions by FIFA pursuant to art. 85 (Sanctions and costs assessed against sporting bodies) may be appealed exclusively to CAS by a Member Association.

82 Time for filing appeals

1.

Appeals to CAS

a) The time to file an appeal to CAS shall be 21 days from the date of receipt of the motivated decision in an official FIFA language by the appealing party. The above notwithstanding, the following shall apply in connection with appeals filed by a party entitled to appeal but which was not a party to the proceedings that led to the decision being appealed:

   i) Within 15 days from notice of the decision, such party/ies shall have the right to request a copy of the case file translated in an official FIFA language from the body that issued the decision;

   ii) If such a request is made within the 15-day period, the party making such request shall have 21 days from receipt of the file to file an appeal to CAS.

b) Notwithstanding the above, the filing deadline for an appeal filed by WADA shall be the later of:

   i) Twenty-one days after the last day on which any other party having a right to appeal could have appealed; or

ii) Twenty-one days after WADA's receipt of the complete file relating to the decision.

2.

Appeals under art. 77 par. 2
(Appeals involving other Players or other Persons)

The time to file an appeal to an independent and impartial body in accordance with rules established by the National Anti-Doping Organisation shall be indicated by the same rules of the National Anti Doping Organisation.

Notwithstanding the above, the filing deadline for an appeal filed by WADA shall be the later of:

a) Twenty-one days after the last day on which any other party having a right to appeal could have appealed, or

b) Twenty-one days after WADA's receipt of the complete file relating to the decision.

3.

a) Where FIFA appeals against a decision of an Association, Anti-Doping Organisation or Confederation to CAS under this chapter, the applicable law for the proceeding shall be the FIFA regulations, in particular the FIFA Statutes, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

b) Where FIFA appeals against a decision of an Association, Anti-Doping Organisation or Confederation to CAS under this chapter, FIFA's time limits stipulated in art. 82 par. 1 a) shall start with the receipt of the relevant document(s) by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit (antidoping@fifa.org).

4.

The time limits set out above shall start from the day following receipt of the relevant document.

83 FIFA not required to exhaust internal remedies

Where FIFA has a right to appeal under this chapter and no other party has appealed a final decision within the Anti-Doping Organisation's process, FIFA may appeal such a decision directly to CAS without having to exhaust other remedies in the Anti-Doping Organisation process.

84 Appeals against decisions granting or denying a therapeutic use exemption

1.
WADA, at the request of a Player or on its own initiative, may review the granting or denial of any TUE by FIFA. Decisions by WADA reversing the granting or denial of a TUE may be appealed exclusively to CAS by the Player or FIFA.

2.
Decisions by FIFA, Associations or NADOs denying TUEs, which are not reversed by WADA, may be appealed by Players to CAS or to the national level reviewing body as described under these Regulations. If the national level reviewing body reverses the decision to deny a TUE, that decision may be appealed to CAS by WADA.

3.
When FIFA, an Association or NADO fails to take action on a properly submitted application for a TUE within a reasonable time, this failure to decide may be considered a denial for the purpose of the appeal rights provided in this article.

85 Sanctions and costs assessed against sporting bodies

1.
FIFA has the authority to withhold some or all funding or other non-financial support to Member Associations that are not in compliance with these Regulations.

2.
Member Associations shall be obligated to reimburse FIFA for all costs (including but not limited to laboratory fees, hearing expenses and travel) related to a violation of these Regulations committed by a Player or other Person affiliated with that Member Association.

86 Official languages

1.
These Regulations exist in the four official FIFA languages (English, French, Spanish and German).

2.
In case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English, French, Spanish or German texts of these Regulations, the English text will be authoritative.

87 Additional regulations

In addition, the provisions of the FIFA Disciplinary Code and all other FIFA Regulations shall apply.

88 Amendments to and interpretations of the Anti-Doping Regulations

1.
Matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of force majeure shall be settled by the final decision of the relevant FIFA committee.

2.
These Regulations shall be implemented and construed according to Swiss law and the FIFA Statutes, FIFA Disciplinary Code and FIFA Regulations.

3.
These Regulations may be amended from time to time by FIFA.

4.
These Regulations shall be interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to existing law or statutes.

5.
These Regulations were adopted by the FIFA Council on 25 June 2020 and come into force on 1 January 2021 (the "Effective Date"). They repeal the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations that came into effect on 14 January 2019.

They shall not apply retroactively to matters pending before the Effective Date; provided, however, that:

a) Anti-doping rule violations taking place prior to the Effective Date count as "first violations" or "second violations" for the purpose of determining sanctions under arts 6 to 16 for violations taking place after the Effective Date.

b) Any anti-doping rule violation case which is pending on the Effective Date and any anti-doping rule violation case brought after the Effective Date based on an anti-doping rule violation which occurred prior to the Effective Date shall be governed by the substantive anti-doping rules in effect at the time that the alleged anti-doping rule violation occurred, and not by the substantive anti-doping rules set out in these Regulations, unless the panel hearing the case determines that the principle of *lex mitior* appropriately applies under the circumstances of the case. The retrospective periods in which prior violations can be considered multiple violations under art. 25 par. 5 (Multiple anti-doping rule violations during ten-year period) and the statute of limitations set forth in art. 40 (Statute of limitations) are procedural rules, not substantive rules, and should be applied retroactively along with all of the other procedural rules in these Regulations (provided, however, that art. 40 shall only be applied retroactively if the statute of limitations period has not already expired by the Effective Date).

c) Any whereabouts failure under art. 9 (whether a filing failure or a missed test, as those terms are defined in the International Standard for Results Management) prior to the Effective Date shall be carried forward and may be relied upon, prior to expiry, in accordance with the International Standard for Results Management, but it shall be deemed to have expired 12 months after it occurred.

d) With respect to cases where a final decision finding an anti-doping rule violation has been rendered prior to the Effective Date, but the Player or other Person is still serving the period of Ineligibility as of the Effective Date, the Player or other Person may apply to FIFA or the Anti-Doping Organisation which had Results Management responsibility for the anti-doping rule violation to consider a reduction in the period of Ineligibility in light of these Regulations. Such application must be made before the period of Ineligibility has expired. The decision

rendered may be appealed pursuant to art. 77 (Appeals against decisions regarding anti-doping rule violations, Consequences, Provisional Suspensions, implementation of decisions and authority). These Regulations shall have no application to any case where a final decision finding an anti-doping rule violation has been rendered and the period of Ineligibility has expired.

e) For the purpose of assessing the period of Ineligibility for a second violation under art. 25 par. 1 (Multiple violations), where the sanction for the first violation was determined based on rules in force prior to the Effective Date, the period of Ineligibility which would have been assessed for that first violation had these Regulations been applicable, shall be applied.

f) Changes to the Prohibited List and Technical Documents relating to substances on the Prohibited List shall not, unless they specifically provide otherwise, be applied retroactively. As an exception, however, when a Prohibited Substance has been removed from the Prohibited List, a Player or other Person currently serving a period of Ineligibility on account of the formerly Prohibited Substance may apply to FIFA or other Anti-Doping Organisation which had Results Management responsibility for the anti-doping rule violation to consider a reduction in the period of Ineligibility in light of the removal of the substance from the Prohibited List.

Zurich, 25 June 2020

For the FIFA Council

President:
Gianni Infantino

Secretary General:
Fatma Samoura

Reference is made to the Prohibited List published by WADA, which is available at www.wada-ama.org.

1.
An application for a TUE will be reviewed by the FIFA Medical Committee represented by the FIFA TUE Advisory Group.

2.
A Player may be granted a TUE (if and only if) he can show, on the balance of probabilities, that he has met each of the following conditions, which may be revised by the FIFA TUE Advisory Group in compliance with the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions and will be published in the FIFA TUE policy:

a) The Player shall submit an application for a TUE within the time limit stipulated in the published FIFA TUE policy in force.

b) The Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method in question is needed to treat a diagnosed medical condition supported by relevant clinical evidence;

c) The therapeutic Use of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method will not, on the balance of probabilities, produce any additional enhancement of performance beyond what might be anticipated by a return to the Player's normal state of health following the treatment of the medical condition;

d) The Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method is an indicated treatment for the medical condition, and there is no reasonable permitted therapeutic alternative;

e) The necessity for the Use of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method is not a consequence, wholly or in part, of the prior Use (without a TUE) of a substance or method which was prohibited at the time of such Use.

3.
The TUE will be cancelled by the FIFA TUE Advisory Group if:

a) the Player does not promptly comply with any requirements or conditions imposed by the FIFA TUE Advisory Group;

b) the term for which the TUE was granted has expired;

c) the Player is advised that the TUE has been withdrawn by the FIFA TUE Advisory Group; or

d) a decision granting a TUE has been reversed by WADA or CAS.

4.
A Player who needs a TUE should apply as soon as possible. For substances prohibited In-Competition only, the Player should apply for a TUE at least 30 days before his next Competition, unless it is an emergency or there are exceptional circumstances as described in this Annexe. The Player should make the TUE application, using the TUE application form provided by FIFA. He should submit the TUE application form in the manner described in the FIFA TUE policy. The form must be signed by the treating doctor and accompanied by a comprehensive medical history, including documentation from the original diagnosing doctor(s) and the results of all examinations, laboratory investigations and imaging studies relevant to the application.

5.
An application for a TUE will not be considered for retroactive approval, except in cases where:

a) emergency or urgent treatment of a medical condition was necessary; or

b) there was insufficient time or opportunity or there were other exceptional circumstances that prevented the Player from submitting or the FIFA TUE Advisory Group from considering, an application prior to Doping Control;

c) the Player Used Out-of-Competition, for therapeutic reasons, a Prohibited Substance that is only prohibited In-Competition;

6.
In exceptional circumstances and notwithstanding any other provision in this Annexe B, a Player may apply for and be granted retroactive approval for his therapeutic Use of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method if it would be manifestly unfair not to grant a retroactive TUE, considering the purpose of these Regulations and the Code and notwithstanding any provisions herein or in the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions.

7.
Confidentiality of information

a) The collection, storage, processing, disclosure and retention of personal information by FIFA in the TUE process complies with the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information.

b) A Player applying for a TUE shall provide written consent for the transmission of all information pertaining to the application to members of all therapeutic use exemption committees with authority under the World Anti-Doping Code to review the file and, as required, other independent medical or scientific experts, and to all necessary staff involved in the management, review or appeal of TUEs, and WADA. In accordance with the provisions of the World Anti-Doping Code, the applicant shall also provide written consent for the decision of the FIFA TUE Advisory Group to be distributed to other relevant Anti-Doping Organisations and Member Associations.

c) Should the assistance of external, independent experts be required, all details of the application shall be circulated without identifying the Player concerned.

d) The members of the FIFA TUE Advisory Group, all independent experts and the staff of the FIFA Medical Office and Anti-Doping Unit involved will conduct all of their activities in strict confidence and will sign confidentiality agreements. In particular, they shall keep the following information confidential:

   i. All medical information and data provided by the Player and doctor(s) involved in the Player's care.

   ii. All details of the application, including the name of the doctor(s) involved in the process.

e) Should the Player wish to revoke the right of the FIFA TUE Advisory Group or any therapeutic use exemption committee to obtain any health information on his behalf, the Player must notify his medical practitioner in writing of the fact. As a consequence of such a decision, the Player will not receive approval for a TUE or renewal of an existing TUE.

8.
Where the Player already has a TUE granted by his NADO for the substance or method in question, if that TUE meets the criteria set out in the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions, FIFA shall recognise it. If FIFA considers that the TUE does not meet those criteria and so refuses to recognise it, it must notify the Player and his NADO promptly, with reasons. The Player or the NADO shall have 21 days from such notification to refer the matter to WADA for review. If the matter is referred to WADA for review, the TUE granted by the NADO remains valid for National Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing (but is not valid for International Competition) pending WADA's decision. If the matter is not referred to WADA for review within the 21-day deadline, the Player's NADO must determine whether the original TUE granted by that NADO should nevertheless remain valid for national-level Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing (provided that the Player ceases to be an International-Level Player and does not participate in International Competition). Pending the NADO's decision, the TUE remains valid for National Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing (but is not valid for International Competition).

9.
If FIFA grants the Player's application, it shall notify not only the Player but also his NADO, and if the NADO considers that the TUE does not meet the criteria set out in the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions, it has 21 days from such notification to refer the matter to WADA for review. If the NADO refers the matter to WADA for review, the TUE granted by FIFA remains valid for International Competition and Out-of-Competition Testing (but is not valid for National Competition) pending WADA's decision. If the NADO does not refer the matter to WADA for review, the TUE granted by FIFA becomes valid for National Competition as well when the 21-day review deadline expires.

1 Registered Testing Pool and Testing Pools

1.
FIFA shall establish a Registered Testing Pool and Testing Pools at international level. The responsibility for setting up a Registered Testing Pool at national level rests with the NADO/Association concerned.

2.
The FIFA International Registered Testing Pool (IRTP) includes individual International-Level Players who are Ineligible following a decision by a FIFA body or who are categorised as being high-risk Players or who have been designated by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit for any other reason. Those Players will be designated individually by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit and notified via the Association concerned. An explanation for the designation is not required.

In addition to the IRTP, FIFA has established two additional Testing Pools:

a) The elite testing pool (ETP) includes the Players of the clubs/representative teams participating at an elite Confederation level to be defined by the Confederations. The Testing and results management of this testing pool is delegated to the Confederation concerned. Consequently, the Confederation's anti-doping regulations are applicable in respect of the ETP, with articles of this Annexe dealing with the PCTP (see below) being applicable in a subsidiary way.

b) The FIFA pre-Competition testing pool (PCTP) includes the Players of the representative teams participating in the Competition(s) selected by FIFA during the preparation phase prior to that (those) Competition(s). The relevant representative teams will be informed of their selection.

3.
Each Association concerned must inform the Players who have been included by FIFA in the IRTP and the Players/clubs and the Players/representative teams that have been included in the ETP or PCTP immediately in writing of:

a) their inclusion in the IRTP, ETP or PCTP (as applicable) with effect from a specified date in the future;

b) the consequent requirement to file accurate and complete whereabouts information for each respective pool;

c) the consequences of any failure to comply with that requirement;

d) confirmation that they may also be tested by other Anti-Doping Organisations with Testing authority over them.

Each Association concerned is required to ensure that its respective Players or teams file complete and accurate whereabouts information as set forth in these Regulations.

4.
Players who have announced their retirement and are no longer in the IRTP or ETP may not resume competing unless they:

a) notify the Association concerned at least six months before they expect to return to competition;

b) fulfil the same whereabouts requirements as Players in the IRTP or ETP; and

c) are available for no-advance-notice Out-of-Competition Testing at any time during the period before their actual return to competition.

5.
Players who are injured and unable to play will remain in the relevant testing pool and might be subject to Target Testing, unless they are designated for inclusion in the IRTP.

6.
FIFA shall periodically review and update as necessary its criteria for including Players, clubs and representative teams in the testing pools. The Players (in the case of the IRTP), Players/clubs and Players/teams (in the case of the ETP and PCTP) concerned must be informed in writing of any changes to the list of Persons included in the pools that are made via their Association or Confederation respectively.

2 Filing obligations

1.
Each Player (IRTP) or Player/representative team (PCTP) that is included in the respective testing pool is required to file accurate and complete whereabouts information in the manner set forth under art. 3 of this Annexe.

2.
A Player (IRTP) or a Player/representative team (PCTP) may delegate the task of making some or all of the whereabouts filings required herein under art. 3 of this Annexe to his Association, to be carried out e.g. by a coach or manager. It is assumed that a valid delegation has been made for all of the relevant whereabouts filings, unless otherwise determined by the Player or as stipulated under par. 3 of this article. Irrespective of such delegation, a Player (IRTP) or Player/representative team (PCTP), shall, together with the Association, remain jointly liable for complying with the whereabouts requirements set out in this Annexe.

3 Whereabouts requirements

1.
a) IRTP:
Using the form provided by FIFA, each Player has to file his whereabouts information with the Association concerned for the remaining days of the current quarter within ten days of receiving notification of his designation, and afterwards for all days on a quarterly basis by 25 December, 25 March, 25 June and 25 September. The Association has to submit the quarterly reports and their updates to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit by 30 December, 30 March, 30 June and 30 September at the latest.

b) PCTP:
Using the form provided by FIFA, each Player of the representative team concerned has to file whereabouts information with the Association concerned for all of the Team Activity days of its representative team prior to the designated Competition. The Association shall submit that information to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit.

2.
At a minimum, the following information shall be provided:

IRTP:

a) name of the Player and the relevant team;

b) full mailing address and electronic mail address for formal notice purposes;

c) specific confirmation of the Player's understanding that his whereabouts filing will be shared with other Anti-Doping Organisations having authority to test him;

d) for each day during the respective period, the full address of the place where the Player will be residing (e.g. home, temporary lodgings, hotel, etc.);

e) for each day during the respective period, the time(s) each day of any regular activity, along with the venue and any other details required in order for the Player to be located during the time(s) in question;

f) the Player's Match/Competition schedule for the respective period, including the name and address of each location where the Player is scheduled to compete during the respective period and the date(s) and time(s) at which he is scheduled to compete at such locations; and

g) for each day during the respective period, one specific 60-minute time slot between 05:00 and 23:00 (local time) where the Player will be available and accessible for Testing at a specific location.

PCTP:

a) name of the Player and his relevant representative team;

b) full mailing address and electronic mail address for formal notice purposes;

c) specific confirmation of the Player's understanding that his whereabouts filing will be shared with other Anti-Doping Organisations having authority to test them;

d) for each day of any Team Activity during the respective period in question, the full address of the place where the team will be residing (e.g. temporary lodgings, hotel, etc.);

e) the team's Competition schedule for the respective period in question, including the name and address of each location where the team is scheduled to compete during this time and the date(s) on which it is scheduled to compete at such locations; and

f) for each day of any Team Activity during the respective period in question, the time(s) of any collective activity (e.g. training) or individual activity under the supervision of the team (e.g. medical treatment), and other regular activities, if applicable, along with the venue and any other details required in order for the team to be located during the time(s) in question.

g) If a Player is to be absent from a team activity as stated in the team's whereabouts filings, the association shall:

- provide FIFA with accurate details of the Player's full name, date of birth and the complete whereabouts location during the entire time of his absence;

- provide a specific 60-minute time slot, during which the Player must be available and accessible for testing at a specific location. The time slots shall be between 05:00 and 23.00 (local time), with the starting time clearly indicated and shall not start until at least two hours after notification have elapsed;

- submit the whereabouts information for the absent Player 24 hours at the latest before the start of the team activity to which the absence relates and provide immediate updates if the time slot or the location of the absent Player changes.

3.
IRTP:
It is the Player's responsibility to ensure that all of the information provided in his whereabouts filing is accurate and sufficiently detailed to enable the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit to locate him for Testing on any given day during the respective period, including but not limited to the 60-minute time slot specified for that day in his whereabouts filing.

PCTP:
It is the Player's and the Association's joint responsibility to ensure that all whereabouts information provided in its whereabouts filing is accurate and sufficiently detailed to enable the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit to locate the representative team for Testing on each day of any Team Activity during the respective period.

4.
Where any change in circumstances means that the information previously provided by the Player/team is no longer accurate or complete, the whereabouts filing must be updated so that the information on file is again accurate and complete.

Such update must be made as soon as possible, and, in the case of the IRTP, in any event prior to the 60-minute time slot specified in the filing for that day. Failure to do so shall have the consequences set forth below.

4 Availability for Testing

1.
A Player in the IRTP must specifically be present and available for Testing on any given day in the relevant period for the 60-minute time slot specified for that day in his whereabouts filing, at the location he has specified for that time slot in such filing.

2.
The Players of a representative team in the PCTP must be present and available for Testing on any given Team Activity day in the relevant period at the time and location it has specified for the Team Activity in its whereabouts filing. If located for Testing, the whole team must remain until the Sample collection has been completed.

5 Liability for non-compliance with whereabouts requirements

1.
Each Player in the IRTP remains ultimately responsible at all times for providing accurate and complete whereabouts filings as required in these Regulations.

2.
Each Player in the IRTP is responsible for ensuring his availability for Testing at the given location during the 60-minute time slot specified for that day in his whereabouts filing. If an Attempt to test the Player during the 60 minute time slot is unsuccessful, the Player will be liable for a missed test under art. 9 (Whereabouts failures) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, subject to the requirements set forth under art. 8 par. 2 of this Annexe.

3.
If any of the required information changes after a whereabouts filing is made, then, in accordance with the provisions set forth under art. 3 par. 4 of this Annexe, an update must be filed so that the whereabouts filing remains accurate at all times. If an update is not filed, and as a result an Attempt to test the Player during the 60-minute time slot is unsuccessful, the Player will be liable for a missed test under art. 9 (Whereabouts failures) of the FIFA Anti- Doping Regulations, subject to the requirements set forth under art. 8 par. 2 of this Annexe.

4.
Each Player of a representative team in the PCTP and its Association are responsible for providing accurate and complete whereabouts filings as required in these Regulations and for ensuring that its representative team is available for Testing at the time and location specified for Team Activity in its whereabouts filing.

6 Anti-doping rule violation

1.
A Player in the IRTP shall be deemed to have committed an anti-doping rule violation under art. 9 (Whereabouts failures) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations if he commits a total of three whereabouts failures (which may be any combination of filing failures and/or missed tests adding up to three in total) within any 12-month period, irrespective of which Anti-Doping Organisation(s) has/have declared the whereabouts failures in question.

2.
The 12-month period referred to in art. 9 (Whereabouts failures) begins on the date that a Player commits his first whereabouts failure that is being relied upon in support of the allegation of violation of art. 9 (Whereabouts failure). It is not affected by any successful Sample collection conducted with respect to the Player during the 12-month period.

However, if a Player who has committed one whereabouts failure does not commit a further two whereabouts failures within 12 months of the first one, at the end of that 12-month period the first whereabouts failure "expires" for the purposes set forth under art. 8 of this Annexe.

3.
To ensure fairness to the Player in the IRTP, where an unsuccessful Attempt has been made to test a Player during one of the 60-minute time slots specified in their whereabouts filing, any subsequent unsuccessful Attempt to test that Player (by FIFA or any other Anti-Doping Organisation) during one of the 60-minute time slots specified in their whereabouts filing may only be counted as a missed test (or, if the unsuccessful Attempt was because the information filed was insufficient to find the Player during the time slot, as a filing failure) against that Player if that subsequent Attempt takes place after the Player has received notice, in accordance with arts 7 and 8 of this Annexe, of the original unsuccessful Attempt.

4.
Where a Player retires from but then returns to competition, his period of non-availability for Out-of-Competition Testing shall be disregarded for the purposes of calculating the 12-month period.

5.
Any Player who provides fraudulent information in his whereabouts filing, whether in relation to his location during the specified daily 60-minute time slot, or in relation to his whereabouts outside that time slot, or otherwise, thereby commits an anti-doping rule violation under art. 8 (Evading, refusing or failing to submit to Sample collection) and art. 10 (Tampering or Attempted Tampering with any part of Doping Control by a Player or other Person) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations. Sanctions may be imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

7 Failure to provide timely and accurate whereabouts information by Players or Associations/clubs in the PCTP

If the Player, or the Association/club on behalf of the Player, does not file whereabouts information as required in these Regulations, or such filing is late and/or inaccurate, the Player and/or the Association or club will be subject to disciplinary measures under the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

8 Results Management in respect of a filing failure by the Player in the IRTP

The Results Management process in respect of an apparent filing failure shall be as follows:

1.
A Player may only be declared to have committed a filing failure where the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit, following the Results Management procedure set forth below, can establish each of the following:

a) that the Player was duly notified:

   i. that he had been designated for inclusion in the IRTP;

   ii. of the consequent requirement to make accurate and complete whereabouts filings; and

   iii. of the consequences of any failure to comply with that requirement.

b) that he failed to comply with that requirement by the applicable deadline;

c) that, in case of a second or third filing failure, he was given notice of the previous filing failure in accordance with the provision set forth under art. 8 par. 2 of this Annexe and failed to rectify that filing failure by the deadline specified in that notice; and

d) that his failure to file was at least negligent. For these purposes, the Player will be presumed to have committed the failure negligently upon proof that he was notified of the requirement yet failed to comply with it. That presumption may only be rebutted by the Player establishing that no negligent behaviour on his part caused or contributed to the failure.

2.
If it appears that all of the requirements set forth under art. 8 par. 1 of this Annexe have been met, then, no later than 14 days after the date of discovery of the apparent filing failure, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit must send notice to the Player concerned in the manner set forth in chapter X section 1 (General provisions), inviting a response within 14 days of receipt of the notice. In the notice, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit should inform the Player:

a) that, in order to avoid a further filing failure, he must make the required whereabouts filing within a deadline set by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit; the deadline shall be set at least 24 hours after receipt of the notice and no later than 48 hours after the notice is received;

b) that, unless the Player persuades the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit that there has not been any filing failure, an alleged whereabouts failure will be recorded against the Player;

c) whether any other whereabouts failures have been alleged against the Player in the 12-month period prior to this alleged whereabouts failure; and

d) of the consequences to the Player if a hearing panel upholds the alleged whereabouts failure.

3.
Where the Player disputes the apparent filing failure, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit must reassess whether all of the requirements set forth under par. 1 of this article have been met. The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit must advise the Player, by letter sent no later than 14 days after receipt of the Player's response, whether or not it maintains that there has been a filing failure.

4.
If no response is received from the Player by the relevant deadline, or if the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit maintains that there has been a filing failure, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall send notice to the Player that an alleged filing failure is to be recorded against him. The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall at the same time advise the Player that he has the right to an administrative review of that decision.

5.
Where requested by the Player, such administrative review shall be conducted by a designee of the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit who was not involved in the previous assessment of the alleged filing failure. The review shall be based on written submissions only, and shall consider whether all of the requirements set forth herein under par. 1 of this article have been met. The review shall be completed within 14 days of receipt of the Player's request and the decision shall be communicated to the Player by letter sent no more than seven days after the decision is made.

6.
If it appears, upon such review, that the requirements set forth under par. 1 of this article have not been met, the alleged filing failure shall not be treated as a whereabouts failure for any purpose. The Player, WADA and all other relevant Anti-Doping Organisations shall be notified accordingly.

7.
If the Player does not request an administrative review of the alleged filing failure by the relevant deadline, or if the administrative review leads to the conclusion that all of the requirements set forth under par. 1 of this article have been met, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall record an alleged filing failure against the Player and shall notify the Player, WADA and all other relevant Anti-Doping Organisations of that alleged filing failure and the date of its occurrence in the manner set forth under art. 70 par. 7 of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

8.
Any notice sent to a Player pursuant to this article, informing him of the decision that there has been no filing failure, shall also be sent to WADA and any other party/ies with a right of appeal under chapter X of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations. This decision may be appealed by WADA and/or such party/ies in accordance with that chapter.

9 Results management in respect of a missed test by the Player in the IRTP

The Results Management process in the case of an apparent missed test shall be as follows:

1.
The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall file an Unsuccessful Attempt Report on any unsuccessful Attempt with the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit, setting out the details of the Attempted Sample collection, including the date of the Attempt, the location visited, the exact arrival and departure times at the location, the step(s) taken at the location to try to find the Player, including details of any contact made with third parties, and any other relevant details about the Attempted Sample collection.

2.
A Player may only be declared to have missed a test where the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit can establish each of the following:

a) that when the Player was given notice that he had been included in the IRTP, he was advised of his liability for a missed test if he was unavailable for Testing during the 60-minute time slot specified in his whereabouts filing at the location specified for that time slot;

b) that a FIFA Doping Control Officer Attempted to test the Player on a given day in the quarter, during the 60-minute time slot specified in the Player's whereabouts filing for that day, by visiting the location specified for that time slot;

c) that during that specified 60-minute time slot, the FIFA Doping Control Officer did all that was reasonable (i.e. given the nature of the specified location) in the circumstances to try to locate the Player, short of giving the Player any advance notice of the test;

d) that the provisions set forth herein under par. 3 of this article have been met, if applicable; and

e) that the Player's failure to be available for Testing at the specified location during the specified 60-minute time slot was at least negligent. For these purposes, the Player will be presumed to have been negligent upon proof of the matters set forth under this paragraph. That presumption may only be rebutted by the Player establishing that no negligent behaviour on his part caused or contributed to him:

   – being unavailable for Testing at such location during such time slot; and
   – failing to update his most recent whereabouts filing to give notice of a different location where he would instead be available for Testing during a specified 60-minute time slot on the relevant day.

3.
To ensure fairness to the Player, where an unsuccessful Attempt has been made to test a Player during one of the 60-minute time slots specified in his whereabouts filing, any subsequent Attempt to test that Player may only be counted as a missed test against that Player if that subsequent Attempt takes place after the Player has received notice, in accordance with par. 4 of this article, of the original unsuccessful Attempt.

4.
If it appears that all of the requirements set forth under par. 2 of this article have been met, then, no later than 14 days after the date of the

unsuccessful Attempt, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit must send notice to the Player of the unsuccessful Attempt in the manner set forth in chapter X section 1 (General provisions) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, inviting a response within 14 days of receipt of the notice. In the notice, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit should inform the Player:

a) that, unless the Player persuades the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit that there has not been any missed test, an alleged missed test will be recorded against the Player;

b) whether any other whereabouts failures have been declared against him in the 12-month period prior to this alleged missed test; and

c) of the consequences to the Player if a hearing panel upholds the alleged missed test.

5.
Where the Player disputes the apparent missed test, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit must reassess whether all of the requirements set forth under par. 2 of this article have been met. The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit must advise the Player, by letter sent no later than 14 days after receipt of the Player's response, whether or not it maintains that there has been a missed test.

6.
If no response is received from the Player by the relevant deadline, or if the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit maintains that there has been a missed test, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall send notice to the Player that an alleged missed test is to be recorded against him. The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall at the same time advise the Player that he has the right to request an administrative review of the alleged missed test. The Unsuccessful Attempt Report on the unsuccessful Attempt must be provided to the Player at this point if it has not been provided earlier in the process.

7.
Where requested, such administrative review shall be conducted by a designee of the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit who was not involved in the previous assessment of the alleged missed test. The review shall be based on written submissions only, and shall consider whether all of the requirements set forth under par. 2 of this article have been met.
If necessary, the relevant FIFA Doping Control Officer may be asked to provide further information to the designee. The review shall be completed within 14 days of receipt of the Player's request and the decision shall be

communicated to the Player by letter sent no more than seven days after the decision is made.

8.
If it appears, upon such review, that the requirements set forth under par. 2 of this article have not been met, the unsuccessful Attempt to test the Player shall not be treated as a missed test for any purpose. The Player, WADA and all other relevant Anti-Doping Organisations shall be notified accordingly.

9.
If the Player does not request an administrative review of the alleged missed test by the relevant deadline, or if the administrative review leads to the conclusion that all of the requirements set forth under par. 2 of this article have been met, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall record an alleged missed test against the Player and shall notify the Player and WADA and all other relevant Anti-Doping Organisations of that alleged missed test and the date of its occurrence in the manner set forth under art. art. 70 par. 7 (Information concerning asserted anti-doping rule violations) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

10.
Any notice sent to a Player pursuant to this article, agreeing that there has been no missed test, shall also be sent to WADA and any other party/ies with a right of appeal under chapter X (Procedural rules) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, and may be appealed by WADA and/or such party/ies in accordance with that chapter.

10 Results Management in respect of failure to provide timely and accurate whereabouts information by Players or Associations/clubs in the PCTP

The Results Management process in the cases described in art. 7 of this Annexe shall be as follows:

1.
A Player and an Association/club may only be declared to have committed a failure to provide timely and accurate whereabouts information where the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit, following the results management procedure set forth below, can establish each of the following:

a) that the Player and Association's/clubs team were included in the PCTP (as applicable) with effect from a specified date;

b) the consequent requirement to file timely and accurate whereabouts information and details of such information for the PCTP;

c) that the consequences of any failure to comply with that requirement are established under the FIFA Disciplinary Code;

d) that each Association/club concerned was required to ensure that its respective Players and teams were jointly responsible for filing timely and accurate whereabouts information as per these Regulations.

2.
If it appears that all of the requirements set forth under art. 10 par. 1 of this Annexe have been met, then, no later than 14 days after the date of discovery of the apparent failure to provide timely and/or accurate whereabouts information, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall send notice to the Player and Association concerned in the manner set forth in chapter X section 1 (General provisions), inviting a response within 14 days of receipt of the notice. In the notice, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall inform the Player and the Association:

a) that, in order to avoid a further failure to provide timely and accurate whereabouts information, they must make the required whereabouts information filing within a deadline set by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit; the deadline shall be set at least 24 hours after receipt of the notice and no later than 48 hours after the end of the month in which the notice is received;

b) that, unless the Player and/or Association/club can prove to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit that there has not been any failure to provide timely and/or accurate whereabouts information, the Player and the Association will be charged with an alleged failure to provide timely and/or accurate whereabouts information;

c) of the consequences to the Player and/or the Association/club if a hearing panel upholds the alleged failure to provide whereabouts information under the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

3.
If the Player and/or the Association/club disputes the alleged failure to provide timely and/or accurate whereabouts information, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall reassess whether all of the requirements set forth under par. 1 of this article have been met. If it appears, upon such review, that the requirements set forth under par. 1 of this article have not been met, the intended charge of failure to provide timely and/or accurate whereabouts information shall be dropped. The Player and the Association shall be notified accordingly.

4.
If no response is received from the Player and/or the Association/club by the relevant deadline, or if the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit maintains that there has been a failure to provide timely and/or accurate whereabouts information, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall send notice to the Player and the Association/club that the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit intends to charge them with failure to provide timely and/or accurate whereabouts information and shall submit the case to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee for adjudication.

5.
If the reassessment by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit leads to the conclusion that all of the requirements set forth under par. 1 of this article have been met, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall inform the Player and/or the Association/club of the intention to charge them with a failure to provide whereabouts information and shall submit the case to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee for adjudication.

11 Responsibility for conducting proceedings

1.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall keep a record of all whereabouts failures alleged in respect of each Player in its IRTP. Where it is alleged that such a Player has committed three whereabouts failures within any 12-month period, the responsibility for bringing proceedings against the Player under art. 9 (Whereabouts failures) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations shall be as follows:

a) FIFA shall be responsible if two or more of those whereabouts failures were alleged by FIFA or, if the whereabouts failures were alleged by

three different Anti-Doping Organisations, the Player concerned was included in the IRTP as of the date of the third whereabouts failure;

b) the Association or NADO concerned shall be responsible if two or more of those whereabouts failures were alleged by it or, if the whereabouts failures were alleged by three different Anti-Doping Organisations, the Player concerned was included in the national Registered Testing Pool as of the date of the third whereabouts failure. In this case, references to FIFA or the FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall, where appropriate, be understood as meaning the Association/NADO or the relevant hearing panel.

2.
FIFA shall have the right to receive such further information about that alleged whereabouts failure from any other Anti-Doping Organisation in order to assess the strength of the evidence of such alleged whereabouts failure and to bring proceedings under art. 9 (Whereabouts failures) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations in reliance thereon. If FIFA decides in good faith that the evidence in relation to such alleged whereabouts failure(s) is insufficient to support such proceedings under art. 9 of the FIFA Anti Doping Regulations, it may decline to bring proceedings based on such alleged whereabouts failure(s). Any decision by the Anti-Doping Organisation responsible that a declared whereabouts failure should be disregarded for lack of sufficient evidence shall be communicated to the other Anti-Doping Organisations and to WADA, shall be without prejudice to WADA's right of appeal under chapter X (Procedural rules) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, and in any event shall not affect the validity of the other whereabouts failures alleged against the Player in question.

3.
FIFA should also consider in good faith whether or not a Provisional Suspension should be imposed on the Player pending determination of the proceedings, in accordance with chapter VII (Provisional Suspension) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

4.
A Player alleged to have committed an anti-doping rule violation under art. 9 (Whereabouts failures) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations shall have the right to have such allegation determined at a full evidentiary hearing in accordance with chapter X, section 2 (Fair hearing) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

5.
The FIFA Disciplinary Committee shall not be bound by any determination made during the Results Management process, whether as to the adequacy of any explanation offered for a whereabouts failure or otherwise. Instead, the burden shall be on the Anti-Doping Organisation responsible for bringing the proceedings to establish all of the requisite elements of each alleged whereabouts failure.

6.
If the FIFA Disciplinary Committee decides that one or two alleged whereabouts failures have been established to the required standard, but that the third alleged whereabouts failure has not, no violation of art. 9 (Whereabouts failures) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations shall be found to have occurred. However, if the Player then commits one or two further whereabouts failures within the relevant 12-month period, new proceedings may be brought based on a combination of the whereabouts failure(s) established to the satisfaction of the hearing panel in the previous proceedings (in accordance with art. 70 par. 7 (Information concerning asserted anti-doping rule violations) and the whereabouts failure(s) subsequently committed by the Player.

7.
Where FIFA fails to bring proceedings against a Player under art. 9 (Whereabouts failures) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations within 30 days of WADA receiving notice of that Player's third alleged whereabouts failure in any 12-month period, it shall be deemed that FIFA has decided that no anti-doping rule violation was committed, for the purpose of triggering the appeal rights set forth in chapter X (Procedural rules) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

1 Requirements for notification of Players

1.
When initial contact is made with the selected Player, FIFA, the FIFA Doping Control Officer and/or the Chaperone, as applicable, shall ensure that the Player and/or a third party (if required in accordance with art. 4 par. 3 of this Annexe) is informed:

a) that the Player is required to undergo a Sample collection;

b) that FIFA is the Sample collection authority;

c) of the type of Sample collection and any conditions that need to be adhered to prior to the Sample collection;

d) of the Player's rights, including the right to:

   i. have a representative present and, if available, an interpreter to accompany him;

   ii. ask for additional information about the Sample collection process;

   iii. request a delay in reporting to the Doping Control room for valid reasons;

   iv. request modifications because of disabilities.

e) of the Player's responsibilities, including the requirement to:

   i. remain within direct observation of the FIFA Doping Control Officer and/or the Chaperone at all times from the time the initial contact is made with the Player until completion of the Sample Collection Session;

   ii. provide adequate identification;

   iii. comply with Sample collection procedures (and the Player should be advised of the possible consequences of failure to comply in accordance with art. 45 of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations); and

iv. report immediately for Sample collection, unless there are valid reasons for a delay.

f) of the location of the Doping Control room;

g) that should the Player choose to consume food or fluids prior to providing a Sample, he does so at his own risk;

h) not to hydrate excessively, since this may delay the production of a suitable Sample; and

i) that any urine Sample provided by the Player to the Sample collection personnel should be the first urine passed by the Player subsequent to notification, i.e. he should not pass urine in the shower or otherwise prior to providing a Sample to the Sample collection personnel.

2.
When contact is made with the selected Player, the FIFA Doping Control Officer and/or the Chaperone, as applicable, shall:

a) keep the Player under constant observation, from the time that initial contact is made with the Player until completion of the Sample Collection Session;

b) identify himself to the Player using official documentation provided by FIFA (e.g. FIFA Doping Control Officer card, assignment letter or the like) evidencing his authority to collect a Sample from the Player; and

c) ask the Player to produce identification and confirm the Player's identity to ensure that the Player who is to be notified is the same Player who has been selected for Doping Control. The method of identification of the Player or the failure by the Player to confirm his identity shall be documented and reported to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit. In such cases, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall decide whether it is appropriate to report the situation as a failure to comply as set forth under art. 45 (Failure to comply with Doping Control) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

3.
The FIFA Doping Control Officer and/or Chaperone shall have the Player sign the relevant section of the Doping Control Form to acknowledge and

accept the notification. If the Player refuses to sign the Doping Control Form to confirm that he has been notified, or evades notification, the FIFA Doping Control Officer and/or Chaperone shall, if possible, inform the Player of the consequences of refusing or failing to comply. If it is the Chaperone who has dealt with the matter and not the FIFA Doping Control Officer, he shall immediately report all relevant facts to the FIFA Doping Control Officer, who in turn shall report the facts to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit. Where possible, the FIFA Doping Control Officer shall proceed to collect a Sample. The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall document the facts and report the circumstances to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit. FIFA shall follow the steps prescribed in art. 45 (Failure to comply with Doping Control) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

4.
The process set out in this Annexe may be adapted by FIFA to fit the particular requirements of each specific Competition and football discipline, particularly for beach soccer, futsal and the FIFA eWorld Cup™.

2 Procedure for In-Competition no-advance-notice tests

1.
In principle, two Players from each team are selected for Testing either via random or target methods by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit. Additional Players may be summoned for Sample collection (in accordance with art. 2 pars 3 and 4 of this Annexe). In the case of Competitions with lower Player numbers, e.g. beach soccer or futsal, in principle one Player per team may be tested.

2.
Players shall be notified with no advance notice except where art. 4 par. 3 of this Annexe is applicable.

Procedure regarding injured Players

3.
If either of these two Players is injured before the Match is over, the FIFA Doping Control Officer shall decide whether or not the injury is severe enough to prevent the Player from undergoing a doping test. If he decides the injury is severe enough, the FIFA Doping Control Officer shall perform a draw in order to replace the injured player for the doping test.

4.
In addition, the FIFA Doping Control Officer is entitled to appoint additional Players to be tested at any time prior to, during or after the Match. An explanation for the appointment is not required.

Procedure for notifying Players who have received a red card

5.
If a Player is shown the red card at any time of the Match, the FIFA Doping Control Officer shall decide whether the Player is to be escorted by the Chaperones to the Doping Control room, his team's changing room or the area of the stand allocated to his team to watch the Match from there until the names of the Players selected for the doping test are known, so that he is available to undergo the test immediately after the Match, if necessary. The Player may propose to voluntarily provide a Sample in order to be released after the procedure. However, the FIFA Doping Control Officer may accept or decline the Player's proposal without giving any justification.

3 Procedure for Out-of-Competition no-advance-notice tests during team activities

Preparing for the Sample Collection Session

1.
FIFA or the respective Confederation conducts no-advance-notice doping tests based on the whereabouts of Players of the teams in the elite testing pool (ETP) and pre-Competition testing pool (PCTP). In accordance with the test distribution plan, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit selects teams for Testing.

2.
If the Players of the team cannot be contacted by the FIFA Doping Control Officer after reasonable Attempts have been made using the whereabouts information provided, the matter shall be reported to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit as soon as possible, as set forth in Annexe C. The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall then proceed to evaluate whether there has been a whereabouts filing failure (for Players in the IRTP) or a failure to provide timely and/or accurate whereabouts information (for Players/Associations in the PCTP) in accordance with Annexe C.

3.
If the FIFA Doping Control Officer has located the Players of the team, he shall identify himself to the head of the delegation or the relevant representative of the team or club concerned by presenting his

authorisation as a FIFA Doping Control Officer and the assignment for the respective control, and discuss the procedure for the doping test with that person and the team doctor if applicable.

4.
The head of the delegation or the relevant representative of the team or club concerned shall give the FIFA Doping Control Officer an up-to-date list of the Players of the team, including any absent Players at the time the doping test is undertaken. The reasons for any such absences shall be given to the FIFA Doping Control Officer, as well as the scheduled time of arrival at or return to the location of the Team Activities for these Players. If there is to be a random selection, the FIFA Doping Control Officer shall decide whether these Players are to be included in the random selection procedure for Players having to undergo a doping test. He shall further notify the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit, who shall proceed to evaluate whether there has been a whereabouts filing failure (for Players in the IRTP) or a failure to provide timely and/or accurate whereabouts information (for Players/Associations in the PCTP) in accordance with Annexe C.

5.
Players to undergo Sample collection are either randomly selected by the FIFA Doping Control Officer or targeted by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit.

Notification of Players

6.
The FIFA Doping Control Officer and the team official/team doctor present shall sign the Doping Control Form. The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall notify the Player. The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall:

a) identify himself to the Player using the official documentation provided by FIFA (e.g. FIFA Doping Control Officer card, assignment letter or the like) evidencing his authority to collect a Sample from the Player;

b) ask the Player to produce identification and confirm the Player's identity to ensure that the Player who is to be notified is the same Player who has been selected for Doping Control. The method of identification of the Player or the failure by the Player to confirm his identity shall be documented and reported to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit. In such cases, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall decide whether it is appropriate to report the situation as a failure to comply as set forth under art. 45 (Failure to comply with Doping Control) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

4 Procedure for Out-of-Competition no-advance-notice tests on individual Players

1.
FIFA conducts no-advance-notice doping tests based on the individual whereabouts of Players in the IRTP. In accordance with the test distribution plan, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit selects individual Players for Testing via random or target methods.

2.
For no-advance-notice Out-of-Competition Sample collection, reasonable Attempts should be made to notify Players of their selection for Sample collection. The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall record all notification Attempts that were made during such period.

3.
When the Player is a Minor or Protected Person, or in situations where an interpreter is required and available, the FIFA Doping Control Officer shall consider whether a third party must be notified prior to notification of the Player. Should the circumstances so require, the FIFA Doping Control Officer may request the assistance of a third party in notifying the Player.

4.
The identification procedure set forth under art. 3 par. 6 of this Annexe shall be followed. The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall also inform the Player of his rights, including his right:

a) to have a representative and, if available, an interpreter to accompany him;

b) to ask for additional information about the Sample collection process;

c) to request a delay in reporting to the Doping Control room for valid reasons (as set forth herein under art. 5 of this Annexe); and

d) to request modifications because of disabilities.

In addition, the FIFA Doping Control Officer shall also inform the Player of his responsibilities, including the requirement:

a) to report immediately for Sample collection unless there are valid reasons for a delay as specified in art. 5 par. 3 of this Annexe;

b) to produce adequate identification;

c) to remain within direct observation, as set forth under art. 5 of this Annexe; and

d) to comply with the Sample collection procedure set forth in this Annexe.

5.
If the Player cannot be contacted by the FIFA Doping Control Officer after reasonable attempts have been made using the whereabouts information provided by the Player, the matter shall be reported to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit as soon as possible, as set forth in Annexe C (art. 9 par. 1 (Results management in respect of a missed test by the Player in the IRTP)). The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall then proceed to evaluate whether there has been a whereabouts failure in accordance with Annexe C.

5 Reporting time

1.
From the time of notification until the Player leaves the Doping Control room at the end of his Sample Collection Session, he shall be kept under observation at all times.

2.
For In-Competition controls, each Association and/or team concerned shall ensure that Players selected to undergo a doping test follow the Chaperone to the Doping Control room straight from the pitch as soon as the Match is over. For no-advance-notice tests on Players in the IRTP or PCTP, once the Player has been notified, he must report to the room assigned for Doping Control immediately for Sample collection unless there are valid reasons for delay as stated below.

3.
The FIFA Doping Control Officer may at his discretion consider any reasonable third party request or any request by the Player for permission to delay reporting to the Doping Control room following acknowledgment and acceptance of notification, and/or to temporarily leave the Doping Control room after arrival, and may grant such permission if the Player can be continuously chaperoned and kept under direct observation during the

delay. For example, delayed reporting to and/or temporary departure from the Doping Control room may be permitted for the activities listed below. For In-Competition Testing:

a) participation in a presentation ceremony;

b) fulfilment of media commitments (e.g. flash interviews, but not press conferences);

c) obtaining necessary medical treatment;

d) locating a representative and/or interpreter;

e) obtaining photo identification; or

f) any other reasonable circumstances, as determined by the FIFA Doping Control Officer, taking into account any instructions given by FIFA.

For Out-of-Competition Testing:

a) locating a representative and/or interpreter;

b) completing a training session;

c) receiving necessary medical treatment;

d) obtaining photo identification; or

e) any other reasonable circumstances, as determined by the FIFA Doping Control Officer, taking into account any instructions given by FIFA.

4.
The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall document any reasons for delay in reporting to the Doping Control room and/or reasons for leaving the Doping Control room that may require further investigation by FIFA. Any failure of the Player to remain under constant observation should also be recorded and may be further investigated as a failure to comply in accordance with art. 45 of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

5.
The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall reject a request for delay from a Player if it is not possible for the Player to be continuously chaperoned.

6.
If, while keeping the Player under observation, the FIFA Doping Control Officer observes any matter with potential to compromise the test, he shall report and document the circumstances. If deemed appropriate by the FIFA Doping Control Officer, he shall follow the requirements of art. 45 (Failure to comply with Doping Control) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, and/or consider if it is appropriate to collect an additional Sample from the Player.

6 Doping Control room

1.
The Doping Control room shall ensure the Player's privacy. For Testing, it shall be used solely as a Doping Control room for the duration of Sample collection. The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall record any significant deviations from these criteria.

2.
In the case of In-Competition Doping Controls, only the following people are allowed into the Doping Control room:

a) the Players who have been selected for Testing;

b) the Player's representative;

c) if the Player is a Minor, a Minor Player's representative observing the witnessing FIFA Doping Control Officer or Chaperone when the Minor Player is passing a urine Sample, but without the representative directly observing the passing of the Sample unless requested to do so by the Minor Player;

d) the FIFA Doping Control Officer;

e) the accredited assistant(s) of the FIFA Doping Control Officer;

f) an authorised Person who is involved in the training of a Doping Control Officer or the auditing of the FIFA Doping Control Officers;

g) a local official, if requested;

h) the FIFA Match Commissioner, if requested;

i) the FIFA General Coordinator, if requested;

j) an interpreter approved by FIFA, if requested;

k) a WADA-appointed observer under the WADA Independent Observer Programme or a WADA auditor as defined in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations;

l) an independent observer who must be a doctor according to FIFA's requirements.

3.
In the case of Out-of-Competition tests during Team Activities, only the following people are allowed into the Doping Control room:

a) the Player(s) who has/have been selected for Testing;

b) the Player's representative;

c) if the Player is a Minor, a Minor Player's representative observing the witnessing FIFA Doping Control Officer or Chaperone when the Minor Player is passing a urine Sample, but without the representative directly observing the passing of the Sample unless requested to do so by the Minor Player;

d) the FIFA Doping Control Officer;

e) the accredited assistant(s) of the FIFA Doping Control Officer;

f) an authorised Person who is involved in the training of a FIFA Doping Control Officer or the auditing of the FIFA Doping Control Officers;

g) an interpreter approved by FIFA, if requested;

h) a WADA-appointed observer under the WADA Independent Observer Programme or a WADA auditor as defined in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations;

4.
In the case of Out-of-Competition tests on individual Players, only the following people are allowed into the Doping Control room:

a) the Player who has been selected for Testing;

b) the Player's representative;

c) if the Player is a Minor, a Minor Player's representative observing the witnessing FIFA Doping Control Officer or Chaperone when the Minor Player is passing a urine Sample, but without the representative directly observing the passing of the Sample unless requested to do so by the Minor Player;

d) the FIFA Doping Control Officer;

e) the accredited assistant(s) of the FIFA Doping Control Officer;

f) an authorised Person who is involved in the training of a FIFA Doping Control Officer or the auditing of the FIFA Doping Control Officers;

g) an interpreter approved by FIFA, if requested;

h) a WADA-appointed observer under the WADA Independent Observer Programme or WADA auditor as defined in the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

5.
The Players selected for Testing shall remain in the waiting area of the Doping Control room until they are ready to give Samples. In-Competition, non-alcoholic drinks shall be made available to the Players in the form of unopened and sealed plastic bottles, some of which are placed in a refrigerator in the Doping Control room.

6.
For In-Competition Testing, the local security bodies shall take the necessary measures to ensure that no Persons other than those authorised under par. 2 of this article enter the Doping Control room. The entrance to the Doping Control room shall be constantly guarded. Responsibility for security during Out-of-Competition tests shall be borne by the relevant team delegations. The FIFA Doping Control Officer is entitled to refuse unauthorised Persons access to the Doping Control room.

7.
In exceptional circumstances, the FIFA Doping Control Officer may give approval for a Player to leave the Doping Control room, provided that he has agreed the following conditions of leave with the Player:

a) the purpose of the Player leaving the Doping Control room;

b) the time of return (or return upon completion of an agreed activity);

c) that the Player must remain under observation at all times.

d) that the Player shall not pass urine until he gets back to the Doping Control room.

The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall document the actual time of the Player's departure and return to the Doping Control room.

7 Conducting the Sample Collection Sessions

The collection of urine and blood Samples shall be conducted in accordance with WADA's regulations, in particular with WADA's International Standard for Testing and Investigations.

8 Requirements for Sample collection

1.
Any behaviour by the Player and/or Persons associated with the Player or anomalies with potential to compromise the Sample collection shall be recorded by the FIFA Doping Control Officer on the Doping Control Form. If appropriate, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall investigate a possible failure to comply as set forth under art. 45 (Failure to comply with Doping Control) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

2.
The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall provide the Player with the opportunity to document any concerns he may have about how the Sample Collection Session was conducted.

3.
In conducting the Sample Collection Session, the following information shall be recorded as a minimum:

a) the date and time of notification, and the name and signature of the notifying FIFA Doping Control Officer or Chaperone;

b) the arrival time of the Player at the Doping Control room and the times of any temporary departures and returns;

c) the date and time of sealing of each Sample collected and the date and time of completion of the entire Sample Collection process;

d) the names of the Testing authority, Sample Collection authority, Results Management authority and the Doping Control Coordinator (if applicable);

e) the Competition/location, date and time of Sample provision;

f) the Player's name, date of birth, gender, home address, email address, phone number and shirt number;

g) the Player's sport and discipline;

h) the name of the Player's team;

i) the means by which the Player's identity is validated (e.g. passport, driver's licence or Player's accreditation);

j) the name of the Player's coach and doctor and/or Person accompanying the Player (during Team Activities);

k) the Sample code number and name of the equipment manufacturer;

l) the type of Sample (urine, blood, etc.);

m) the type of test (In-Competition or Out-of-Competition);

n) the name and signature of the witnessing FIFA Doping Control Officer/Chaperone;

o) the name and signature of the blood collection officer (if applicable);

p) partial Sample information;

q) the required laboratory information on the Sample;

r) the medications and supplements taken and recent blood transfusion details (if applicable) as declared by the team doctor/Player;

s) for an Athlete Biological Passport blood Sample, information as out-lined in Annex I of the International Standard for Testing and Investigations;

t) any irregularities in procedures;

u) the Player's comments or concerns regarding the conduct of the Sample Collection Session, if provided;

v) the Player's acknowledgement of the processing of Sample Collection data and a description of such processing in accordance with International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information;

w) the Player's consent or otherwise for the use of the Sample(s) for research purposes;

x) the name and signature of the Player's doctor and/or Person accompanying the Player (if applicable);

y) the name and signature of the Player;

z) the name and signature of the FIFA Doping Control Officer.

4.
At the conclusion of the Sample Collection Session, the Player and FIFA Doping Control Officer shall sign appropriate documentation to indicate their satisfaction that the documentation accurately reflects the details of the Player's Sample Collection Session, including any concerns recorded by the Player. During Team Activities, the Player's doctor and/or Person accompanying the Player shall sign the documentation as a witness of the proceedings. In individual Testing, the Person accompanying the Player or witness, if applicable, shall sign the documentation.

5.
The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall provide the Player with a copy of the Doping Control Form of the Sample Collection Session that has been signed by the Player.

9 Post-test administration

1.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall ensure that all Samples collected are stored in a manner that protects their integrity, identity and security prior to transport from the Doping Control room. The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall record the Chain of Custody of the Samples and Sample collection documentation to ensure that the complete documentation for each Sample is completed and securely handled. The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall confirm that both the Samples and the Sample collection documentation have arrived at their intended destinations. The laboratory shall report any irregularities the condition of the Samples upon their arrival at the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit in line with the International Standard for Laboratories.

2.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall ensure that instructions for the type of analysis to be conducted are laid down in the agreement with the laboratory chosen in accordance with chapter IX, section 2 (Analysis of Samples) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

10 Transport of Samples and documentation

1.
The FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall authorise a transport system that ensures that Samples and documentation will be transported in a manner that protects their integrity, identity and security.

2.
Samples shall always be transported to the laboratory chosen in accordance with chapter IX, section 2 (Analysis of Samples) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, using FIFA's authorised Sample transport method, as soon as practicable after the completion of the Sample Collection Session. Samples shall be transported in a manner that minimises the potential for Sample degradation due to factors such as time delays and extreme temperature variations.

3.
Documentation identifying the Player shall not be included with the Samples or documentation sent to the laboratory chosen in accordance

with chapter IX, section 2 (Analysis of Samples) of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

4.
The FIFA Doping Control Officer shall send all relevant Sample Collection Session documentation to the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit using FIFA's authorised transport method as soon as practicable after the completion of the Sample Collection Session.

5.
The Chain of Custody shall be checked by the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit if receipt of either of the Samples with accompanying documentation or Sample Collection Session documentation is not confirmed at its intended destination or if a Sample's integrity or identity may have been compromised during transport. In this instance, the FIFA Anti-Doping Unit shall consider whether the Sample should be voided.

6.
Documentation relating to a Sample Collection Session and/or an anti-doping rule violation shall be stored by FIFA for a minimum of ten years as per the requirements of the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information.

Doping Control Form

DOPING CONTROL FORM

Test authorised by: FIFA · Sample collection agency: FIFA · Results management authority: FIFA

FIFA

FIFA COMPETITION: _____

1. PLAYER NOTIFICATION

Player's name: | Shirt no.: | Date of birth: D D M M Y Y

Match/venue: | Match no.: | Team:

Type of identification: Accreditation ☐ ID / Passport ☐ Driver's license ☐

Urine ☐ Blood ☐ Date: D D M M Y Y Time of notification: :

DCO/Chaperone name:

DCO/Chaperone Signature:

The above-named player has been selected to undergo a doping test and is requested to report immediately after the match to the doping control room. He may be accompanied by one representative (doctor, coach or team official). I hereby acknowledge that I have received and read this notice, including the player's rights and responsibilities listed on the reverse side of copy 1, and I consent to provide sample(s) as requested. I understand that failure or refusal to provide a sample may constitute an anti-doping rule violation.

Player's signature: _____

2. PLAYER INFORMATION

Time of arrival in doping control room: :

Time of temporary departures and returns: arrival: : return: :

Adress: Number/Street | City/Town | State

Country | ( ) Contact Tel (incl. Country Code) | E-Mail

Doctor's Name

Coach's Name

Accompanying Person's Name

3a. INFORMATION FOR ANALYSIS

In-competition ☐ Out-of-competition ☐ Sample collection date: D D M M Y Y Gender: ♂ ♀

Blood serum A/B: Time: :

Whole blood A/B: Time: :

Name of FIFA BCO

Signature of FIFA BCO

Name of FIFA BCO

Signature of FIFA BCO

Equipment manufacturer

Urine A/B: ml S/G 1.0 Time: :

Partial urine sample: No.: ml Player's initials

No.: ml Player's initials

Name of the witnessing FIFA DCO/Chaperone

Signature of the witnessing FIFA DCO/Chaperone

Additional sample A/B: ml S/G 1.0 Time: :

Name of the witnessing FIFA DCO/Chaperone

Signature of the witnessing FIFA DCO/Chaperone

3b. DECLARATION OF MEDICATION

List all medications or supplements taken during the past 7 days and any blood transfusions received during the past three months

Diagnosis	Substance	Dosage	Method of application	Start and duration of treatment

Consent for research: in order to help combat doping in sport, by signing below, I agree that my sample may be used for anti-doping research purposes. When all analyses have been completed and my sample would otherwise be discarded, it may then be used by any WADA-accredited laboratory for anti-doping research of any type, provided it can no longer be identified as my sample.

I accept ☐ I refuse ☐

4. CONFIRMATION OF PROCEDURE FOR URINE AND/OR BLOOD TESTING

Remarks:

Supplementary form used ☐

Doping Collection Officer's name:

Doping Collection Officer's signature:

Team representative's/player representative's name:

Team representative's/player representative's signature:

I declare that the information given on this form is correct and confirm that the sample collection was conducted in accordance with the relevant procedures. Furthermore, I accept that all information related to the doping control, including but not limited to laboratory results and possible sanctions, shall be shared with the relevant bodies (for instance WADA, international, continental or national sports federations) in accordance with the relevant regulations, including the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.
I have read and understood the text overleaf and I consent to the processing of my doping control-related data through ADAMS or any other reliable means or measures.

Player's signature:

Place:

Time: : Date: D D M M Y Y

Original: FIFA Anti-Doping Unit (white) **Copy 1:** Player's copy (pink) **Copy 2:** Player's copy (pink) **Copy 3:** Laboratory (blue)

08.20 ALP 200 mok

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Annexe E may be amended by the FIFA administration from time to time.

Doping Control Form – Supplementary

PLAYER INFORMATION FORM

I have been asked by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, to read the following form to ensure that I am aware that my doping control-related data, including but not limited to personal information and the athlete biological passport and all data related to the process, including test distribution planning, sample collection and handling, laboratory analysis, results management and sanctions, will be processed and stored in accordance with this form and used in anti-doping programmes for the detection, deterrence and prevention of doping according to the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the World Anti-Doping Code ("Code") and the WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) International Standards.

CONFIRMATION
By signing this form, I confirm that I have been informed accordingly and that I acknowledge that:

- I am bound by and shall comply with the provisions of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the Code and the International Standards issued by WADA, as amended from time to time;
- My doping control-related data as further specified in this information form will be used in the context of anti-doping programmes indicated in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and the Code. FIFA may also use my data for research purposes, in which case any personal information that could identify me will be removed or changed before data is shared with other researchers or results are made public;
- FIFA shall be principally responsible for ensuring the protection of my data, and is committed to complying with the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information issued by WADA;
- Pursuant to the above-mentioned International Standard and under the applicable law, I have certain rights in relation to my doping control-related data, including rights to access and/or correct any inaccurate data and remedies with respect to any unlawful processing of data as further specified below;
- FIFA will use, process and store my doping control-related data via the WADA Anti-Doping Administration and Management System ("ADAMS") and/or other internal FIFA means ("the FIFA System"). FIFA will disclose and transfer my doping control-related data via ADAMS to recipients authorised to receive the information in accordance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and the Code (for instance, designated anti-doping organisations ("ADOs"), national ADOs, international and national sports federations, major competition organisers and WADA), which may include the creation of personal online profiles and the entry of information regarding doping controls, whereabouts and therapeutic use exemptions ("TUEs") in any other similar, WADA-authorised national system used by an ADO for sharing information;
- I am responsible for ensuring that all information that I enter (or that is entered on my behalf) into ADAMS is accurate and up to date;
- FIFA only uses WADA-accredited laboratories as well as laboratories that have been approved by WADA and that will also use and process my laboratory test results, but shall only have access to the anonymised, key-coded data;
- Persons or parties receiving my information may be located outside my country of residence, including Switzerland and Canada. In some countries, data protection and privacy laws may not be equivalent to those in my own country;
- Subject to applicable local laws, any dispute arising from this form or a decision made pursuant to the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations may be appealed exclusively before the bodies stipulated in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, including the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

I further acknowledge the following:

PURPOSE OF ADAMS
ADAMS enables ADOs, such as FIFA and WADA, to conduct harmonised, coordinated and effective anti-doping programmes and to fulfil their respective responsibilities arising under the Code. ADAMS and the FIFA System may be used for scheduling in and out-of-competition doping tests and managing related information, including TUEs, whereabouts information, information about the results of anti-doping tests, information relating to the athlete biological passport, and sanctions-related information relevant to individual athletes. WADA and FIFA rely upon ADAMS and the FIFA System to fulfil their responsibilities under the Code, including the performance of out-of-competition testing, the review of TUEs and its implications for anti-doping rule violation procedures.

LAWFULNESS OF THE PROCESSING
The fight against doping in sport is supported by the international community, and more than 180 countries have ratified the 2005 UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport ("Convention"), which endorses the work of WADA and aims at ensuring the effectiveness of the implementation of the Code. The worldwide anti-doping system pursuant to the Code, as further reflected in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, is necessary for the protection of health, for moral, cultural and physical education and for the principle of fair play, as well as to eliminate cheating in sport and to protect its future. The anti-doping measures undertaken by FIFA and the processing of my data form part of the worldwide fight against doping in sport in furtherance of the aforementioned goals and are justified to carry out an important task in the public interest and to pursue important and legitimate interests as set out in the Convention, the Code and the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

CATEGORIES OF DATA CONCERNED
ADAMS and the FIFA System may contain the following categories of data: my unique ADAMS profile, consisting of data relating to my identity (name, nationality, date of birth, gender, the sport(s) and discipline(s) in which I compete, organisations and/or sports federations to which I belong, an indication of whether I compete at international or national level, and whether I am considered to be a national or international-level athlete in accordance with the rules of FIFA, my confederation and/or national ADO); data relating to my whereabouts, to test distribution planning (for the testing pools in which I am included); data relating to my TUEs, if any; data relating to doping control (test distribution planning, sample collection and handling, laboratory analysis, results management, hearings and appeals); and data relating to the athlete biological passport. Some of the above data may constitute sensitive personal data under national data protection or privacy laws where I reside and under the WADA International Standards.

DISCLOSURES
Part of my ADAMS profile may be shown to other ADOs using ADAMS to ensure that only a single athlete profile is created for me. FIFA and WADA, where appropriate, may enable other ADOs and service providers to access some of my information appearing in ADAMS to enable them to administer anti-doping programmes. In addition, WADA may access and process some of my data in ADAMS (i.e. TUE data, laboratory results, the athlete biological passport, sanctions and whereabouts data) to fulfil its responsibilities under the Code. FIFA, WADA and the organisations listed above will not disclose any of my data other than to authorised persons within their organisations on a "need-to-know" basis; each of the organisations accessing and using ADAMS may only do so in order to fulfil their responsibilities and obligations arising under the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and the Code, which primarily involve the establishment of anti-doping programmes and ensuring appropriate information-sharing as provided for under the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and the Code.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS
My data may be made available through ADAMS to persons or parties located outside the country where I reside since my information is to be shared with WADA, established in Switzerland and Canada, and may be shared with the ADO in the country where my national association is registered and with my relevant confederation in order to allow them to perform their anti-doping programmes and to comply with their obligations under the Code. The data protection and privacy laws of these countries may not always be equivalent to those in my own country. In any case, ADOs must comply with WADA's International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information.

MY RIGHTS
I have certain rights under applicable laws and under WADA's International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information. Subject to the relevant legal conditions being fulfilled, these rights include: (a) the right to be informed about the processing of my personal data; (b) the right of access to and receipt of a copy of my personal data processed within ADAMS; (c) the right to rectification if any of my personal data that is processed within ADAMS is inaccurate or incomplete; (d) the right to erasure – i.e. the right to request deletion of any of my personal data that is processed in ADAMS and is no longer required for the relevant purposes; (e) the right to restrict or prevent the processing of my personal data if, for example, I want to contest the accuracy of the personal data or my personal data is no longer needed; (f) the right to obtain a copy of my personal data processed in ADAMS; (g) the right to object to FIFA processing the personal data for particular purposes if FIFA cannot provide compelling legitimate grounds for its processing. I further take note that the personal data processed by FIFA is not subject to automated decision-making, including profiling.

I acknowledge that according to the Code, FIFA has limited competence to erase or amend my personal data. Should FIFA, despite using its reasonable efforts, fail to comply with my request, I will have to exercise my rights before WADA and/or the ADO of my national association.

CONTACT
In the event of any cause for complaint about the use of my personal data or if I have any questions relating to the processing of my personal data, I may contact FIFA (antidoping@fifa.org). In the event of any such complaint or question, FIFA shall use its reasonable efforts to best resolve the matter. If I am not satisfied with FIFA's response, I may contact WADA and/or the ADO of the country of my national association. For further details, I may also consult the athlete information notice, which is subject to change without notice, as found on the WADA website.

DISPUTES
If the matter cannot be resolved, I have the right to lodge a complaint with the competent data protection supervisory authority in accordance with data protection laws applicable to me.

SECURITY
I have taken note that ADAMS is securely maintained in Switzerland and Canada. Stringent technological, organisational and other security measures have been applied to ADAMS to maintain the security of the data entered in it. In addition, FIFA, WADA and ADOs have put in place internal and contractual guarantees to ensure that my data remains confidential and secure.

DATA RETENTION
I understand that it may be necessary to retain my data in ADAMS or the FIFA System for a minimum period of ten years. For instance, if ADAMS is used for TUEs and I am granted a TUE, the TUE approval forms will be stored electronically in ADAMS for a minimum period of ten years. The period of ten years represents the period during which an action may be commenced for an anti-doping violation under the Code. Where the relevant anti-doping rules do not require my data to be retained for ten years, the data will be deleted after an appropriately shorter period. For more information on data retention, I may consult the Annexe to WADA's International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information.

RELEASE
I hereby release FIFA and the accredited laboratories from all claims, demands, liabilities, damages, costs and expenses that may arise in connection with the processing of my doping control-related data through ADAMS and other means such as the FIFA System.

REFUSAL
I understand that my participation in association football is contingent upon my voluntary participation in anti-doping procedures as set forth in the relevant regulations, including the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, and thus the processing of my doping control-related data as described in this form.
I understand that any refusal on my part to undergo anti-doping procedures and to have my doping control-related data processed will be construed as a violation of the relevant regulations, including the Code and FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, and may result in disciplinary and other sanctions being imposed upon me, such as disqualification from competitions, the invalidation of results arising from prior competitions and/or the imposition of a period of ineligibility.

DECLARATION
By signing this form, I hereby declare that I am familiar with and agree to abide by the relevant regulations, including the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and the Code.

Reference is made to the list of World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)-accredited laboratories published by WADA, which is available at www.wada-ama.org.

REGULATIONS

Governing International Matches

Article

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DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these regulations, the terms set out below are defined as follows:

1. Club Team: a team representing a club that is affiliated directly or indirectly to a Member.

2. Confederation: a group of associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent or assimilable geographic region.

3. Domestic Team: a team containing players registered with different Club Teams affiliated to the same Member (e.g. representing a Member's league or regional association).

4. International Match: a match between two teams belonging to different Members or a match involving a Scratch Team. For the purpose of authorisation, any match or competition played between two teams belonging to the same Member but in a Third Country shall be recognised as an International Match or competition.

5. International "A" Match: a match for which both Members field their first Representative Team ("A" Representative Team).

6. Member: an association that has been admitted into membership of FIFA by the FIFA Congress.

7. Representative Team: a team representing a Member.

8. Scratch Team: a team brought together on a one-off basis, containing active players registered with clubs playing in the highest division of a Member that are not affiliated to the same Member.

9. Third Country: the territory of a Member upon which a match or competition is to be played and to which none of the teams participating in the match or competition is affiliated.

N.B. Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders.
Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

Based on articles 77, 82, 83 and 84 of the FIFA Statutes of 31 July 2013, the FIFA Executive Committee has issued the following regulations.

1 Object

These regulations set forth the authorisations, notifications and other requirements for organising matches and/or competitions between teams belonging to different Members, or between teams belonging to the same Member but playing in a Third Country, or involving players or teams that are not affiliated to Members or provisional members of the Confederations as set forth in art. 83 par. 1 of the FIFA Statutes of 31 July 2013.

2 Scope

1.
These regulations apply to all International Matches and competitions except those included in competitions organised by FIFA or one or more of the Confederations, or matches and competitions falling under article 84 of the FIFA Statutes of 31 July 2013.

2.
These regulations apply equally to association football, futsal and beach soccer.

3.
International Matches or competitions authorised by the FIFA Executive Committee on an exceptional basis shall not be subject to these regulations.

3 Purpose

The purpose of these regulations is to protect the integrity of the game by creating a framework that allows the Members, Confederations and FIFA to oversee International Matches and competitions. The oversight of International Matches and competitions shall allow the Members, Confederations and FIFA to promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices which might jeopardise the integrity of matches, competitions, players, officials and Members, or give rise to abuse of the game.

4 Duties of Members

1.
Members shall draw up their own regulations governing the procedures for the authorisation and notification of International Matches, which must comply fully with these regulations as well as those of the Confederation(s) concerned.

2.
Members must ensure that their own Members respect these regulations, those of the Confederation(s) concerned as well as their own regulations.

3.
Members, to which a Representative Team, Club Team or Domestic Team participating in an International Match or competition belongs, shall be responsible for obtaining authorisation from their Confederation as set forth herein.

4.
The Member on whose territory an International Match or competition will be played shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the applicable regulations. It shall be responsible for obtaining final authorisation from FIFA and/or the Confederation to which it is affiliated, as required.

5.
A Member shall inform the relevant Members, the Confederation(s) and FIFA about any match that was arranged and played on its territory and for which authorisation was either not sought or not given.

6.
Members must reply to any written request in relation to an authorisation request from another Member, a Confederation or FIFA within seven days of its receipt.

7.
If for any reason the referees appointed for an International Match are changed, the participating teams must be informed and the reasons shall be documented accordingly in a report signed by an authorised Member association official and sent to the Members concerned, the Confederation(s) concerned and/or FIFA.

8.
Anyone submitting applications for authorisation and subsequent documents must ensure and confirm the accuracy and authenticity of the information contained therein.

9.
The Member on whose territory an International "A" Match is played shall be responsible for collecting all applicable levies and preparing the required statement of account for the international match and submitting the latter as well as forwarding the appropriate amounts to FIFA and/or the Confederation(s) concerned.

5 Name of International Matches or competitions

1.
The name used for International Matches and competitions may not refer to the existing official names of any competitions of FIFA, the Confederations or Members.

2.
FIFA and the Confederations reserve the right to approve all competition names.

6 Authorisation

1.
International Matches may only be authorised by FIFA, a Confederation or a Member in accordance with these regulations.

2.
All International Matches must be authorised by the Members to which the participating teams belong and by the Member on whose territory the match is to be played. Matches involving a Scratch Team must be authorised by the Members with which the players are registered.

3.
Every team participating in an International Match shall be responsible for requesting the authorisation of the Member to which they belong. The Member, in turn, shall be responsible for requesting the authorisation from the Confederation to which it is affiliated. The Member(s) to which the participating teams belong shall provide these authorisations to the host Member in order that the final request for authorisation can be completed in accordance with the timeframes stipulated in these regulations.

4.
FIFA and the Confederation(s) may reject applications not complying with these regulations.

5.
FIFA's authorisation or FIFA's refusal of authorisation is given by the FIFA general secretariat, whose decision shall be final and binding.

6.
An authorisation does not entail liability on the part of FIFA, the Confederation(s) or any Member in the event that any legal claims subsequently arise.

7.
The FIFA general secretariat, in principle, or the FIFA Executive Committee, in exceptional circumstances, shall be responsible for FIFA's authorisation or FIFA's refusal of authorisation for matches and/or competitions involving players or teams that are not affiliated to Members or provisional members of the Confederations as set forth in art. 83 par. 1 of the FIFA Statutes of 31 July 2013.

7 Tier 1 International Matches

1.
For the purpose of these regulations, a tier 1 International Match shall mean any International Match in which both of the teams participating are the "A" Representative Teams of the Members concerned, or an International Match involving a Scratch Team.

2.
All tier 1 International Matches must be authorised by FIFA and the Confederation(s) and Members concerned. A summary of the authorisations required for tier 1 International Matches is set forth in Appendix A.

3.
A competition that contains at least one tier 1 International Match shall be classified as a tier 1 competition.

8 Tier 2 International Matches

1.
For the purpose of these regulations, a tier 2 International Match shall mean any International Match involving one "A" Representative Team, any other Representative Team, a Domestic Team or the first team of a Club Team that participates in the highest division of a Member.

2.
All tier 2 International Matches must be authorised by the Confederation(s) and the Members concerned. A summary of the authorisations required for tier 2 International Matches is set forth in Appendix B.

3.
A competition that does not involve any tier 1 International Matches and involves at least one tier 2 International Match shall be classified as a tier 2 competition.

9 Tier 3 International Matches

1.
For the purpose of these regulations, a tier 3 International Match shall mean all International Matches that are not tier 1 or tier 2 International Matches.

2.
The regulation of tier 3 International Matches shall be determined by each Confederation.

3.
A competition involving International Matches that are neither tier 1 nor tier 2 shall be classified as a tier 3 competition.

10 Authorisation procedure for tier 1 International Matches and competitions

1.

Procedure for International "A" Matches:

Members whose "A" Representative Team will participate in an International "A" Match, as well as a Member on whose territory an International "A" Match is planned, shall request the authorisation of the Confederation to which they are affiliated at least 21 days before the earliest of the proposed dates for such match. When received, the Member(s) shall pass the relevant authorisations to the Member on whose territory the International "A" Match is planned. The Member on whose territory the International "A" Match is planned shall submit a final authorisation request containing all required Member and Confederation authorisations to FIFA at least 14 days before the earliest of the proposed dates for such match. All requests for authorisation to host or participate in an International "A" Match shall be on the official FIFA forms as set forth in Appendix C. The host association must verify that the assigned referee and assistant referees are included on the current FIFA List of International Referees and Assistant Referees. FIFA may replace the proposed appointed referees at its sole discretion. Once authorisation has been granted, FIFA shall notify the host Member as well as the relevant Confederation(s).

A competition containing an International "A" Match shall be authorised in accordance with the procedure for International "A" Matches.

2.

Procedure for Scratch Team matches:

The organiser of an International Match or competition involving a Scratch Team shall request the authorisation of each Member with which the players involved in the match or competition are registered as well as all concerned Confederations at least 21 days before the earliest of the proposed dates for such match or competition. Once these authorisations have been received by the organiser, the organiser shall pass the authorisations to the host Member, who shall submit a final authorisation request to FIFA at least 14 days before the earliest of the proposed dates for such match or competition. The authorisation request shall be on the official FIFA form as set forth in Appendix C.

11 Authorisation procedure for tier 2 International Matches and competitions

1.
Procedure for matches or competitions involving teams from one Confederation playing on the territory of the same Confederation:
These matches and competitions shall be authorised in accordance with the regulations of that Confederation. Once authorisation has been granted, the host Confederation shall notify the host Member and FIFA.

2.
Procedure for matches or competitions involving teams from more than one Confederation or teams from one Confederation playing on the territory of a different Confederation:
Every participating team shall request the authorisation of the Member to which it belongs, who in turn shall request the authorisation of the Confederation to which it is affiliated at least 21 days before the earliest of the proposed dates for such match or competition. The participating teams shall pass the relevant authorisations to the Member on whose territory the International Match or competition is planned. The Member on whose territory the International Match or competition is planned shall submit a final authorisation request containing the authorisations of all relevant Members and non-host Confederations to the host Confederation at least 14 days before the earliest of the proposed dates for such match or competition. The authorisation requests for participating in and hosting a tier 2 International Match or competition shall be on the official FIFA forms as set forth in Appendix C. The host Confederation and FIFA may replace the proposed appointed referees at its sole discretion. Once authorisation has been granted, the host Confederation shall notify the host Member, FIFA and the non-host Confederation(s).

12 Reporting

The Member on whose territory the match is played shall, within 48 hours of each International "A" Match, submit a match report and list of players to the FIFA general secretariat, using the official form for this purpose as set forth in Appendix D. This form shall be filled in completely and signed. This report and list of players is in addition to the report that the referee of every International "A" Match shall send to FIFA and the Member on whose territory the match is played, in accordance with art. 12 par. 1 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes.

13 Levies and statement of account

1.
FIFA levies

a) Members shall complete a statement of account and pay FIFA a levy for every International "A" Match, including matches that are played as part of the Olympic Football Tournaments.

b) The Member on whose territory the match was played shall complete the statement of account and pay the levy.

c) The levy to be paid to FIFA for each such match shall equal 2% of the gross receipts (ticket sales, advertising rights for television and radio broadcast, film and video rights, etc.) derived from each such match. This levy is subject to the following:

   i) the levy due to FIFA in respect of matches played on the territory of a Confederation between Members belonging to that Confederation is only 1%, the remaining 1% being payable directly to the Confederation involved;
   ii) the levy due in respect of matches played between Members affiliated to different Confederations, on the territory of one of these Confederations, is payable to FIFA, which will retrocede 0.5% to each of the Confederations involved;
   iii) the levy due in respect of matches played between Members affiliated to different Confederations, on the territory of a third Confederation, is only 1%, the remaining 1% being payable directly to the Confederation on whose territory the match was played.

d) The statement of account shall contain all the requisite figures reflecting the entire income and any taxes or charges deducted therefrom. The total amount deducted shall not exceed 30% of the entire gross receipts.

e) Irrespective of the financial outcome of the match, the contribution to be paid to FIFA shall be at least CHF 500.

f) The statement of account and the amount due shall be sent to FIFA within 60 days of the date of the match. The statement of account shall be submitted on the official FIFA form as set forth in Appendix E.

2.
Confederation and Member levies

a) The Confederations and Members may demand their own levy independently of FIFA, in accordance with their own statutes and regulations.

b) The Confederations and Members shall publish the schedule of levies applicable to International Matches and the procedures and time periods for paying those levies.

14 Sanctions

Any violations of these regulations shall be sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code and/or the FIFA Statutes.

15 Official languages

1.
These regulations have been issued in the four official languages of FIFA (English, French, Spanish and German).

2.
In the event of any discrepancy between the four texts, the English version is authoritative.

16 Transitional provision and entry into force

1.
The provisions in these regulations in relation to the levies to be paid by Members to FIFA in connection with International "A" Matches (cf. art. 4 par. 9, art. 13 par. 1, and Appendix E) will be rescinded as of 1 January 2015.

2.
These regulations were approved by the FIFA Executive Committee on 21 March 2014 and come into force on 1 May 2014.

A Tier 1 International Matches

Type of team involved	Type of match/competition
First Representative Team	International "A" Matches only ("A" v. "A")
Scratch Team	In all cases

	Authorisation by the host Member	Authorisation by the Members to which the teams belong	Authorisation by Confederation(s) concerned	Authorisation by all Members with which the players are registered	Authorisation by FIFA
	X	X	X		X
	X		X	X	X

B Tier 2 International Matches

Type of team involved	Type of match/competition	
First Representative Team	Not "A" match ("A" v. other team)	Single Confederation case
		Multiple Confederation case
Any other Representative Team or a Domestic Team	In all cases	Single Confederation case
		Multiple Confederation case
First team of Club Teams participating in the highest division of a Member	In all cases	Single Confederation case
		Multiple Confederation case

Key

Conf Regs: authorisation/notification process to be determined in the Confederation's regulations

Single Confederation case: teams from one Confederation playing in that Confederation

Multiple Confederation case: teams from more than one Confederation or teams from one Confederation playing on the territory of different Confederation

	Authorisation by the host Member	Authorisation by the Member(s) to which the teams belong	Authorisation by non-host Confederation(s)	Authorisation by host Confederation	When authorised, host Confederation informs host Member, FIFA and non-host Confederation(s)
	X	X		Conf Regs	X
	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X		Conf Regs	X
	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X		Conf Regs	X
	X	X	X	X	X

FIFA application form for hosting a tier 1 International Match or competition

Preamble:

In accordance with art. 4 par. 4 and subject to the conditions stipulated in arts 6, 7 and 10 of the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches, a Member on whose territory a tier 1 International Match or competition is to be played must obtain prior authorisation from FIFA and the Confederation to which it is affiliated.

The applicant is a FIFA Member and intends to host a tier 1 International Match or competition on its territory. Consequently, the applicant

……..

(Name of the FIFA Member, herein "the applicant")

submits the following

Authorisation request for a tier 1 International Match or competition

in order to host the following tier 1 International Match or competition:

Description: ……..

(Description/name of the tier 1 International Match or competition. If the present request relates to a competition, attach a match schedule and competition regulations.)

arranged by:

Name: ……..

(Name of the party responsible for promoting and staging the tier 1 International Match or competition, such as a FIFA Member or a FIFA match agent, etc. In the case of a third-party match agent, please denote licensing below.)

☐ is a licensed FIFA match agent or ☐ is not a licensed FIFA match agent

Teams: 1. .....

2. .....

(If the present request relates to a competition, include team details in the match schedule.)

Date: .....

(Date on which the tier 1 International Match is to take place. If the present request relates to a competition, please indicate the dates on the match schedule.)

Referees: 1. .....

2. .....

3. .....

(Full name and nationality of the referee and assistant referees in accordance with the current FIFA International List of Referees. If the present request relates to a competition, please list all referees and assistant referees on the match schedule. If for any reason the above-named referees are changed, the participating teams must be informed and the reasons documented in a report signed by an authorised Member official and submitted to the Confederation(s) and FIFA.)

Referees assigned by:

Member: .....

Person responsible: .....

(List the **name(s)** of the person(s) responsible for appointing and assigning the listed referees.)

Stadium: .....

(Name and location of the stadium to be used for the tier 1 International Match. If the present request relates to a competition, please include all venues on the match schedule.)

For an International "A" Match or competition, when submitting these documents to FIFA for final authorisation the host Member must include:

- An application form for participating in an International Match or competition for every participating Member
- The authorisation of every Confederation concerned

For an International Match involving a Scratch Team, when submitting these documents to FIFA for final authorisation the host Member must include:

- The authorisation of all Members with which the players involved are registered
- The authorisation of every Confederation concerned

The signatory hereby explicitly confirms compliance with the requirements of the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches for hosting a tier 1 International Match or competition.

.....

(Place and date)

.....

(Name and position of the signatory)

.....

(Signature)

FIFA application form for hosting a tier 2 International Match or competition

(required for matches or competitions involving multiple Confederations)

Preamble:

In accordance with art. 4 par. 4 and subject to the conditions stipulated in arts 6, 8 and 11 of the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches, a Member on whose territory a tier 2 International Match or competition is to be played must obtain prior authorisation from the Confederation to which it is affiliated.

The applicant is a FIFA Member and intends to host a tier 2 International Match or competition on its territory. Consequently, the applicant

……,

(Name of the FIFA Member, herein "the applicant")

submits the following

Authorisation request for a tier 2 International Match or competition

in order to host the following tier 2 International Match or competition:

Description: ……..

(Description/name of the tier 2 International Match or competition. If the present request relates to a competition, attach a match schedule.)

arranged by:

Name: ……..

(Name of the party responsible for promoting and staging the tier 2 International Match or competition, such as a FIFA Member or a FIFA match agent, etc. In the case of a third-party match agent, please denote licensing below.)

☐ is a licensed FIFA match agent or ☐ is not a licensed FIFA match agent

Teams:

1. ……

2. ……

(If the present request relates to a competition, include team details in the match schedule.)

Date: ……..

(Date on which the tier 2 International Match is to take place. If the present request relates to a competition, please indicate the dates on the match schedule.)

Referees: 1. ……

2. ……

3. ……

(Full name and nationality of the referee and assistant referees in accordance with the current FIFA International List of Referees. If the present request relates to a competition, please list all referees and assistant referees on the match schedule. If for any reason the above-named referees are changed, the participating teams must be informed and the reasons documented in a report signed by an authorised Member official and submitted to the Confederation(s) and FIFA.)

Referees assigned by:

Member: ……..

Person responsible: ……..

(List the **name(s)** of the person(s) responsible for appointing and assigning the listed referees.)

Stadium: ……

(Name and location of the stadium to be used for the tier 2 International Match. If the present request relates to a competition, please include all venues on the match schedule.)

The signatory hereby explicitly confirms compliance with the requirements of the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches for hosting a tier 2 International Match or competition that involves multiple Confederations (tick each box):

☐ The host Member herewith submits an application form for participating in an International Match or competition for every participating Member.

☐ The host Member herewith submits the authorisation of every non-host Confederation concerned.

……

(Place and date)

……

(Name and position of the signatory)

……

(Signature)

Application form for participating in a tier 1 International Match or competition

Preamble:

In accordance with art. 6 par. 2 in connection with art. 7 of the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches, all International Matches must be authorised by the Members to which the participating teams are affiliated.

The applicant is a FIFA Member and intends to participate in an International Match or competition. Consequently, the applicant

……,

(Name of the FIFA Member, herein "the applicant")

submits the following

Authorisation request for a tier 1 International Match or competition

in order to participate in the following International Match or competition:

Description: ……..

(Description/name of the tier 1 International Match or competition)

arranged by

Name: ……..

(Name of the party responsible for promoting and staging the tier 1 International Match or competition, such as a FIFA Member or a FIFA match agent, etc.)

on the territory of

Member: ……..

(Name of the FIFA Member on whose territory the tier 1 International Match or competition is to be played.)

Teams: 1. ……

2. ……

(Names of the teams participating in the tier 1 International Match. If the present request relates to a competition, include only your team.)

Date(s): .....

(Date on which the tier 1 International Match is to be played. If the present request relates to a competition, please indicate the dates.)

Head of delegation: .....

.....

.....

.....

(Name and contact information of the head of delegation. The head of delegation shall be a natural person who is responsible for the official travel delegation of each team of the Member participating in the International Match or competition.)

This form shall be submitted to the Confederation to which the Member is affiliated at least 21 days before the date of the International Match or competition in question.

Once authorisation has been granted by the Confederation, the Member shall submit this form and the authorisation of the Confederation to which it is affiliated to the Member on whose territory the International Match or competition is planned.

The signatory hereby explicitly confirms compliance with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

.....

(Place and date)

.....

(Name and position of the signatory)

.....

(Signature)

Application form for participating in a tier 2 International Match or competition

(required for matches or competitions involving multiple Confederations)

Preamble:

In accordance with art. 6 par. 2 in connection with art. 8 of the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches, all International Matches must be authorised by the Members to which the participating teams are affiliated.

The applicant is a FIFA Member and one of its affiliated teams or clubs intends to participate in an International Match or competition. Consequently, the applicant

……,

(Name of the FIFA Member, herein "the applicant")

submits the following

Authorisation request for a tier 2 International Match or competition

in order for one of its affiliated teams to participate in the following International Match or competition:

Description: ……

(Description/name of the tier 2 International Match or competition)

arranged by

Name: ……

(Name of the party responsible for promoting and staging the tier 2 International Match or competition, such as a FIFA Member or a FIFA match agent, etc.)

on the territory of

Member: ……

(Name of the FIFA Member on whose territory the tier 2 International Match or competition is to be played.)

Teams: 1. ……

2. ……

(Names of the teams participating in the tier 2 International Match. If the present request relates to a competition, include only the team(s) or club(s) affiliated to your association.)

Date: .....

(Date on which the tier 2 International Match is to be played. If the present request relates to a competition, please indicate the dates.)

Head of delegation: .....

.....

.....

.....

(Name and contact information of the head of delegation. The head of delegation shall be a natural person who is responsible for the official travel delegation of each team of the Member participating in the International Match or competition.)

This form shall be submitted to the Confederation to which the Member is affiliated at least 21 days before the date of the International Match or competition in question.

Once authorisation has been granted by the Confederation, the Member shall submit this form and the authorisation of the Confederation to which it is affiliated to the Member on whose territory the International Match or competition is planned.

The signatory hereby explicitly confirms compliance with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

.....

(Place and date)

.....

(Name and position of the signatory)

.....

(Signature)

Report form

Preamble:

In accordance with art. 12 of the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches, a FIFA Member on whose territory an International "A" Match has been played shall provide the FIFA general secretariat with the relevant report within 48 hours.

Accordingly, the following

Report

is brought to the attention of the FIFA general secretariat.

Description: .....

(Description/Name of the International "A" Match)

Date: .....

(Date on which the International "A" Match took place)

arranged by

Name: .....

(Name of the party responsible for promoting and staging the International "A" Match)

between the following

Teams: 1. .....

2. .....

(Names of the teams participating in the International "A" Match)

Final score: .....

(Final score of the International "A" Match)

Referee: ……..

……..

(Name and nationality of the referee)

Assistant referees:

1. ……

2. ……

3. ……

4. ……

(Name and nationality of the assistant referees)

The signatory confirms the accuracy of the aforementioned statements. In addition, in order to fulfil the conditions of art. 12 of the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches, the signatory confirms that the following additional documents have been attached (tick each box):

☐ A list of players for each team

☐ The referee's report, signed by the match referee

……

(Name of the FIFA Member)

……

(Place and date)

……

(Name and position of the signatory)

……

(Signature)

LIST OF PLAYERS - LISTE DES JOUEURS
LISTA DE LOS JUGADORES - SPIELERLISTE

FIFA

1 **TEAM A** _____ **TEAM B**_____

2 PLAYED IN / JOUE A / JUGADO EN / GESPIELT IN

_____ / _____ / _____
(CITY - VILLE - CIUDAD - STADT) (DATE - DATE - FECHA - DATUM) (TIME - HEURE - HORA - UHRZEIT)

3 **TEAM OF** _____

	CAPTAIN / CAPITAINE / CAPITÁN / KAPITÄN	NO.	POS.	SURNAME / NOM DE FAMILLE / APELLIDO(S) / FAMILIENNAME	FIRST NAME(S) / PRENOM(S) / NOMBRE(S) / VORNAME(N)	DATE OF BIRTH / DATE DE NAISSANCE / FECHA DE NACIMIENTO / GEBURTSDATUM (dd/mm/yy)
GOALKEEPER / GARDIEN DE BUT / GUARDAMETA / TORWART						
OUTFIELD PLAYERS / JOUEURS DE CHAMPS / JUGADORES DE CAMPO / FELDSPIELER			G			
RESERVES / REMPLAÇANTS / SUSTITUTOS / ERSATZSPIELER			G			
			G			

G = Goalkeeper / D = Defender / M = Midfielder / F = Forward

4 NAME OF THE COACH:
NOM DE L'ENTRAINEUR:
NOMBRE DEL ENTRENADOR:
NAME DES TRAINERS:

Signature of Team Administrator: .....

THIS LIST MUST BE FAXED TO THE FIFA SECRETARIAT **WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE MATCH.**
CETTE LISTE DOIT ETRE ENVOYEE PAR FAX AU SECRETARIAT DE LA FIFA **DANS LES 48 HEURES APRES LE MATCH.**
ESTA LISTA DEBERÁ SER REMITIDA POR FAX A LA SECRETARÍA DE LA FIFA **EN UN PLAZO DE 48 H DESPUÉS DEL PARTIDO.**
DIESE LISTE MUSS DEM SEKRETARIAT DER FIFA **INNERHALB VON 48 STUNDEN** PER FAX GESCHICKT WERDEN.
FIFA-STRASSE 20, P.O. BOX, 8044 ZURICH, SWITZERLAND, TELEPHONE 41-43/222 7777, TELEFAX 41-43/222 7878

RECEIPT DECLARATION FORM

FEUILLE DE RECETTES

HOJA DE INGRESOS

EINNAHME-ERKLÄRUNG

1	TEAM A _____ (HOME TEAM) TEAM B _____ (VISITING TEAM)				
2	PLAYED IN / JOUE A / JUGADO EN / GESPIELT IN _____ (CITY - VILLE - CIUDAD - STADT) / _____ (DATE - DATE - FECHA - DATUM) / _____ (TIME - HEURE - HORA - ZEIT)				
3	STADIUM / SUR LE TERRAIN DE / ESTADIO / STADION _____				
4	NUMBER OF SPECTATORS / NOMBRE DE SPECTATEURS / NÚMERO DE ESPECTADORES / ANZAHL ZUSCHAUER _____				
5	**GROSS RECEIPTS / RECETTES BRUTES / INGRESOS BRUTOS / BRUTTOEINNAHMEN**				
5.1	TICKET SALES / BILLETS D'ENTREE / VENTA DE ENTRADAS / EINTRITTSKARTEN				
	NUMBER / NOMBRE / NÚMERO / ANZAHL		PRICE / PRIX UNITAIRE / PRECIO UNITARIO / EINHEITSPREIS		TOTAL / TOTAL / TOTAL / TOTAL
				=	+
				=	+
				=	+
				=	+
				=	+
				=	+
5.2	TELEVISION FEE / DROITS DE TELEVISION / DERECHOS DE TELEVISIÓN / FERNSEHEINNAHMEN				+
5.3	ADVERTISING / PUBLICITE / PUBLICIDAD / WERBUNG				+
5.4	OTHERS / AUTRES / OTROS / ANDERE				+
5.5	**TOTAL** IN LOCAL CURRENCY / EN MONNAIE LOCALE / EN MONEDA LOCAL / IN LOKALER WÄHRUNG				=

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6	**TAXES AND HIRE OF THE STADIUM / TAXES ET LOCATION DU STADE IMPUESTOS Y ALQUILER DEL ESTADIO / STEUERN UND STADIONMIETE**	
6.1	TAXES (STATE, LOCAL) TAXES (GOUVERNEMENTALES, PROVINCIALES, MUNICIPALES) IMPUESTOS (GUBERNAMENTALES, PROVINCIALES, MUNICIPALES) STEUERN (STAAT, PROVINZ, GEMEINDE)	+
6.2	HIRE OF THE STADIUM LOCATION DU STADE ALQUILER DEL ESTADIO STADIONMIETE	+
6.3	**TOTAL** IN LOCAL CURRENCY / EN MONNAIE LOCALE EN MONEDA LOCAL / IN LOKALER WÄHRUNG **(TOTAL 30% MAXIMUM / TOTAL 30% AU MAXIMUM / TOTAL 30 % MÁXIMO / TOTAL 30% MAXIMUM)**	=
7	**NET RECEIPTS / RECETTES NETTES INGRESOS NETOS / NETTOEINNAHMEN**	
7.1	TOTAL GROSS RECEIPTS / TOTAL RECETTES BRUTES TOTAL INGRESOS BRUTOS / TOTAL BRUTTO-EINNAHMEN = Section 5.5	+
	LESS / MOINS / MENOS / ABZÜGLICH	
7.2	TOTAL TAXES AND HIRE / TOTAL TAXES ET LOCATION TOTAL IMPUESTOS Y AQUILER / TOTAL STEUERN UND MIETE = Section 6.3	-
7.3	**TOTAL** IN LOCAL CURRENCY / EN MONNAIE LOCALE EN MONEDA LOCAL / IN LOKALER WÄHRUNG	=

8	LEVY DUE TO FIFA (see below) POURCENTAGE DÛ A LA FIFA PORCENTAJE ADEUDADO A LA FIFA SPIELABGABE AN DIE FIFA	IN LOCAL CURRENCY EN MONNAIE LOCALE EN MONEDA LOCAL IN LOKALER WÄHRUNG	IN SWISS FRANCS EN FRANCS SUISSES EN FRANCOS SUIZOS IN SCHWEIZER FRANKEN

FOR MATCHES BETWEEN **TEAMS FROM THE SAME CONFEDERATION** THE LEVY DUE IS **1% (MIN. CHF 500)**. FOR MATCHES BETWEEN **TEAMS FROM TWO DIFFERENT CONFEDERATIONS** THE LEVY DUE IS **2% (MIN. CHF 500)**. THE LEVIES DUE TO FIFA AND THE CONFEDERATIONS SHALL BE PAID WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE MATCH AT THE OFFICIAL RATE OF EXCHANGE ON THE DAY THE PAYMENT IS DUE.

THE UNDERSIGNED GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ORGANISING ASSOCIATION CERTIFIES WITH HIS SIGNATURE THAT THE DECLARATIONS CONTAINED IN THIS RECEIPT FORM ARE CORRECT AND COMPLETE AND THAT HE WILL REMIT THE AMOUNT OF PERCENTAGE DUE TO FIFA TO THEIR UBS ACCOUNT, ZURICH.

POUR LES MATCHES **ENTRE EQUIPES D'UNE MEME CONFEDERATION**, LE POURCENTAGE DÛ EST DE **1% (MIN. CHF 500.-)**. POUR LES MATCHES **ENTRE EQUIPES DE DEUX CONFEDERATIONS DIFFERENTES**, LE POURCENTAGE DÛ EST DE **2% (MIN. CHF 500.-)**. LE POURCENTAGE DÛ A LA FIFA ET AUX CONFEDERATIONS SERA ACQUITTE DANS UN DELAI DE 60 JOURS APRES LE MATCH AU COURS DU CHANGE OFFICIEL DU JOUR OÛ LE MONTANT EST DÛ.

LE SOUSSIGNE, SECRETAIRE GENERAL DE L'ASSOCIATION ORGANISATRICE, CERTIFIE PAR SA SIGNATURE QUE LES DECLARATIONS FIGURANT SUR CETTE FEUILLE DE RECETTES SONT EXACTES ET COMPLETES ET IL S'ENGAGE A FAIRE VIRER LE MONTANT DU POURCENTAGE DÛ A LA FIFA SUR SON COMPTE AUPRES DE L'UBS, ZURICH.

POR PARTIDOS DE **EQUIPOS DE LA MISMA CONFEDERACIÓN** SE ABONA UN PORCENTAJE DEL **1 % (MÍN. 500 CHF)** POR PARTIDOS DE **EQUIPOS DE DOS CONFEDERACIONES** SE ABONA UN PORCENTAJE DEL **2 % (MÍN. 500 CHF).** LOS PORCENTAJES QUE SE DEBEN A LA FIFA Y A LAS CONFEDERACIONES SE PAGARÁN EN UN PLAZO DE 60 DÍAS DESPUÉS DEL PARTIDO AL TIPO DE CAMBIO OFICIAL DEL DÍA EN QUE SE DEBE EFECTUAR EL PAGO.

EL QUE SUBSCRIBE, SECRETARIO GENERAL DE LA ASOCIACIÓN NACIONAL ORGANIZADORA, CERTIFICA CON SU FIRMA QUE LAS DECLARACIONES QUE CONTIENE ESTA HOJA DE INGRESOS SON EXACTAS Y COMPLETAS Y SE COMPROMETE A REMITIR EL IMPORTE DEL PORCENTAJE A LA CUENTA DE LA FIFA EN EL UBS, ZURICH.

FÜR SPIELE ZWISCHEN **TEAMS DERSELBEN KONFÖDERATION** BELÄUFT SICH DIE ABGABE AUF **1 % (MIND. CHF 500)**, FÜR SPIELE ZWISCHEN **TEAMS VERSCHIEDENER KONFÖDERATIONEN AUF 2 % (MIND. CHF 500)**. DIE ABGABE AN DIE FIFA UND DIE KONFÖDERATIONEN IST INNERHALB VON 60 TAGEN NACH DEM SPIEL ZUM OFFIZIELLEN KURS DES FÄLLIGKEITSDATUMS ZAHLBAR.

DER UNTERZEICHNETE GENERALSEKRETÄR DES ORGANISIERENDEN VERBANDES BESCHEINIGT DURCH UNTERSCHRIFT, DASS DIE ANGABEN IN DIESER EINNAHME-ERKLÄRUNG RICHTIG UND VOLLSTÄNDIG SIND, UND ER VERPFLICHTET SICH, DEN BETRAG DES PROZENTSATZES AUF DAS KONTO BEI DER UBS IN ZÜRICH EINZUZAHLEN.

9	DATE	SIGNATURE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY
	DATE	SIGNATURE DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL
	FECHA _____	FIRMA DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL _____
	DATUM	UNTERSCHRIFT DES GENERALSEKRETÄRS

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For the Good of the Game

Match Agents Regulations



Match Agents Regulations

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Match Agents Regulations

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Match Agents Regulations

At its meeting on 17 December 2002, the FIFA Executive Committee passed the following regulations in compliance with art. 16 par. 3 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes.

To simplify matters, the use of the male gender in these regulations applies to both males and females.

Preamble

1 These regulations govern the occupation of match agents who arrange matches between teams belonging to different confederations.

2 Any confederation that makes use of its entitlement to issue its own match agent's licence (cf. art. 3 par. 2 of these regulations) shall ensure that its regulations are based on the guidelines contained in these regulations. In particular, the principles outlined under art. 4, 8, 9, 12, 16, 17, 19 and 24 of these regulations are binding for confederations.

I. Principles

Art. 1

The employment of agents to arrange matches shall be permitted (cf. art. 16 par. 1 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes).

Art. 2

Agents who arrange matches between teams belonging to different confederations must be in possession of a licence issued by FIFA (cf. art. 16 par. 3 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes).

Art. 3

1 Agents who arrange matches between teams from the same confederation must be officially recognised by the confederation in question (cf. art. 16 par. 2 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes).

2 Confederations shall be entitled to make provisions to issue a licence of their own.

3 If a confederation makes use of this entitlement, a match agent who is either domiciled or has his headquarters within that confederation shall not be authorised to become a FIFA match agent unless he has already obtained a licence from this confederation.

4 If a confederation has no provisions to issue a licence, the match agent may obtain a licence from FIFA.

II. FIFA licence

Art. 4

1 Anyone wishing to obtain a FIFA licence to arrange matches shall send a written request to the FIFA general secretariat.

2 Only a natural person may apply for a licence. Applications from companies or clubs are not permitted.

Art. 5

1 The national association where the prospective match agent is either domiciled or has his headquarters shall enclose written confirmation with the application that

a) the candidate applying for the licence has a good reputation;

b) it does not object to the candidate acting as an agent to organise matches.

2 It is the responsibility of the national association in question to examine the application.

Art. 6

In his application, the prospective match agent shall formally declare that he is fully conversant with the terms of these regulations and the provisions contained in art. 16 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes and that he accepts the conditions therein.

Art. 7

Once the above-mentioned conditions have been fulfilled, the FIFA general secretariat shall submit the application received to the FIFA Players' Status Committee.

Art. 8

1 Once the application has been approved by the FIFA Players' Status Committee, the candidate shall conclude professional liability insurance with an insurance company in his country.

If the candidate is domiciled or has his headquarters in the European Union (EU)/ European Economic Area (EEA), he may conclude the requisite insurance policy with an insurance company in any EU/EEA country.

The candidate shall then send the insurance policy to the FIFA general secretariat.

2 The aim of the insurance is to cover any claims for compensation that are made by any party under contract with a match agent and that have arisen from the match agent's typical activities which, in the opinion of FIFA, have contravened the principles of these regulations (cf. art. 20 of these regulations). The policy shall therefore be worded in such a way that every possible risk connected with a match agent's occupation is covered.

3 The minimum amount to be covered by the insurance policy shall not be less than CHF 200,000 or the equivalent in another currency. Match agents may insure themselves for a higher amount in accordance with their turnover.

4 The professional liability insurance policy shall also cover claims made after expiry of the policy regarding events that occurred during the duration of the policy.

5 The match agent is required to renew the insurance policy as soon as it has expired and automatically send the relevant documents to the FIFA general secretariat.

Art. 9

1 If it is impossible for the candidate to conclude a professional liability insurance policy in his country in compliance with art. 8 above, he may deposit a bank guarantee to the amount of CHF 100,000. The guarantee shall be issued by a Swiss bank and shall be irrevocable.

2 Only FIFA has access to this bank guarantee, which has the same objective as that of professional liability insurance (cf. art. 8 par. 2 of these regulations). The amount of the guarantee (CHF 100,000) does not represent the maximum amount that may be due to any party claiming damages.

3 If the amount of the guarantee is reduced by a payment from the bank in response to a claim for damages against a match agent, the agent's licence will be suspended until the amount of the guarantee has been restored to the initial amount (CHF 100,000).

Art. 10

Once it has received the professional liability insurance policy or, in exceptional cases, the bank guarantee, the FIFA general secretariat shall issue the licence.

Art. 11

The rights and duties described under chapter III below are inherent in the licence.

Art. 12

The match agent's licence is not transferable. It is not commercial property that can be negotiated, loaned or sold.

III. Rights and duties inherent in the FIFA licence

Art. 13

The FIFA licence to arrange matches confers upon the holder the exclusive right to arrange friendly matches or tournaments between national teams or clubs from different confederations.

Art. 14

It is the responsibility of the clubs to obtain authorisation from their national associations to arrange one or more matches involving two clubs from different national associations.

Art. 15

If no arrangements have been made directly between clubs and/or national associations, the latter shall, in principle, only authorise matches organised by authorised agents.

Art. 16

The club, national association or the person the match agent claims he is representing, shall, upon demand, confirm such a mandate in writing as well as any commitments undertaken on their behalf.

Art. 17

Any commitments undertaken by and for a match agent shall be drawn up in duplicate in writing in the form of a contract signed by all the parties concerned.

Art. 18

1 To be valid, a contract drawn up in accordance with art. 17 shall contain provisions covering:

a) expenses for travel, board and basic living costs of the contractual parties;

b) the total net indemnification (after deduction of all charges, levies or taxes) due to the contractual parties;

c) the conditions that shall apply if a match is (or matches are) cancelled in the case of force majeure;

d) the conditions that shall apply if a player who was due to have been fielded under the terms of the contract does not appear in the team (including reasons of force majeure);

e) the fact that the parties concerned shall be aware of these regulations and undertake to observe the provisions therein.

2 Contracts that do not include one or more of the above provisions shall be null and void.

Art. 19

1 The commission received by the FIFA match agent shall not exceed 25% of the amount he has negotiated for the club or national association he represents. Contractual provisions that contain higher commission shall be null and void, but do not affect the validity of the contract as a whole.

2 If the contract concluded between the FIFA match agent and his client does not contain any provisions regarding commission, the match agent shall be entitled to compensation of 10% of the amount he has negotiated for the club or national association he represents.

Art. 20

1 FIFA may intervene to ensure that any commitments undertaken between match agents and teams under contract to the agents are observed only if the two conditions mentioned under art. 16 par. 4 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes have been complied with.

2 If one of the parties to the contract can prove that it has suffered loss as a result of a match agent's activities, the FIFA Players' Status Committee may decide to indemnify the party concerned from the professional liability insurance or, in exceptional cases, from the bank guarantee provided by the match agent (cf. art. 8 and 9 of these regulations).

3 If a match agent repeatedly causes problems, the FIFA Players' Status Committee may decide to withdraw his licence.

4 Any national association or club that does not observe the commitments it has undertaken or fails to adhere to the provisions contained herein shall be sanctioned in accordance with the statutes and regulations in force.

Art. 21

The FIFA body responsible for supervising and ruling on any matters connected with the application of these regulations shall be the FIFA Players' Status Committee.

IV. Disputes

Art. 22

1 In the event of a dispute between a match agent and a national association, a club and/or another match agent, the complaint shall be submitted to the FIFA Players' Status Committee for consideration and resolution.

2 Any confederation that makes use of the entitlement to issue a match agent's licence (cf. art. 3 of these regulations) shall be responsible for dealing with disputes between a

match agent and a national association, a club and/or another match agent, whenever all of the parties involved are registered with the same confederation. In such a case, the confederation in question is obliged to deal with the case and pass a decision.

3 The FIFA Players' Status Committee shall not consider any dispute under these regulations if more than two years have elapsed since the facts leading to the dispute arose, and in any case no later than six months after the match agent concerned has terminated his activity as such.

V. Termination of Activity

Art. 23

1 Any FIFA match agent who terminates his activity is obliged to return his licence.

2 The match agent may not cancel his professional liability insurance policy until he has terminated his occupation (the licence has either been returned or withdrawn). The match agent shall, however, ensure that any claim for compensation that is made after termination of his occupation and that arises from his former activity as a match agent is covered by the insurance (cf. art. 8 par. 4 of these regulations).

VI. Transitional Provisions

Art. 24

Any match agent who has deposited a bank guarantee with a Swiss bank in compliance with art. 8 of the Regulations Governing Match Agents dated 2 May 1995 may request FIFA to release the bank guarantee upon production of a professional liability insurance policy. The policy shall have been issued by an insurance company in the country of the match agent concerned.

If the match agent is domiciled or has his headquarters in the European Union (EU)/ European Economic Area (EEA), he may conclude the requisite insurance policy with an insurance company in any EU/EEA country.

Art. 25

Any dispute between a match agent and a national association, a club and/or another match agent that was submitted to FIFA before these regulations came into force shall be settled in compliance with the former version of the FIFA Regulations Governing Match Agents dated 2 May 1995.

VII. Final Provisions

Art. 26

Any matter not provided for in these regulations shall be settled by the FIFA Players' Status Committee.

Art. 27

These regulations were initially adopted on 13 June 1991 and subsequently amended on 31 May 1995 and 17 December 2002. The new version shall come into force on 1 March 2003.

Madrid/Zurich, 17 December 2002

For the FIFA Executive Committee:

President	General Secretary
Joseph S. Blatter	Urs Linsi

FIFA

For the Game. For the World.

Regulations

Club Licensing





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DEFINITIONS

	Definition
Accounting policies	The specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices adopted by an entity in preparing and presenting its financial statements.
Annual financial statements	A complete set of financial statements prepared as at the statutory closing date, normally including a balance sheet, profit and loss account, a statement of cash flows and those notes, other statements and explanatory material that are an integral part of the financial statements.
Control	The power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.
Core process	Minimum requirements that the licensor must put in place for verification of compliance with the criteria described in the regulations as a basis for the issue of a licence to an applicant.
Criteria	Requirements to be fulfilled by the licence applicant divided into five categories (sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative, legal and financial), with each category being split into three grades A-C (mandatory and best-practice recommendation).
Deadline for submission of the application to the licensor	The date by which each licensor requires the licence applicant to have submitted all relevant information for its application for a licence.

	Definition
Employee benefits	All forms of consideration given by an entity in exchange for service rendered by employees.
Licence	Certificate confirming fulfilment of all mandatory minimum requirements by the licensee in order to start the admission procedure for confederation club competitions.
Licence applicant	Legal entity fully and solely responsible for the football team participating in national and international club competitions that applies for a licence.
Licensee	Licence applicant which has been granted a licence by the licensor.
Licensor	Body that operates the licensing system and grants the licence.
May	Indicates a party's discretion to do something (i.e. optional rather than mandatory).
Must or shall	Indicates an obligation to do something (i.e. mandatory).
National club licensing regulations	Working document which describes the national club licensing system in a particular country. It includes all the minimum requirements of the FIFA and confederation licensing system as well as any specific national particularities and objectives.

DEFINITIONS

Definition	
Related party	A party is related to an entity if: a) directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, the party: i) controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with, the entity (this includes parents, subsidiaries and fellow subsidiaries); ii) has an interest in the entity that gives it significant influence over the entity; or iii) has joint control over the entity; b) the party is an associate of the entity; c) the party is a joint venture in which the entity is a venturer; d) the party is a member of the key management personnel of the entity or its parent; e) the party is a close member of the family of any individual referred to in (a) or (d); f) the party is an entity that is controlled, jointly controlled or significantly influenced by, or for which significant voting power in such entity resides with, directly or indirectly, any individual referred to in (d) or (e); or g) the party is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of the entity, or of any entity that is a related party of the entity.
Stadium	The venue for a competition match, including, but not limited to, all properties and facilities near to such stadium (e.g. offices, hospitality areas, press centres and accreditation centres).

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 Introduction

The FIFA Club Licensing Regulations (hereinafter: FIFA regulations) are a basic working document for confederations and member associations that is to be transformed into national club licensing regulations (hereinafter: national regulations). They incorporate minimum requirements and guidelines and have been developed according to the principles elaborated by the FIFA Task Force "For the Good of the Game".

The FIFA regulations are divided into two main sections.

The first section addresses the member association as the licensor, explaining its tasks, defining the licence applicant and the licensing bodies as well as the core process to be applied.

The second section is directed at the clubs of the member association. The five categories of minimum criteria are described in five chapters, which are as follows: sporting criteria, infrastructure criteria, personnel and administrative criteria, legal criteria and financial criteria. The criteria are divided into three different grades ("A", "B" and "C").

The confederations and member associations are invited to:

a) read and understand the FIFA regulations;
b) decide whether the club licensing system applies to the national context (which divisions or clubs and which criteria);
c) take into account national law, statutes and regulations;
d) adapt their own structure and relevant organisation according to the minimum requirements regarding the core process and further procedures;
e) consider increasing the minimum criteria set in this document and upgrading or adding other criteria according to the specific needs and the existing quality of confederations and domestic competitions;
f) set up a working plan for the implementation of the FIFA regulations at confederation and national level.

The national regulations must be accredited by the relevant confederation.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 Objectives of the club licensing system

The club licensing system has the following overall objectives in accordance with the decision taken by the FIFA Congress in Munich in 2006:

- safeguarding the credibility and integrity of club competitions;
- improving the level of professionalism within the football family;
- promoting sporting values in accordance with the principles of fair play as well as safe and secure match environments;
- promoting transparency in the finances of clubs;
- promoting transparency in the ownership of clubs;
- promoting transparency in the control of clubs.

Article 2 Procedure

2.1 Criteria gradation

2.1.1 *Principle*

2.1.1.1 The criteria described in these FIFA regulations are graded into three separate categories.

2.1.1.2 The different grades have been defined as follows:

a) "A" criteria – "MANDATORY": if the licence applicant does not fulfil any "A" criteria, then it may not be granted a licence to enter confederation/national club competitions;

b) "B" criteria – "MANDATORY": if the licence applicant does not fulfil any "B" criteria, then it is sanctioned as specified by the licensor but may still receive a licence to enter confederation/national club competitions;

c) "C" criteria – "BEST PRACTICE": "C" criteria are best-practice recommendations. Non-fulfilment of any "C" criteria does not lead to any sanction or to the refusal of the licence. Certain "C" criteria may become mandatory criteria at a later stage.

2.2 Licensing implementation

2.2.1 *Principle*

2.2.1.1 These FIFA regulations must be transformed into confederation club licensing regulations (hereinafter: confederation regulations) which set the minimum criteria to be integrated into national regulations.

2.2.2 *Implementation at confederation level*

2.2.2.1 The implementation of the club licensing system at confederation level includes the following steps:

a) existence of a legal basis within the statutes;

b) the integration of the principles of the FIFA regulations into confederation regulations.

2.2.3 *Existence of a legal basis within the statutes of the confederation*

2.2.3.1 For the implementation of the club licensing system, each confederation must have a legal basis within its statutes that describes the objective of the system and the relevant authority and contains a reference to further, more detailed regulations.

2.2.4 *Integration of the FIFA regulations into confederation regulations*

2.2.4.1 Each confederation shall include the principles and minimum criteria defined in the FIFA regulations in confederation regulations.

2.2.4.2 The FIFA regulations are structured and worded in such a manner that the confederation can use their full text as a master document. The confederation is free to increase the minimum requirements or to upgrade the criteria established by these regulations for the purpose of entering confederation club competitions.

2.2.5 *Implementation at national level*

2.2.5.1 The implementation of the club licensing system at national level includes the following steps and processes:

a) existence of a legal basis within the statutes;
b) establishment of rules regarding sanctions under the national club licensing system;
c) integration of the minimum criteria defined in the confederation regulations into national regulations, including the exception and accreditation processes;
d) decision on the applicability of the licensing system to licence applicants;
e) option for the member association to delegate club licensing responsibilities to an affiliated league.

2.2.6 *Existence of a legal basis within the statutes of the member association*

2.2.6.1 For the implementation of the club licensing system, each member association must have a legal basis within its statutes that describes the objective of the system and the relevant authority and contains a reference to further, more detailed regulations.

2.2.6.2 As an alternative, the club licensing system may also be based on a contract between the club and the member association.

2.2.7 *Sanctions under the national club licensing system*

2.2.7.1 To guarantee an appropriate assessment process the member association shall:

a) set up a catalogue of sanctions for the club licensing system (e.g. for non-fulfilment of B criteria). It pertains to the relevant licensing bodies to determine these sanctions against licence applicants/licensees.

The catalogue of sanctions may include a caution, a fine and the obligation to submit evidence or fulfil certain conditions by a certain deadline, etc.

If the club licensing system also applies to participation in national competitions, the catalogue of sanctions may additionally include the deduction of points, a prohibition on concluding new transfer agreements or players' contracts, the obligation to submit guarantees, etc. Furthermore, the licensor may sanction the club before the start as well as during the season;

b) refer to national disciplinary regulations with regard to the violation of the licensing regulations (e.g. submission of falsified documents, failure to meet deadlines, sanctions against individuals, etc.).

2.2.8 *Integration of the confederation regulations into national regulations*

2.2.8.1 Each member association shall define the parties involved (licensor, licence applicant, decision-making bodies), their rights and duties, the criteria and the necessary processes in accordance with the confederation regulations for entering confederation club competitions.

2.2.8.2 The transformation of the confederation regulations into national regulations includes the following processes that require the approval of the confederation:

a) exception process and policy, whereby a member association may request exceptions to certain criteria;
b) accreditation process, whereby the confederations must approve the national regulations.

Both the exception process and accreditation process must be set up by the relevant confederation. The confederation must also set the relevant deadlines.

2.2.8.3 The member association is free to increase the minimum requirements or to upgrade the criteria established in the confederation regulations for the purpose of entering confederation and/or national club competitions. The member association may also introduce additional criteria not included in the confederation regulations. Where introduced by the member association in its national regulations, any increased minimum requirements, upgraded or additional criteria shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to entry for confederation club competitions. The member association may also adapt the wording of their regulations according to:

a) member associations' objectives and priorities;
b) the statutes and regulations of the member association;
c) national law;
d) flexibility given by the confederation.

2.2.9 *Applicability of the system*

2.2.9.1 The member association must decide to which clubs the system applies. As a minimum, the club licensing system must be implemented in respect of top-division clubs which qualify for confederation club competitions on sporting merit. It is best practice to implement the club licensing system in respect of all top-division clubs of the member association.

2.2.9.2 The member association may also decide to implement the system in respect of participation in both confederation competitions and national competitions (top division and lower divisions). The quality standards would thereby be improved on a broader basis in the national championship as well as in confederation club competitions, and clubs of the same division would be treated equally.

2.2.10 *Option to delegate the club licensing system to an affiliated league*

2.2.10.1 The member association may delegate the club licensing system to an affiliated league subject to the approval of the confederation's executive committee.

2.2.10.2 Vis-à-vis FIFA and the confederation, the member association as a member of FIFA and the confederation remains responsible for the proper implementation of the club licensing system, regardless of whether there is a delegation or not.

2.3 Bodies of the confederation

The confederation shall indicate the bodies through which the confederation shall act with regard to the club licensing system.

Article 3 Licensor

3.1 Introduction

This chapter defines the licensor and the decision-making bodies.

3.2 Definition of licensor

3.2.1 *Principle*

3.2.1.1 The member association is the licensor.

3.2.1.2 The licensor shall govern the licensing system, appoint the corresponding licensing bodies and determine the necessary processes.

3.2.1.3 The licensor guarantees the licensee full confidentiality with regard to all information given by the licence applicant during the licensing process. Anyone involved in the licensing process or appointed by the licensor must sign a confidentiality clause before commencing its tasks.

3.2.2 *Decision-making bodies*

3.2.2.1 The licensor shall establish an appropriate administration and appoint qualified staff members.

3.2.2.2 The licensor shall establish two decision-making bodies, the names of which it shall determine:

a) first-instance body (FIB);
b) appeals body (AB).

3.2.2.3 The decision-making bodies shall be independent from each other. They shall receive administrative support from the administration of the licensor. A member must in all cases automatically abstain if there is any doubt as to his/her independence towards the licence applicant or if there is a conflict of interest.

In this connection, the independence of a member may not be guaranteed if he/she or any member of his/her family (spouse, children, parents, siblings) is a member, shareholder, business partner, sponsor or consultant, etc. of the licence applicant. The foregoing list is illustrative and not exhaustive.

3.2.3 *First-instance body (FIB)*

3.2.3.1 The FIB shall decide on whether a licence shall be granted to an applicant on the basis of the documents provided and in accordance with the provisions of the national regulations at the submission deadline set by the licensor.

3.2.3.2 Unless provided otherwise by the statutes, the executive committee of the member association shall decide on the composition of this body.

3.2.3.3 The licensor shall decide on the quorum of the FIB. The quorum must be a minimum of three members. The chairman shall have the casting vote.

3.2.3.4 In the case of a licence refusal, the decision must be put in writing and include the reasoning.

3.2.3.5 Members of the FIB may not belong simultaneously to a statutory judicial body of the licensor and must act impartially in the discharge of their duties.

3.2.3.6 The licensor may nominate administrative staff of the member association and its affiliated league as members of the FIB, with the exception of the licensing manager, who may not be a member of the FIB.

3.2.3.7 The executive committee of the member association shall decide if the members of the FIB are elected or appointed.

3.2.4 *Appeals body (AB)*

3.2.4.1 The AB shall decide on appeals submitted in writing and make a final and binding decision on whether a licence shall be granted.

3.2.4.2 Appeals may only be lodged by:

a) the licence applicant following a refusal by the FIB;
b) the licensor, the competent body of which must be defined (e.g. licensing manager).

3.2.4.3 The AB shall make its decision based on the decision of the FIB and all the evidence provided by the licence applicant or licensor with its written request for appeal within the deadline determined in the appeal procedure by the chairman of the AB. Any further evidence submitted to the AB at a later stage shall not be taken into account.

3.2.4.4 In the case of a licence refusal, the decision must be put in writing and include the reasoning.

3.2.4.5 The member association shall decide whether the club licensing system comes under the authority of the court of arbitration specified in its statutes. In this respect, particular attention shall be paid to the relevant deadlines for entering confederation club competitions.

3.2.4.6 Unless otherwise provided by the statutes, the executive committee of the member association shall decide on the composition of the AB.

3.2.4.7 The licensor shall decide on the quorum for the decisions of the AB. The quorum must be a minimum of three members. The chairman shall have the casting vote.

3.2.4.8 Administrative staff of the member association and its affiliated league may not be members of the AB.

3.2.4.9 Members of the AB may not simultaneously be members of any other statutory body or committee of the licensor.

3.2.4.10 The executive committee of the member association shall decide if the members of the AB are elected or appointed.

3.2.5 *Decision-making procedure*

3.2.5.1 In the national regulations or in a specific regulation, the licensor shall define procedural rules with respect to decision-making (cf. 5.1.1). These shall, as a minimum, regulate the following standards:

a) deadlines (e.g. submission deadlines);
b) the principle of equal treatment;
c) representation (e.g. legal representation);
d) the right to be heard (e.g. convocation, hearing);
e) official language(s);
f) time limit to issue a request (e.g. calculation, compliance, interruption and extension thereof);
g) time limit to appeal;
h) effect of the appeal;
i) type of evidence requested;
j) burden of proof (e.g. licence applicant has burden of proof);
k) decisions (in writing with reasoning, etc);
l) ground for complaint;
m) content and form of pleading;
n) deliberation and hearings;
o) cost of procedure, administrative fee and deposit.

Article 4 Licence applicant and licence

4.1 Introduction

This chapter defines the legal entity that must apply for the licence and the licence to enter confederation and/or national club competitions.

The legal entity applying for a licence is called the licence applicant. Once the licence applicant has been granted a licence by the licensor it becomes a licensee. For the purpose of this chapter only, the term licence applicant is used.

4.2 Circle of licence applicants

4.2.1 *Authority to define licence applicants*

4.2.1.1 The licensor defines the licence applicants according to the statutes and regulations of the member association, the following provisions and in accordance with national law. This may be regulated in the licensing regulations and/or in the statutes of the member association and/or in other specific national regulations. Furthermore, FIFA and confederation statutes as well as relevant regulations must also be taken into account (e.g. FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players).

4.3 Definition of licence applicant

4.3.1 *Principle*

4.3.1.1 The licence applicant is defined as being the legal entity fully responsible for the football team which participantes in national and international club competitions and which is a member of the member association.

4.3.1.2 The status of a football club (professional, semi-professional or amateur) is not relevant to the issue of a licence.

4.3.1.3 The legal form of a football club is not relevant to the issue of the licence in accordance with national statutes and law.

4.3.1.4 Only a registered member may apply for/receive a licence. Natural persons may not apply for/receive a licence.

4.3.1.5 The licence applicant is fully responsible for participation in national and international football competitions as well as the fulfilment of the club licensing criteria.

4.3.1.6 The licence applicant is, in particular, responsible for ensuring the following:

a) that all players are registered at the member association and/or its affiliated league and, if professional players, that they have a written employment contract with either the registered member (see articles 2 and 5 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players);

b) that all the compensation paid to the players arising from contractual or legal obligations and all the revenues arising from gate receipts are accounted for in the books of the registered member;

c) that the licence applicant is fully responsible for the football team composed of registered players participating in national and international competitions;
d) that the licensor is provided with all necessary information and/or documents relevant to proving that the licensing obligations are fulfilled. These obligations relate to the sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative and legal and financial criteria set out under articles 6-10 respectively;
e) that the licensor is provided with information on the reporting entity/entities in respect of which sporting, infrastructure, personnel and administrative and legal and financial information is required to be provided. In turn, the licensor must assess whether, in respect of each licence applicant, the selected reporting entity/entities is/are appropriate for club licensing purposes.

4.3.1.7 In addition to the above-mentioned mandatory provisions, it is recommended that the licence applicant:

a) is based legally in the territory of the member association and plays its home matches only in that territory. The member association may define exceptions, subject to the approval of FIFA and the confederation;
b) has the right to use the name and the brands of the club and does not change the name of the club for advertising/promotional purposes;
c) accepts no clauses in contracts with television, sponsors or other commercial partners that could restrict the club in its freedom of decision or affect its management.

4.4 Licence

4.4.1 *Principle*

4.4.1.1 Licences must be issued according to the provisions of the accredited national regulations.

4.4.1.2 The licensor must issue an invitation to the football clubs to apply for a licence punctually and in writing. The club applying for a licence must submit a written application to the licensor. In this application, the club must, in particular, declare that it shall fulfil the obligations of the licensing system.

4.4.1.3 Only clubs which fulfil the criteria set in the accredited national regulations by the relevant deadline and that have qualified on the basis of their sporting results may be granted a licence by the member association to enter the confederation/national club competitions of the coming season.

4.4.1.4 A licence expires without prior notice at the end of the season for which it was issued.

4.4.1.5 A licence may be withdrawn by the national decision-making bodies during a season if:

a) for any reason a licensee becomes insolvent and enters into liquidation during the season, as determined by the applicable national law (where a licensee becomes insolvent but enters administration during the season, the licence should not be withdrawn as long as the purpose of the administration is to rescue the club and its business);
b) any of the conditions for the issue of a licence are no longer satisfied; or
c) the licensee violates any of its obligations under the national regulations.

4.4.1.6 As soon as a licence withdrawal is envisaged, the member association must inform the confederation.

4.4.1.7 A licence may not be transferred.

4.5 Extraordinary application of the club licensing system for entering confederation club competitions

4.5.1 *Principle*

4.5.1.1 If a club qualifies for a confederation club competition based on its sporting results but has not undergone a national licensing process at all or has undergone a licensing process which is lower/not equivalent to the one applicable to top-division clubs because it belongs to a division other than the top division, the member association of the club concerned may – on behalf of such a club – request the extraordinary application of the club licensing system.

4.5.1.2 In practice, such a club could for example be the winner or the runner-up of the main domestic cup or league cup playing in a division other than the top division.

4.5.1.3 Based on such an extraordinary application, the confederation may grant special permission to enter the corresponding club competition which only applies to that specific applicant and for the season in question.

4.5.2 *Procedure*

The confederation shall define the relevant procedure.

Article 5 Core process

5.1 Introduction

This article defines the assessment process (hereinafter: core process) of the club licensing system.

5.1.1 *Principle*

The core process describes the minimum requirements that the licensor must put in place for the verification of the criteria described in the FIFA regulations (sporting criteria, infrastructure criteria, personnel and administrative criteria and legal criteria and financial criteria) in order to control the issue of a licence to a licence applicant.

The core process must, as a minimum, fulfil the following requirements:

- The deadlines for submission of the licensing documentation must be clearly defined and communicated;
- The fulfilment of each set of criteria by the licence applicant must be verified by suitably qualified staff acting for the licensor;
- The decision-making process must be based on a two-step approach (i.e. first-instance and appeal);
- The decision-making bodies must fulfil the requirements of qualification, independence and confidentiality;
- The licensor shall submit to the confederation the list of licensed clubs by the relevant deadline. The confederation shall submit to FIFA the list of licensed clubs upon request by FIFA.

Article 6 Sporting criteria

6.1 Introduction

For the future of football it is absolutely necessary to have a broad base of footballers available who have the necessary skills and motivation to become professional players. Therefore, it is important to foster youth development programmes and to attract into football more and better-educated boys and girls who not only play the game but are also supporters.

6.2 Objectives

The objectives of the sporting criteria are that licence applicants:

- invest in quality-driven youth development programmes;
- support football education and encourage non-football education of their youth players;
- foster medical care of their youth players;
- practise fair play on and off the pitch.

6.3 Benefits for clubs

The first and main advantage of the sporting criteria is to "produce" football talents for the club's first-team squad every year. They also normally fit more easily and quickly into the first-team squad since they have partly trained with them, know their tactics and speak the same language. They lack only experience.

Under the FIFA transfer system, clubs that have trained players younger than 23 who are then transferred internationally receive financial compensation. Clubs will thus receive a return on their investment if they train young players. Programmes for improving relations and respect between coaches, officials, players and referees support the idea of fair play on and off the pitch. The image of the players and clubs will improve and on the other hand, fines for disciplinary sanctions can be reduced.

6.4 Criteria

6.4.1 *"A" criteria*

No.	Grade	Description
S.01	A	**Approved youth development programme** The licence applicant must have a written youth development programme approved by the licensor. This education programme must include at least the following: a) objectives and youth development philosophy; b) organisation of youth sector (organisational chart, bodies involved, relation to licence applicant, youth teams, etc.); c) personnel (technical, medical and administrative, etc.) and required minimum qualifications; d) infrastructure available for youth sector (training and match facilities, etc.); e) financial resources (available budget, contribution by licence applicant, players or local community etc.); f) a football education programme for the different age groups (playing skills, technical, tactical and physical); g) an educational programme on the Laws of the Game; h) medical support for youth players (including medical checks). The youth development programme must further show the licence applicant's commitment to and support of mandatory and complementary school education for youth players.
S.02	A	**Youth teams** The licence applicant must have at least the following youth teams within its legal entity or affiliated to its legal entity: a) at least one youth team within the age range of 15 to 21; b) at least one youth team within the age range of 10 to 14.

Article 7 Infrastructure criteria

7.1 Introduction

The criteria and requirements contained in this section are based mainly on the following documents:

- the Laws of the Game;
- the FIFA book *Football Stadiums – Technical Recommendations and Requirements*.

On the basis of these documents as well as long-standing experience, strict minimum requirements have been established and are described in the following pages. Because the infrastructure criteria should be seen as long-term investments, several recommendations have been introduced which must be taken into consideration if a stadium is to be built or renovated in the short term (one to three years). These recommendations will probably be essential requirements for stadiums one day. Therefore, it would be appreciated if the recommendations were either already incorporated into the stadium planning or stadium adaptations began right away in order to improve quality standards on a voluntary basis.

The national law also needs to be taken into consideration when establishing the stadium and security requirements.

7.2 Objectives

The objectives of the following infrastructure criteria are that licence applicants:

- have an approved stadium available for playing club competition matches that provides spectators and media and press representatives with a well-equipped, well-appointed and safe and comfortable stadium;
- have suitable training facilities for their players to help them improve their technical skills.

7.3 Benefits for clubs

It is appreciated that nowadays people only follow events that are attractive, entertaining and are worth spending a certain amount of money on. A match between two football teams is no longer enough to bring people into a football stadium to watch a match live. Therefore, each club, together with the stadium owner and the local community, should try to provide a stadium that is attractive to visit, safe and secure, easily accessible by car (including parking facilities) and/or public transport, has comfortable seats with a close view of the pitch, clean hospitality facilities and shops, is equipped with hygienic and spacious toilets for both sexes, provides communication installations (loudspeakers and a video screen) and, finally, also offers interesting and exciting football on the pitch.

Finally, the comfort of a stadium is an important element in terms of having a large crowd to support the teams on the pitch.

7.4 Criteria

7.4.1 *"A" criteria*

No.	Grade	Description
I.01	A	**Stadium – Certification** The stadium must be certified. The certification is defined according to national/local law and must include provisions related to safety and an evacuation plan. If such law does not exist, the licensor shall establish the content of the stadium certificate and the procedure in close cooperation with the appropriate body/bodies (e.g. local security authorities, the local hospital, fire brigade, police, etc.). The certificate issued by the appropriate body must not be older than two years at the beginning of the new club competition season.

I.02	A	**Stadium – Control room** Each stadium must have a control room which ensures an overall view of the inside of the stadium in accordance with the provisions of the applicable law or according to the requirements of the licensor, in consultation with the appropriate civil body (e.g. local police).
I.03	A	**Stadium – Capacity** The minimum capacity of the stadium shall be determined according to the average demand in the domestic championship.
I.04	A	**Stadium – Availability** The licence applicant must have a stadium available to host club competitions. *Alternative 1:* The licence applicant legally owns the stadium. *Alternative 2:* The licence applicant may provide a written contract with the owner of a stadium or with owners of different stadiums it will use within the territory of the member association. This contract guarantees the use of the stadium for home matches in the coming season for which the club qualifies in sporting terms.
I.05	A	**Stadium – Floodlighting** For evening matches, the stadium must be equipped with floodlight installations which comply with the standard values set by the confederation.
I.06	A	**Stadium – Spectator areas** Each stand within the stadium must be capable of being divided into separate sectors according to the requirements of the local security authorities or, if no such requirements exist, those of the licensor.

I.07	A	**Stadium – First aid rooms and stadium doping control room** Each stadium must be equipped with first aid room(s) to care for spectators in need of medical assistance. This must be done in accordance with local authority regulations, otherwise the licensor shall determine the exact number, size and location of the first aid room(s) in consultation with the appropriate civil body (e.g. local authorities for security and health). The doping control room must be near to the teams' and referees' dressing rooms and inaccessible to the public and the media.
I.08	A	**Field of play – Specification** The field of play must comply with the Laws of the Game and be: *Alternative 1:* Natural grass; *Alternative 2:* Artificial turf (according to the FIFA quality standards), subject to the relevant approvals.

7.4.2 *"B" criteria*

No.	Grade	Description
I.09	B	**Stadium – Ground rules** Each stadium must issue stadium ground rules and affix them to the stadium in such a way that the spectators can read them. These rules must provide information on at least the following: • admission rights; • abandonment or postponement of events; • description of prohibitions and penalties, such as entering the field of play, throwing objects, use of foul or abusive language, racist behaviour, etc.; • restrictions with regard to alcohol, fireworks, banners, etc.; • seating rules; • causes for ejection from the ground; • risk analysis specific to the stadium.

I.10	B	**Training facilities – Availability to club** The training facilities must be available to the club throughout the year. *Alternative 1:* The licence applicant legally owns the training facilities; *Alternative 2:* The licence applicant may provide written contract(s) with the owner(s) of the training facilities. This contract guarantees the use of the training facilities for the coming season for all club teams participating in a championship approved by the national/ regional association.
I.11	B	**Stadium – Sanitary facilities** Each stand must provide sufficient toilet facilities for both sexes in accordance with the local authority regulations or the licensor's requirements. These amenities must include washing facilities with at least cold water and a plentiful supply of towels and/or hand dryers. They must be bright, clean and hygienic and a procedure should be established to maintain that condition throughout each event.

7.4.3 *"C" criteria*

No.	Grade	Description
I.12	C	**Stadium – Individual seats** The stadium must be equipped with individual seats that must be: • fixed (e.g. to the floor); • separate from the others; • comfortable (anatomically formed); • numbered; and • have a backrest of a minimum height of 30cm when measured from the seat.

I.13	C	**Stadium – Covered seats** The licensor shall determine the minimum number of individual seats which must be covered.
I.14	C	**Stadium – Accommodation of visiting supporters** At least five per cent of the certified total stadium capacity must be made available for accommodating visiting supporters in a separate area. This provision is subject to decisions by the competent bodies of the licensor and/or the local authority regarding safety and security (high-risk matches, etc.).
I.15	C	**Stadium – Signposting and directions** All public direction signs inside and outside the stadium must be presented in internationally understandable pictographic language. Clear, comprehensive signposting must be provided at the stadium approaches and around and throughout the stadium to point the way to the different sectors.
I.16	C	**Stadium – Media and press facilities** There must be suitable media and press facilities (working room and press conference room). The licensor shall determine the content of this provision according to the actual needs of its media, taking into consideration the following recommendations, and in consultation with the appropriate media bodies (e.g. media committee): • specific media entrance to the stadium or entrances if there is separate access for photographers and TV personnel; • reception desk or room where late accreditation/media information can be collected; • permanent press seats, equipped with desks big enough to accommodate a laptop computer, a notepad and a telephone; • power supply and phone/modem connections at each desk;

- media working room accommodating a minimum of … persons (unless separate facilities are provided), including photographers (to be determined according to the average demand in the domestic championship);
- toilet facilities for both sexes;
- press conference room with a suitable number of seats (to be determined according to the average demand in the domestic championship);
- press conference room to be equipped with a sound system and split box;
- photographers with heavy equipment should have parking spaces available as close to the access point as possible and/or a drop-off point where they can unload equipment from vehicles;
- the licensor determines a minimum number of seats in the press box according to the average demand in its domestic championship.

I.17	C	**Stadium – Spectators with disabilities** The licensor shall set up requirements to accommodate disabled spectators and accompanying persons safely and comfortably.

Article 8 Personnel and administrative criteria

8.1 Introduction

Nowadays a football club is not only a sports club but is also in contact with other parties. The members, the supporters, the media, the sponsors, the suppliers, the commercial partners, the local community and, in some cases, the shareholders of the football club are increasingly involved and interested in the development and results of a football club.

Therefore, professional support should be sought from specialists from various economic fields and industries (e.g. marketing, finance, entertainment and media). They can share their knowledge and experience with today's football clubs to better satisfy the needs and demands of participants and stakeholders in football, who must be

treated as customers. Football clubs already operate in a competitive environment on the sporting side and they are increasingly becoming involved in an economic competition. Clubs must strengthen profitability in the long term. Football clubs should look for new and different sources of revenue in addition to the existing ones (TV, gate receipts, sponsors) in order to be more independent of the income from the club's sporting success and have a greater chance of functioning as a financially successful entity.

In this respect, football clubs need advice from other professionals, namely experienced, well-educated and innovative people who can bring different skills and know-how into the club and help to satisfy the additional needs and demands of football today.

8.2 Objectives

The objectives of the personnel and administrative criteria are to:

- manage licence applicants in a professional way;
- make well-educated, qualified and skilled specialists with a certain know-how and experience available to licence applicants;
- provide the players of the first and other teams with training by qualified coaches and support from the necessary medical staff.

8.3 Benefits for clubs

Professional, well-educated and experienced staff is of key importance to run a football club in an efficient and effective manner. Being professional at all levels and in all functions does not mean that licence applicants must recruit only full-time staff. The focus is on the professional manner in which the persons appointed perform their duties. Each criterion in this section is really important for the smooth and successful running of the club and every club should be able to afford these staff in financial terms. Professionalism will also be improved if clubs define clear profiles for these staff which include the main activities, the main responsibilities (technical, financial and decision-making power, if applicable) and the requirements for the job (education, work experience, technical know-how, IT skills, human competences, language skills and others including football know-how).

It is up to the decision-making body of the licence applicant to look for people who meet the set requirements and to engage those

candidates that comply with the defined profile (e.g. full-time, part-time, voluntary).

Qualified coaches are the basis for high-quality education within the football teams. In order to achieve this objective, licence applicants need the support of the member association to establish a coach education programme. To improve the football skills of the youth teams as well as the first-team squad in all aspects (technically, tactically and physically), trained and qualified coaches are needed. Each youth player who dreams of becoming a professional footballer is entitled to the best-qualified coaches from the youngest age. Other skills (e.g. psychological training, media training, social skills and language skills) are necessary and must be achieved through specific training organised by the member association with a view to issuing a licence for coaches. This is not only desirable but is a must.

8.4 Criteria

8.4.1 *"A" criteria*

No.	Grade	Description
P.01	A	**Club secretariat** The licence applicant must have available office space to run its administration. The required surface of the office(s) and the required minimum technical infrastructure including telephone, fax, internet access and e-mail must be available. The licence applicant must have appointed the appropriate number of skilled secretarial staff according to its needs to run its daily business. It must also ensure that its office is open to communicate with the licensor and the public.
P.02	A	**General manager** The licence applicant must have appointed a general manager responsible for running its daily business (operative matters). The appointment must have been made by the appropriate body (e.g. executive board) of the licence applicant.

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P.03	A	**Finance officer** The licence applicant must have appointed a qualified finance officer responsible for its financial matters, who can be either a person working in the club's administration or an external partner mandated by the club through a written contract. The appointment must have been made by the appropriate body of the licence applicant.
P.04	A	**Security officer** The licence applicant must have appointed a qualified security officer (with a specific diploma or experience) responsible for safety and security matters. The appointment must have been made by the appropriate body of the licence applicant.
P.05	A	**Doctor and physiotherapist** The licence applicant must have appointed at least one doctor and one physiotherapist responsible for providing medical support and advice to the first-team squad as well as doping prevention policy. He must ensure medical support during matches and training. The doctor must be recognised and certified by the appropriate national health authorities and be duly registered with the member association or league.
P.06	A	**Head coach of first-team squad** The licence applicant must have appointed a head coach responsible for the football matters of the first-team squad. The head coach must: a) hold the highest available coaching licence of the member association of the territory on which the licence applicant is situated or any valid foreign diploma which is equivalent to this one and recognised by the confederation as such; b) already have started the required education course recognised by the member association that will allow him to achieve the required diploma as defined under a) above; or

c) hold a "recognition of competence" issued by the member association if he has a minimum of five years' practical experience as head coach at any top or second-division club in the association. The head coach must be duly registered with the member association or league.

The appointment of the head coach must have been made by the appropriate body of the licence applicant.

P.07 A

Head of youth development programme

The licence applicant must have appointed a head of youth development programme responsible for running the daily business and the technical aspects of the youth sector.

The head of youth development programme must:

a) hold the second-highest available coaching licence of the member association of the territory on which the licence applicant is situated;

b) already have started the required education course recognised by the member association that will allow him to achieve the required diploma as defined under a) above or;

c) hold a "recognition of competence" issued by the member association if he has a minimum of two years' practical experience as head of youth development in any top or second-division club in the association.

The head of youth development programme must be duly registered with the member association or league.

The appointment of the head of youth development programme must have been made by the appropriate body of the licence applicant.

P.08 A

Youth coaches

The licence applicant must have appointed at least one coach responsible for all football matters for each mandatory youth team (cf. S.02).

The youth coach must hold the minimum qualification as defined by the licensor. He must be duly registered with the member association or league.

The appointment must have been made by the appropriate body of the licence applicant.

P.09	A	**Safety and security organisation – Stewarding** The licence applicant must have established safety and security measures for home matches through the engagement of stewards. For this purpose, it must: a) employ stewards; b) conclude a written contract with the stadium owner to provide the stewards; or c) conclude a written contract with an external security company to provide stewards. The licence applicant must provide appropriately qualified stewards (internal or external).

8.4.2 *"B" Criteria*

No.	Grade	Description
P.10	B	**Rights and duties** The rights and duties of the licence applicant's staff members defined in P.01 to P.09 must be defined in writing.
P.11	B	**Duty to notify significant changes** Any event occurring after the submission of the licensing documentation to the licensor representing a significant change compared to the information previously submitted relating to criteria P.01 to P.08 must be notified to the licensor by the set deadline.

Article 9 Legal criteria

9.1 Introduction

This criteria defines the minimum legal criteria for licence applicants.

It is of fundamental importance that the sporting integrity of club competitions be protected. To that end, FIFA and the confederations reserve the right to intervene and to take appropriate action in any situation in which it transpires that the same natural and legal person is in a position to influence the management, administration and/or sporting performance of more than one club participating in the same club competition.

9.2 Criteria

9.2.1 *"A" criteria*

No.	Grade	Description
L.01	A	Declaration in respect of participation in club competitions The licence applicant must submit a legally valid declaration confirming the following: a) it recognises as legally binding the statutes, rules and regulations and decisions of FIFA, the confederation, the member association and, where such exists, of the national league; b) it recognises the exclusive jurisdiction of CAS (the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne) for any dispute of international dimension and in particular involving FIFA and/or the confederations; c) it recognises the prohibition on recourse to ordinary courts under the FIFA Statutes and the confederation statutes; d) at national level it will play in competitions that are recognised and endorsed by the member association (e.g. national championship, national cup);

e) at continental level it will participate in competitions recognised by the confederation. For the avoidance of doubt, this provision does not relate to friendly matches;
f) it undertakes to abide by and observe the provisions and conditions of the national regulations;
g) all submitted documents are complete and correct;
h) it authorises the competent club licensing authority to examine documents, seek information and, in the event of any appeal procedure, seek information from any relevant public authority or private body in accordance with national law;
i) it acknowledges that the confederation reserves the right to execute spot checks at national level reviewing the assessment process and the decision-making;
j) it acknowledges that FIFA reserves the right to execute spot checks at national level to review the assessment process and the decision-making in case the confederation fails to implement and execute a spot-check procedure at national level.

This declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to the licensor.

L.02 A

Statutes and extract of register

The licence applicant must submit the following information:
a) a copy of valid statutes;
b) an extract from a public register (e.g. trade register) containing information on the licence applicant (such as name, address, legal form, list of authorised signatories and type of required signature).

L.03 A

Ownership and control of clubs

The licence applicant must submit a legally valid declaration outlining the ownership structure and control mechanism of the clubs and confirming the following:
No natural or legal person involved in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of the club, either directly or indirectly:

a) holds or deals in the securities or shares of any other club participating in the same competition;
b) holds a majority of the shareholders' voting rights of any other club participating in the same competition;
c) has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management or supervisory body of any other club participating in the same competition;
d) is a shareholder and alone controls a majority of the shareholders' voting rights of any other club participating in the same competition pursuant to an agreement entered into with other shareholders of the club in question;
e) is a member of any other club participating in the same competition;
f) is involved in any capacity whatsoever in the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other club participating in the same competition;
g) has any power whatsoever over the management, administration and/or sporting performance of any other club participating in the same club competition.

This declaration must be executed by an authorised signatory no more than three months prior to the corresponding deadline for its submission to the licensor (cf. F.01).

Article 10 Financial criteria

10.1 Introduction

The preparation and presentation of financial statements by entities differs from country to country due to a variety of social, economic and legal circumstances and due to different countries having in mind different users of financial statements when setting national requirements.

FIFA recognises that the implementation of the financial criteria in the national regulations presents a challenging task for many member associations and clubs.

10.2 Objectives

The financial criteria aim principally to:

- improve the economic and financial capability of the clubs;
- increase clubs' transparency and credibility; and
- place the necessary importance on the protection of creditors.

10.3 Benefits

Implementation of the financial criteria will help deliver both short- and long-term improvements for clubs, the licensors and the football family in general.

For the football family in general, the financial criteria should help to:

- safeguard the continuity and integrity of competitions;
- increase the transparency and credibility of clubs' financial operations;
- improve confidence in the probity of the football industry;
- create a more attractive market for the game's commercial partners and investors; and
- provide the basis for fair competition, because competition is not just about the teams on the pitch.

For the licensors, the financial criteria should help to:

- improve their understanding of the financial position and prospects of their member clubs;
- encourage clubs to settle liabilities to creditors on a timely basis;

- enhance transparency in the money flow of clubs;
- enhance their ability to be proactive in assisting clubs with financial issues; and
- provide a starting point for club benchmarking at a national level for those licensors and clubs who want to develop this aspect.

For the clubs, the financial criteria should help to:

- improve the standards and quality of financial management and planning activities;
- enable better management decision-making;
- enhance clubs' financial and business credibility with stakeholders;
- improve financial stability; and
- enhance revenue-generating ability and cost management.

10.4 Criteria

Every licensor must ensure that, in respect of the clubs which qualify for club competitions, the following minimum criteria are met. The licensor may develop additional criteria, information requirements and assessment procedures for implementation in the national regulations.

No.	Grade	Description
F.01	A	**Annual financial statements – audited** Regardless of the legal structure of the licence applicant, annual financial statements consisting of a balance sheet, profit and loss account and notes based on the local legislation for incorporated companies shall be prepared and audited by independent auditors. The financial statements must include the following minimum information in respect of the balance sheet: *Current assets* i) cash and cash equivalents; ii) accounts receivable from player transfers; iii) accounts receivable from group entities and related parties; iv) accounts receivable – other; v) inventories;

Non-current assets

vi) tangible fixed assets;
vii) intangible assets – players;
viii) intangible assets – others;
ix) investments;

Current liabilities

x) bank overdrafts and loans;
xi) accounts payable relating to player transfers;
xii) accounts payable to group entities and related parties;
xiii) accounts payable – other;
xiv) tax liabilities;
xv) short-term provisions;

Non-current liabilities

xvi) bank and other loans;
xvii) other long-term liabilities;
xviii) tax liabilities;
xix) long-term provisions;

Net assets/liabilities

xx) net assets/liabilities;

Equity

xxi) treasury shares;
xxii) issued capital and reserves.

The minimum requirements for the content in respect of profit and loss account are as follows

Revenue

i) gate receipts;
ii) sponsorship and advertising;
iii) broadcasting rights;
iv) commercial;
v) other operating income;

Expenses

vi) cost of sales/materials;
vii) employee benefits expense;
viii) depreciation and amortisation;
ix) impairment of fixed assets;
x) other operating expenses;

Other

xi) profit/loss on disposal of assets
xii) finance costs;
xiii) tax expense;
xiv) profit or loss after taxation.

Notes on the annual financial statements shall be presented in a systematic manner. Each item on the face of the balance sheet and profit and loss account shall be cross-referenced to any related information in the notes. The minimum requirements for disclosure in the notes are as follows:

a) *Accounting policies*
The basis for preparation of the financial statements and a summary of the significant accounting policies used:

b) *Controlling party*
When the reporting entity is controlled by another party, there must be disclosure of the related-party relationship and the name of that party and, if different, that of the ultimate controlling party. If the controlling party or ultimate controlling party of the reporting entity is not known, that fact shall be disclosed;

c) *Ultimate owner*
There must be disclosure of the owner(s) of the licence applicant. When the reporting entity is controlled by another party there must be disclosure of the ultimate owner(s) controlling such third party;

d) *Related-party transactions*
If there have been transactions between related parties during the period, the reporting entity shall disclose the nature of the related-party relationship, as well as information about the transactions during the period and outstanding balances at the period end necessary for an understanding of the potential effect of the relationship on the financial statements; and

e) *Other disclosure*
Any additional information or disclosure that is not presented on the face of the balance sheet, profit and loss statement or cash-flow statement, but is relevant to an understanding of any of those statements and/or is required to meet the minimum financial information requirements.

F.02 A

No payables overdue towards football clubs arising from transfer activities

The licence applicant must prove that it has no payables overdue (e.g. final and binding decisions of the FIFA Players' Status Committee, the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber and the Court of Arbitration for Sport) towards football clubs arising from transfer activities as at 31 December of the year preceding the season to be licensed, unless by the following 31 March they have been fully settled, deferred by mutual agreement with the creditor or are subject to a not obviously unfounded dispute submitted to a competent authority.

F.03	A	**No payables overdue towards employees and social/ tax authorities** The licence applicant must prove that, in respect of contractual and legal obligations with its current and former employees (including all professional players according to the applicable FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, the general manager (P.02), the finance officer (P.03), the security officer (P.04), the doctor and the physiotherapist (P.05), the head coach of first-team squad (P.06), the head of youth development programme (P.07) and the youth coaches (P.08); list exhaustive), it has no payables overdue towards employees and social/tax authorities as at 31 December of the year preceding the season to be licensed, unless by the following 31 March they have been fully settled, deferred by mutual agreement with the creditor or are subject to a not obviously unfounded dispute submitted to a competent authority.

III. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 11 Obligations

1. The confederation shall establish confederation regulations by the 2009-2010 season at the latest.
2. The member associations shall then transform the confederation regulations into national regulations and implement the club licensing system at national level by the 2010-2011 season at the latest.
3. The confederation shall support the associations with the setting up, developing and implementing of the club licensing system at national level.

Article 12 Spot checks and sanctions by confederations

1. The confederation shall implement a spot-check procedure and carry out spot checks with the licensor in order to ensure that the licence was correctly awarded at the time of the final and binding decision.
2. FIFA has the right to ask a confederation to carry out a specific spot check.
3. The confederations shall send FIFA comprehensive reports about the result of the spot checks at FIFA's request.
4. If the confederation realises that a licensor issued a licence in breach of national regulations, the relevant association shall be sanctioned by the confederation's disciplinary committee in accordance with the confederation's disciplinary code or other relevant regulations.
5. FIFA and the confederations shall cooperate with each other.

Article 13 Spot checks and sanctions by FIFA

1. In the event that a confederation fails to implement a spot-check procedure, does not carry out spot checks with the licensor or does not send, at FIFA's request, comprehensive reports about the result of the spot checks to FIFA, FIFA shall set the confederation a deadline to do so. If this deadline is not respected by the confederation, FIFA has the right to carry out the spot checks directly. The licensor is obliged to cooperate with FIFA for this purpose and provide FIFA with full access to the files.

2. If FIFA realises that a licensor has issued a licence in breach of national regulations, FIFA shall inform the relevant confederation in order to sanction the relevant association in accordance with article 12. In the event that the confederation fails to take action or fails to impose sanctions, FIFA shall set the confederation a deadline to do so. If this deadline is not respected by the confederation, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee has the right to sanction the relevant association directly in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

Article 14 Diverging texts

The FIFA regulations exists in the four languages of FIFA (English, French, German, Spanish). In the event of any discrepancy between the four texts, the English version shall be authoritative.

III. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 15 Adoption and enforcement

These regulations were adopted by the FIFA Executive Committee on 29 October 2007 and come into force on 1 January 2008.

Zurich, 29 October 2007

For the FIFA Executive Committee:

President:
Joseph S. Blatter

General Secretary:
Jérôme Valcke

12.07 rva 9000 MAV/nlo/pma



FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations

FIFA®

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II. SAFETY AND SECURITY MANAGEMENT

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All-seater stadium: A stadium that only has seating, or a stadium in which terraced (standing) areas are closed to spectators.

Association: A football association recognised by FIFA. It is a member of FIFA unless a different meaning is evident from the context.

Award ceremony: The ceremony immediately following the conclusion of the final match of the competition, during which the competition trophy and/or medals and/or other awards are presented to the players.

Chief steward: The senior steward responsible for the deployment and management of the other stewards.

Competent person: A person shall be regarded as occupationally competent if he has sufficient training and experience to meet the national occupational standards relevant to the tasks within their identified role.

Confederation: A group of associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographic region).

Contingency plan: A contingency plan is prepared by the stadium management and sets out the action to be taken in response to incidents occurring at the venue which might prejudice public safety or security or disrupt normal operations. Also referred to as a stadium contingency plan.

Emergency plan: An emergency plan is prepared and owned by the emergency services for dealing with a major incident at the venue or in the vicinity. Also known as an emergency procedure plan or major incident plan.

Event: See "FIFA event".

Event organiser: The entity organising a FIFA event, such as the LOC, association, confederation or any other agency.

Exit: A stairway, gangway, passageway, ramp, gateway, door, or any other means of passage used to leave the stadium and its accommodation.

Field of play: The playing surface whose measurements comply with the Laws of the Game and upon which any match is played within a stadium, including any areas immediately behind the goal lines and touch lines.

FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

FIFA event: Subject to the provisions contained herein, any match, tournament or competition being played under the direct operational administration of FIFA.

Host nation: The country in which a FIFA event is being held.

Inner perimeter: The perimeter that immediately surrounds the stadium building, which usually contains the turnstiles. This perimeter may comprise the stadium walls.

LOC: Local Organising Committee.

Match: Any football match in its entirety (including replays, extra time and penalty shoot-outs) that takes place as part of the competition.

Match day: The day on which any match takes place.

Match organiser: An organisation or group that is responsible for delivering a FIFA match (see "Event organiser").

Maximum safe capacity: The total number of spectators that can be safely accommodated in a stadium or section of a stadium.

Member association: Any association that has been admitted into membership of FIFA by the Congress.

Mixed zone: The area designated by FIFA and/or the association which is to be located between the team dressing rooms and the dedicated team bus pick-up area, where players may be interviewed by media representatives.

National security officer: As defined in article 5.

Official: A board member, committee member, referee, assistant referee, coach, trainer or any other person responsible for technical, medical or administrative matters at FIFA, a confederation, association, league or club.

Official competition: A competition for representative teams organised by FIFA or any confederation.

Operations manual: A manual which sets out the way a stadium operates on a daily basis. It should include but not be limited to the stewarding plan, medical plan, planned preventative maintenance schedule, fire risk assessment, event day procedures, contingency plans, capacity calculations, site plans and details of safety equipment.

Opening ceremony: The ceremony immediately preceding the first match of the competition.

Organiser: See "Event organiser".

Outer perimeter: The perimeter outside the inner perimeter, beyond which only officially accredited personnel and match ticket holders are entitled to pass on match days.

Place of reasonable safety: A place within a building or structure that provides protection from the effects of fire and smoke for a limited period of time. This place, usually a corridor or stairway, will normally have a minimum of 30 minutes' fire resistance (unless otherwise stipulated under the host country's fire safety regulations) and allow people to continue their escape to a place of safety.

Place of safety: A place, away from the building, in which people are in no immediate danger from the effects of fire.

Player: Any football player licensed by an association.

Safety and security management team: As defined in article 3.

Senior national security advisor: As defined in article 5.

Spectator accommodation: The area of a ground or structure in the ground provided for the use of spectators, including all circulation areas, concourses and the viewing areas.

Sports hall: Usually a multipurpose building containing indoor football pitches used for FIFA Futsal World Cups. In these regulations, any reference to a stadium shall also mean sports halls used for FIFA Futsal World Cups.

Stadium: Any stadium at which a match is played. This includes the entire premises (to the extent that an accreditation card is required in order to gain access) of the stadium facility inside the outer perimeter fence and (on match days and on any day on which any official team training session takes place within the stadium) the aerial space above such stadium premises. "Stadium" shall also include all parking facilities, VIP/VVIP and hospitality areas, media zones, concession areas, commercial display areas, buildings, the field of play, the pitch area, the broadcast compound, the stadium media centre, the stands and the areas beneath the stands.

Stadium safety and security management team: As defined in article 3.

Stadium security officer: As defined in article 5. Also known as a stadium safety officer.

Stadium authority: The legal entity (whether a privately owned company or governmental entity) with the ultimate, ongoing, management and operational control of a stadium used for a particular event; the legal entity that grants the legal right to use the stadium for the particular event as identified in the lease agreement for that event.

Steward: As defined in article 13.

STC: Stadium ticketing centre.

TCP: Ticketing clearing point.

Temporary demountable structure: Any structure erected on a temporary basis at a stadium, including stands, standing terraces, hospitality areas, award ceremony platforms and media installations.

Ticket terms & conditions: The terms and conditions established by FIFA which apply to the use of match tickets and which set forth the rules applicable to all holders of match tickets.

Viewing area: Seats, terraces, sky boxes and hospitality suites etc., from which spectators can observe the match.

VOC: A venue operation centre (VOC) is a designated room or area within the stadium from which all safety and security operations are controlled and managed.

Vomitory: An access route built into a gradient of a stand which directly links spectator accommodation to concourses and/or routes for ingress, egress or emergency evacuation.

NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice versa.

Preamble

These regulations are intended to make organisers of FIFA events aware of their duties and responsibilities before, during and after matches in relation to safety and security at the stadium.

These regulations contain the minimum safety and security measures that event organisers and stadium authorities must take to ensure safety, security and order at the stadium.

LOCs/event organisers, associations and clubs/stadium authorities must take all reasonable measures necessary to ensure safety and security at the stadium. LOCs/event organisers, associations and clubs/stadium authorities are responsible for the behaviour and competence of the persons entrusted with the organisation of a FIFA event.

1 Scope of application

1. The host associations of FIFA events shall apply these regulations (including qualifying and final competition matches) when these events are under the direct administration of FIFA.

2. Furthermore, FIFA recommends that these regulations be used as guidelines for all international matches in accordance with the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

3. If an association or confederation arranges an event that will be administrated and governed by its own competition regulations, the respective association's or confederation's own safety and security regulations shall apply and these regulations may only serve as guidelines.

4. These regulations constitute the minimum requirements; however, when the respective association's or confederation's safety and security provisions are stricter or more exhaustive than some or all of the principles established hereinafter, those safety and security provisions shall prevail.

2 Basic principles

1. Successful stadium safety and security strikes the right balance between stadium design and stadium management. Guidance on new builds and stadium refurbishments can be found in the FIFA publication *Football Stadiums – Technical Recommendations and Requirements*, which should be used as a reference for all FIFA events together with the latest version of this document.

2. A stadium may only be used to host a FIFA event if the structural and technical condition of the stadium complies with the host nation's safety requirements and a safety certificate has been issued by the relevant authority.

3. The laws, regulations, ordinances and administrative directives in place for the construction and technical facilities of stadiums shall be respected.

4. The maximum number of spectators admitted into the stadium shall not exceed the stadium's agreed maximum safe capacity.

3 Definitions and requirements

1. For the purposes of these regulations, the safety and security management team is defined as those persons appointed by the association, event organiser and host nation who are responsible for all aspects of safety and security at a FIFA event. The exact composition of this group will depend on the size and type of the FIFA event, but its leading members will always be the national security officer and the senior national security advisor, as defined hereinafter. Further guidance and support should be sought from representatives of all relevant agencies and stakeholders such as the fire, emergency and medical services. A formal mandate should be established for this group, stating lines of communication, levels of responsibility and deliverables.

2. Furthermore, every stadium used during a FIFA event shall have a stadium safety and security management team, which will be headed by the stadium security officer, as defined hereinafter, and the senior local police commander responsible for police activities in and around the stadium.

4 Responsibility

1. Associations are responsible for appointing an occupationally competent national security officer, as defined hereinafter.

2. The associations, through the national security officer and the stadium safety and security management team as defined hereinafter, are responsible for ensuring the safety and security of all spectators, players, officials, VIPs/VVIPs and any person present at a stadium hosting a FIFA event.

3. If the association, event organiser or stadium authority has no legal authority to arrange the necessary safety and security measures, it must cooperate with the relevant host nation authorities to ensure that they are in place. If any of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations are not in place, the association must be informed immediately, who in turn must inform FIFA.

4. The association must ensure that the stadium safety and security management team is aware of and fully understands the obligations placed upon them, including:

a) The requirements of the stadium safety certificate to be issued by the relevant authority.

b) The requirements for a safety certificate for any temporary demountable structures.

c) The host nation's/confederation's/association's stadium safety and security regulations.

d) The FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations.

e) The FIFA publication *Football Stadiums – Technical Recommendations and Requirements*.

f) FIFA Medical Assessment and Research Centre (F-MARC) – *Football Emergency Medicine Manual*.

g) The host nation's fire safety legislation.

h) The host nation's health and safety at work legislation.

i) The host nation's legislation relating to people with disabilities.

j) The host nation's civil contingencies legislation and/or guidelines.

k) Insurance requirements, where applicable.

l) Any other specific laws of the host nation that may have relevant safety or security implications.

m) Any other stadium regulations or policies that may have relevant safety or security implications.

5 Staffing

The following key appointments are required in order to ensure that both the safety and security management and stadium safety and security management teams are properly staffed. The details of the requirements, competences and status of the key appointments can be found in **Annexe A**.

a) National security officer

i) Every member association shall appoint a national security officer. This person must have experience of working with public authorities and the police services, as well as prior knowledge of event organisation issues, spectator supervision and event safety and security matters.

ii) The national security officer shall be responsible for developing, coordinating and delivering the safety and security concept across a FIFA event, including at training sites, official hotels, transport hubs, etc.

iii) The national security officer shall assume responsibility for the ongoing education and training of all stadium security officers employed during events. He shall also conduct all briefings, devise a training and education programme and be available to provide guidance and advice to all stadium security officers.

b) Senior national security advisor

Every member association, in conjunction with its national authorities, shall appoint a senior national security advisor, who must be a serving senior police officer. Although not a full-time post, this role will serve as a vital link between the event organiser and the national and local authorities during the build-up to a FIFA event and through to its conclusion.

c) Stadium security officer

The event organiser, in consultation with the national security officer, is responsible for appointing an occupationally competent stadium security officer for each stadium to be used during the FIFA event. The stadium security officer shall be responsible for all safety and security matters at the designated stadium.

6 Stadium safety and security planning

When preparing to host a FIFA event, the stadium safety and security management team shall:

a) Ensure that a spectator safety and security policy document for the stadium is created (see article 8).

b) Ensure that written and tested stadium contingency plans are created (see article 9).

c) Agree with local authorities on emergency procedures and major incident plans (see article 10).

d) Agree with authorities on the level of policing and support from other agencies.

e) Agree on procedures for accommodating all spectators, including those with disabilities, the elderly, families and children and, where appropriate, supporters of visiting teams.

7 Stadium risk assessments

1. The stadium security officer is responsible for the production of risk assessments for all matches including any ancillary activities, such as opening or award ceremonies. Input should be provided by local and, when required, national authorities and all relevant emergency services, such as fire, civil emergency and ambulance services.

2. The risk assessment should consist of the following steps, all of which should be documented:

a) Identify the risks to which spectators, VIPs/VVIPs, players and/or officials or any other person present at the stadium may be exposed.

b) Determine who may be affected and how.

c) Evaluate the risks and decide on the precautions to be taken.

d) Record the findings and implement risk reduction and/or risk mitigation measures.

e) Continually assess and review the measures and revise them where necessary.

3. The risk assessment should include consideration of the following factors:

a) Political tensions at national, local or team supporter level.

b) Terrorist threats – to be identified by national and local authorities.

c) Historical enmity between teams or their supporters.

d) Likelihood of supporters arriving without tickets or expected numbers of counterfeit tickets.

e) The need for spectator segregation and the numbers of groups requiring segregation.

f) Supporters with a history of using pyrotechnics or any other dangerous objects, including laser pointers.

g) The possibility of racist or aggressive language, banners or behaviour.

h) The layout and size of the stadium including sponsor and concession activities.

i) The expected attendance.

j) The familiarity of the spectators with the stadium.

k) Expected behaviour of spectators, including the likelihood of pitch invasion, violence or standing in seated areas.

l) Expected flow rate through the controlled points of entry including search requirements.

m) Auxiliary activities, such as opening, closing or award ceremonies.

n) Hospitality facilities.

o) Times and duration of the match(es).

8 Spectator safety and security policy document

1. The host association shall create common safety and security regulations or a safety and security manual, including counter-terrorism measures, in line with national laws and regulations.

2. In line with the above, the national security officer and stadium safety and security management team shall produce a spectator safety and security policy document for each stadium to be distributed to all stakeholders. The policy document should clearly state:

a) The event organiser's and host nation's philosophy on safety and security.

b) With whom ultimate responsibility lies for safety and security at the stadium.

c) To whom responsibility is delegated.

d) The chain of command and lines of reporting.

e) How the safety and security policy is to be implemented and communicated.

f) Who the key stakeholders are.

9 Stadium contingency plans

1. The stadium safety and security management team, in conjunction with relevant expert agencies and organisations, should assess the risk of any incident occurring at the stadium which might prejudice safety and security or disrupt normal operations. In conjunction with local authorities, contingency plans shall be developed to determine specific actions and/or the mobilisation of specialist or additional resources.

2. As a guideline, contingency plans should be established for the following:

a) Fire

b) Terrorist attack
- i) bomb threat or actual bomb attack
- ii) suspect package
- iii) shooting
- iv) airborne attack
- v) suicide bombing
- vi) chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attacks

c) Buildings and services
- i) damage to structures
- ii) power cut or failure
- iii) passenger lift or escalator failure (if applicable)
- iv) gas leak or hazardous materials incident

d) Safety equipment failure
- i) turnstile or spectator entry counting system
- ii) automated turnstile mechanism (free flow of spectators or prevention of access)
- iii) closed circuit television
- iv) public address system
- v) electronic video screens (giant screens)
- vi) safety and security communication systems
- vii)fire warning, detection and other fire safety systems

e) Crowd control
- i) surging or crushing
- ii) pitch incursion/invasion
- iii) late arrivals or delayed start
- iv) lockouts including progressive turnstile closure
- v) disorder at the stadium
- vi) ticket forgery and illegal ticket touting
- vii) overcrowding of the stadium or a section of the stadium

f) Emergency evacuation (by section or the entire stadium)

g) Severe adverse weather (such as lightning strikes, flash floods, high winds, hurricanes)

h) Natural disasters (such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions)

i) Strategy if a match is abandoned, postponed or delayed

10 Stadium emergency plans

1. The local emergency services are required to prepare an emergency plan (also known as an emergency procedure plan or major incident plan) for dealing with any major incident occurring in or around the stadium. It is the responsibility of the senior national security advisor to ensure compliance with this requirement.

2. There must be consultation between the stadium security officer, the police, fire and ambulance services, the local health authority, the local government authority and the event organiser, in order to produce an agreed plan of action for all potential emergencies.

3. Although contingency plans are prepared by the stadium safety and security management team and emergency plans by the local emergency services, the two plans must be compatible.

11 Terrorism

1. FIFA events are exposed to greater threats than may normally be present in the host nation and this includes acts of terrorism. When preparing plans for FIFA events, specific attention must be given to this threat and the fullest support secured from competent local and national authorities. Expert advice should be provided by the appropriate national authorities and, where required, international agencies.

2. The stadium safety and security management team must implement basic countermeasures as part of their daily "housekeeping". As a minimum, stadiums (including areas within the outer perimeter) must be searched by trained personnel prior to it being handed over for event use. Once a stadium has been searched, it must be suitably guarded by security to prevent unauthorised access. Furthermore, all vehicles and personnel entering a secured stadium must be searched.

3. Advice and guidance shall be provided by the senior national security advisor on all matters relating to terrorism.

4. Guidelines on basic countermeasures and stadium searches are contained in **Annexe B**.

12 Record keeping

1. The stadium security officer is responsible for overseeing and retaining all safety and security records for each match. These should include:

a) Details of all pre-event inspections and making note of any deficiencies or additional requirements along with an action plan to address these requirements.

b) Details of any pre-event training given to stewards and other stadium staff or existing qualifications held.

c) The attendance figures at each match. Ideally, these should be broken down by stadium and ticket categories.

d) A record of the medical plan.

e) If an accident or incident occurs during an event, a full written report must be produced detailing what happened, what action was taken and by whom, and any subsequent follow-up action required. This should include a record of any police intervention or instance whereby the police assumed control of the stadium.

f) A record of all first aid or medical treatment provided, while preserving any medical confidentiality regarding the identity of those treated.

g) Details of all emergency drills, evacuation exercises and contingency plan tests.

h) Reports of any significant movement of a structure within the stadium, or of the stadium structure itself.

i) Details of all fires and fire alarm activations.

j) Details of all emergency or communication system failures.

k) Details of any ticket forgeries or illegal ticket sales on the day of the match and action taken.

l) Details of any arrests made at the stadium and/or evictions of spectators.

The above list is for guidance only and is not intended to be comprehensive.

2. All documents must be held for a minimum of two years after a match, or longer if mandated under the applicable laws of the host nation. Such records shall be made available for inspection by FIFA on reasonable request.

13 Stewards

1. For the purpose of these regulations, a steward is defined as any person employed, hired, contracted or volunteering at the stadium to assist in the management of safety and security of spectators, VIPs/VVIPs, players, officials and any other person at the stadium, excluding those persons solely responsible for the security of designated individuals and members of the police services responsible for maintaining law and order.

2. At some events, police or military personnel may be employed as stewards as defined above. In such circumstances, those personnel identified to perform the duties of stewards shall apply the principles contained in these regulations when performing said duties.

3. Stewards must be fit and active and have sufficient maturity of character and temperament to carry out the duties required of them.

4. Subject to the laws of the host nation, stewards must be at least 18 years old.

5. All stewards must undergo formal training in their roles and responsibilities prior to the start of any FIFA event. Steward training, qualification and certification must meet the standards set by the host nation/association, subject to article 21.

14 Steward deployment plan

1. A steward deployment plan shall be produced by the chief steward and authorised by the stadium security officer, taking into consideration the results of the risk assessment. As a guide, the following steward categories should be provided for:

a) Supervisory staff:
Deputy security officer, chief steward(s) and supervisors.

b) Static posts:
Crowd monitoring points, exits, turnstiles, activity areas, perimeter gates, escalators/stairways, restricted zones (in accordance with the FIFA zoning plan) and other strategic points or areas.

c) Mobile posts:
As a guide, there should be a ratio of one steward per 250 of the anticipated attendance for a low-risk match. This ratio should be increased to up to one per 100 of the anticipated attendance where the risk assessment shows a need for a higher level of safety and security management.

d) Specialist stewards:
For areas used by children, spectators with disabilities and in hospitality facilities.

e) Additional stewards:
For specific events, such as opening and award ceremonies.

2. Other staff that should be included in the overall plan include:

a) Car park attendants

b) Turnstile operators

c) Search personnel (people and vehicles)

NOTE: Consideration must be given to providing sufficient female search personnel for the expected attendance of female spectators.

15 Agreement on responsibilities of stewards

1. The responsibilities and authority of stewards must be agreed between the safety and security management team, the host association, the event organiser and the relevant authorities prior to the start of any FIFA event. This agreement shall include the following:

a) Powers of arrest and/or detention of individuals.

b) Powers of ejection from the stadium and procedures to be followed.

c) Powers of confiscation of prohibited and any other dangerous items.

d) Procedures for escorting spectators to stadium ticketing centres/ticketing clearing points.

e) Authority to search persons and vehicles entering the stadium and the procedures to be followed.

f) Handling procedures for the sale or use of fraudulent tickets or for illegal ticket touts.

g) Handling procedures for ambush marketing activities.

h) Handling procedures for unauthorised merchandising or sale of unauthorised items within the agreed exclusion zones.

i) Illegal entry or unauthorised entry into restricted areas.

j) Lines of communication.

k) Chain of command.

l) Training, certification and accreditation requirements.

2. The powers bestowed upon stewards must comply with the laws and regulations of the host nation.

16 Stewards' duties

The stewards' basic duties should be to enforce the stadium's safety and security policy and the stadium regulations. These duties include:

a) Understanding their roles and responsibilities for the safety and security of all spectators, officials, players, VIPs/VVIPs, other stewards, stadium staff, themselves and any other person present at the stadium.

b) Assisting in the safe operation of the stadium, as opposed to watching the match or any other activity taking place.

c) Carrying out safety and security checks as directed by the stadium safety and security management team.

d) Controlling access into the stadium and directing spectators entering, leaving or moving around the stadium to help achieve an even flow to and from the spectator accommodation.

e) Preventing unauthorised access to restricted areas by any person who does not have the correct accreditation and authorisation to do so and in particular from gaining access to zones 1 and 2 as defined hereinafter.

f) Ensuring that spectators are accommodated in accordance with their ticket (i.e. they are sitting in the correct seat for the ticket they hold).

g) Ensuring that all entry and exit points, including all emergency exit points and routes, remain unobstructed at all times.

h) Unless otherwise stated, ensuring that all prohibited items are prevented from entering the stadium or are removed if found inside the stadium.

i) Protecting players and officials when entering, leaving or on the field of play.

j) Recognising and reporting crowd conditions to ensure the safe dispersal of spectators and prevent overcrowding.

k) Assisting the emergency services as required.

l) Providing basic emergency first aid as required.

m) Responding to incidents and emergencies, raising the alarm and taking the necessary immediate action in line with the stadium's contingency and emergency plans.

n) Undertaking specific duties in an emergency as directed by the venue operation centre (VOC).

o) In accordance with the requirements of local/national authorities and within the laws of the host nation, denying access to or removing any persons who cannot prove their right to be in the stadium, are committing an offence under the stadium code of conduct, present a risk due to consumption of alcohol and/or drugs, are subject to a banning order or refuse to give their consent to searches.

This list is for reference only and is not a substitute for formal training.

17 Stewards' code of conduct

During events, stewards are often the only interface with the public. It is therefore essential that a formal code of conduct for all stewards is established across all venues. The code of conduct shall include the following:

a) Stewards should be polite, courteous and helpful to all spectators at all times, regardless of their affiliation.

b) Stewards should be smartly dressed at all times. Their appearance should be clean and tidy.

c) Stewards are not employed, hired or contracted to watch the event. They should concentrate on their duties and responsibilities at all times.

d) Stewards should never:

i) Wear clothing that may appear to be partisan or cause offence while on duty.
ii) Celebrate the event or show an extreme reaction to it.
iii) Display any allegiance towards one team over another.
iv) Eat, drink or smoke in public view.
v) Consume alcohol before or during the event.
vi) Use obscene, offensive or intimidating language or gestures.

18 Identification of stewards

1. Stewards shall wear uniform clothing that is easily identifiable in all conditions. As a minimum, they shall be provided with appropriate high-visibility jackets or tabards bearing the word "STEWARD" that can be seen from a distance or in a crowd.

2. Stewards shall not wear sponsored or branded uniforms, in compliance with FIFA Marketing guidelines.

3. Care should be taken to ensure that tabards worn by pitchside stewards cannot be confused with FIFA bibs worn by players, ball boys, officials and other persons. Final agreement on the colour to be used will be made at the match coordination meeting, which must be attended by the stadium security officer.

4. All stewards shall be appropriately accredited and this shall be displayed at all times whilst on duty.

19 Pitchside stewards

In order to protect the players and officials as well as maintain public order, it may be necessary to deploy stewards and/or police around the perimeter of the field of play. When doing so, the following guidelines must be considered:

a) Any steward or police officer deployed around the field of play is likely to be recorded on television, and as such their conduct and appearance must be of the highest standard at all times.

b) No firearms or "crowd control gas" shall be carried or used.

c) During the match, all stewards and/or police officers must maintain as low a profile as possible. This shall include:

i) Being positioned between the advertising hoardings and the stands.

ii) Where practical, being seated on chairs so as not to stand out on television or to obstruct the view of spectators unless required through a pre-agreed escalation of stance that is in direct relation to crowd behaviour and an existing threat.

iii) Not wearing aggressive items (helmets, face masks, shields, etc.) unless required through a pre-agreed escalation of stance that is in direct relation to crowd behaviour and existing threat.

d) The number of pitchside stewards and/or police officers must be kept to a minimum and based on the match risk assessment, taking into consideration the expected crowd behaviour and likelihood of a pitch invasion.

e) If there is a high risk of pitch invasion or crowd disorder, consideration should be given to allow police officers and/or stewards to occupy the front rows of seats in the stadium if it is considered necessary to increase the overall presence and capability. If this approach is to be adopted, care should be taken to ensure that those seats occupied by police officers
and/or stewards are not sold to the public.

20 Communication with stewards

1. The stewarding operation must be coordinated from the VOC, which should maintain an efficient and robust means of communication with the stewards at all times.

2. Radios are the most efficient means of communication. Earpieces should be provided to ensure that stewards can hear communications above the noise of the stadium. Care should also be taken to ensure that there are no radio "dead spots" around the stadium.

3. Back-up and alternative means of communication, such as intercoms, fixed land lines and/or "runners" to pass on messages, should be provided in case the primary means of communication fail.

4. Standard commercial mobile phones should not be considered as a primary or back-up means of communication, as the networks often become overloaded during an incident and therefore cannot be relied upon as a means of communication for safety and security.

21 Steward training

1. It is the event organiser's responsibility to ensure that all stewards are appropriately trained and competent to undertake their normal duties and perform their roles under emergency and contingency plans.

2. Training must be conducted by occupationally competent persons or organisation(s), which must also assess the stewards' competency to perform their duties. Courses should include the following subjects:

a) Roles and responsibilities of a steward.

b) Stewards' code of conduct.

c) Stadium code of conduct and prohibited items.

d) The legal rights and powers of a steward.

e) Search techniques (subject to the laws and regulations of the host country).

f) Ticket and accreditation identification and anti-forgery checks (specific to a FIFA event).

g) Arrest and/or detention (subject to the laws and regulations of the host country).

h) Stadium ejection procedures.

i) Emergency first aid.

j) Basic firefighting and response to a fire.

k) Stadium zones (specific to a FIFA event).

l) Crowd dynamics and management.

m) Use of CCTV (CCTV operators and supervisors only).

n) Communications.

o) Stadium contingency plans and the role of stewards in an emergency.

3. Supervisors should receive additional training that develops their skills and competencies, especially when responding to unplanned incidents.

4. Any steward training must comply with the host nation's mandatory requirements.

22 Basic principles

1. Accurately assessing the maximum safe capacity of a stadium is crucial to establishing a safe and secure environment. Overcrowded stadiums continue to result in serious injuries and fatalities, which FIFA finds unacceptable.

2. Subject to the provisions of article 34, when calculating the maximum safe capacity of a stadium, each section of the stadium must be considered separately.

23 Calculating the maximum safe capacity

When calculating the maximum safe capacity of an all-seater stadium, the following calculations must be considered:

1. Holding capacity (A)
This is the number of people that can be safely accommodated within the stadium and is determined by the actual number of seats, less any that cannot be used as they:

a) Have a restricted view or are obstructed by objects or people, such as camera positions, advertising boards or railings.

b) Are damaged or missing.

c) Are unavailable for use, for example because they are being used by security staff or form part of a segregation plan.

d) Do not fulfil the specifications set out in the FIFA publication *Football Stadiums – Technical Recommendations and Requirements* for seating row depths, seat widths and/or clearways.

2. Entry capacity (B)

The entry capacity is the number of people that can pass through the turnstiles and/or other controlled entry points within a period of one hour. The main factors affecting the rate of entry are:

a) The number and dispersal of turnstiles/entry points.

b) The adequacy of directional information and communications and the familiarity of the spectators with the stadium layout.

c) The division of entry categories, including special requirements such as disabled access.

d) The design, type and condition of turnstiles/entry points.

e) The level of searching required.

3. Exit capacity (C)

This is the number of people that can safely exit from the viewing area under normal conditions, within a reasonable timeframe, not to exceed ten minutes. The following factors will affect the exit capacity:

a) The number, size and dispersal of exit gates.

b) The adequacy of directional information and communications and the familiarity of the spectators with the stadium layout.

c) The width and distribution of stairways, escalators, and gangways.

d) Choke points.

e) Obstructions.

4. Emergency evacuation capacity (D)

a) This is determined by the emergency evacuation time, which is in part based on the level of risk and the available emergency evacuation routes to places of safety and/or places of reasonable safety. Factors such as the type of construction and materials used in the stadium will have an impact on this calculation as fire will be one of the major risks to be considered. If, for example, the risk of fire is high due to the construction of the stadium, the evacuation time should be reduced.

b) The emergency evacuation capacity is the number of people that can safely negotiate the emergency evacuation routes and reach a place of safety or reasonable safety within the determined emergency evacuation time.

c) Note: The field of play can only be regarded as a place of reasonable safety and, as such, if one or more of the emergency evacuation routes includes access onto the field of play, further consideration must be given to subsequently moving spectators off the field of play to a place of safety.

5. Final maximum safe capacity

Having established all the above figures, the final maximum safe capacity of a section of a stadium will be determined by whichever is the lowest figure for A, B, C or D above. Once all the sections of the stadium have been considered, including sky boxes, hospitality suites and VIP/VVIP areas, the total maximum safe capacity of the stadium can be established.

24 Safety certificate

1. The relevant local or national authorities (depending on the host nation's laws and legislation) are responsible for agreeing the maximum safe capacity of a stadium to be used for a FIFA event. Having considered the above factors, they shall issue a formal safety certificate that clearly states the stadium's maximum safe capacity, detailing the constituent sections and categories and stating that the stadium is structurally fit for purpose.

2. Once the maximum safe capacity of a section of a stadium has been determined, under no circumstances must a larger number of spectators be admitted without the prior written approval of the relevant authorities that issued the safety certificate.

3. Subject to the relevant FIFA competition regulations, a safety certificate should not be more than two years old. In addition, it must be reviewed and reissued in the following circumstances:

a) When any structural changes have been made to the stadium.

b) When there has been any alteration in the stadium capacity.

c) When any temporary structures have been constructed either inside the stadium or within the outer perimeter.

d) If there has been an incident in the stadium resulting in serious injury to or death of any spectators.

25 Access control

1. On match days, only persons in possession of a valid permit shall be granted entry to the stadium. Valid permits include:

a) Match tickets.

b) Accreditations and, when used, supplementary accreditation devices (SADs).

c) Other permits as defined herein.

2. During FIFA events, formal accreditation will be established and put into force before the start of the event as specified in the respective FIFA competition regulations. Once accreditation has been established, access to stadiums will only be permitted to those persons with a valid accreditation or permit (except on match days when tickets are in use).

3. If a person cannot produce a valid permit, he shall be refused entry or escorted from the stadium.

4. It is the responsibility of all stewards, stadium safety and security management staff and police officers to ensure that only those persons with authority to be inside the stadium, including members of the public, officials and staff, are permitted into the stadium.

5. Where restricted access zones have been established (for example, players' areas, the field of play, the media, hospitality, etc.), stewards or other appropriate security staff must be in place to enforce and control access in accordance with the established accreditation and stadium zoning plan.

26 Match tickets

1. Match tickets shall display the following information:

a) The date, time and location of the match.

b) Where appropriate, the match number.

c) If possible, details of the teams playing.

d) The sector, block, row and seat number that the ticket is valid for.

e) The points of entry into the stadium (if applicable).

f) A plan of the stadium on the reverse side.

g) If possible, the name of the ticket holder/purchaser.

2. The sale of match tickets shall be subject to strict control. If segregation is required, the sale of match tickets shall be organised so that the fans of the two opposing teams are allocated distinctly separate areas of the stadium.

3. The FIFA organising committee for the respective FIFA event(s) shall pass decisions regarding the number of tickets to be allocated to the participating associations and host association.

4. Where applicable, each association shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that its allocation of tickets is only made available to its own supporters. It shall also ensure that specific details are recorded during the sales process, such as the name and address and contact details of persons who have been issued with tickets.

5. The tickets shall be protected against forgery by integrating security features as considered necessary. If there is the slightest suspicion that forged tickets may be in circulation, the police must be informed immediately.

6. On the day of the match, tickets may not be sold at the stadium. If tickets are to be sold on match days, a venue must be selected away from the stadium and well outside the established outer perimeter, so as not to cause congestion and crowd build-up at the stadium entry points and access routes. Furthermore, prior approval for match day ticket sale sites must be sought from FIFA, the police, the stadium safety and security management team and the relevant public authorities.

7. The number of tickets on sale cannot exceed the declared and approved maximum safe capacity of the stadium.

8. A system that records the number of spectators who have entered the stadium through each turnstile/entry point must be established and the rate of flow and numbers inside the stadium regularly updated to the VOC. Any entry counting system should also take into account the number of people afforded VIP/VVIP status and/or housed in hospitality facilities within the stadium.

9. The price of tickets for supporters of the visiting team shall not exceed the price of tickets for supporters of the home team in a similar ticket category.

27 Accreditation

1. Holders of accreditation are granted access to specified stadiums and locations within stadiums, including any restricted zones. Accreditation shall be issued by FIFA or the LOC to individuals with specific functions at a FIFA event.

2. Accreditation shall, as far as possible, be forgery-proof and provide protection against multiple use.

3. Accreditation is not transferable.

4. The permits shall restrict access to specific, clearly marked areas and specified stadiums.

5. The number of "access all areas" passes shall be kept to an absolute minimum and access rights must be based on working requirements.

6. Accreditation does not permit the holder to attend a match day as a spectator or to occupy any seat in the stadium that would normally be covered by a ticket.

7. A background/criminal check shall be performed by the host nation authorities as part of the accreditation process.

8. The host nation authorities may refuse the issue of an accreditation on the grounds of security without reference to the event organiser or FIFA.

9. Provision must be made for the withdrawal (on a temporary or permanent basis) of any person's accreditation if the holder is acting in a manner that may prejudice the safety and security of others, a criminal act has been committed or suspected by the holder, the holder's actions are prejudicing the smooth running of the event or the holder has breached the stadium code of conduct.

28 Access for police and other agencies

1. Subject to the agreed security concept and approved accreditation plans, identity cards held by members of the police and other official agencies (including fire and ambulance services) that allow them to carry out operational tasks at the stadium shall also be regarded as valid permits subject to articles 25 and 27, provided said members are in uniform and clearly identifiable.

2. Police officers and members of other security agencies wearing plain clothes must be issued with appropriate accreditation for the tasks they are performing.

3. Members of the police or other emergency services may not occupy seats in the stadium that would normally be covered by tickets.

29 Security checks

1. Security checks shall be carried out on persons and vehicles at the entry points of the outer and inner perimeters, as well as at entry points to areas that are not open to the general public. These security checks shall verify the following:

a) That the person possesses a valid ticket, accreditation or other form of valid permit to gain access to the stadium.

b) That the person is not in possession of any weapons or other prohibited items as set out in the stadium code of conduct (see **Annexe C**) that may not be taken into the stadium, unless required by accredited staff and authorities in order for them to perform their official duties.

c) That the person is not in possession of any other dangerous objects that may not, for legal reasons, be taken into the stadium, including aggressive or racist banners and laser pointers.

d) That the person is not in possession of any unauthorised alcoholic beverages or intoxicating substances or drugs as regulated by the stadium authority.

e) That the person is not under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating substances or drugs.

f) That the person has access rights to any restricted areas or controlled zones.

g) That the person complies with the ticket terms and conditions, sales regulations and stadium code of conduct.

2. A person may be subjected to a full search of their person and/or possessions at the security checkpoints.

3. All vehicles entering the outer perimeter of the stadium must undergo security screening and a search. It is recommended that this occurs at a remote search facility located at a suitable safe distance from the stadium. The location and positioning of any remote search facilities shall be identified by a risk assessment conducted by the police/appropriate authority.

4. The identity of a person entering the stadium with accreditation will be checked against the photograph on his badge. The stadium and zoning privileges will also be checked. Accreditation is not proof of identity and accredited persons may be asked to provide an acceptable alternative proof of identity before access is granted.

5. While stewards may not enforce compulsory searches at the stadium points of entry, any person who resists searches shall be refused entry into the stadium.

6. If prohibited or any other dangerous items are found during the search, they shall be handed to the police or stored in a suitable facility until such time as they can be properly disposed of.

7. If a person surrenders his right of ownership to and possession of an object that is banned from the stadium and is not liable to be taken into police custody as no criminal offence has been committed, the confiscated object shall be held in a secure place until such time as it can be properly disposed of.

8. If it is established during security checks that a person is under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating substances or drugs, that person shall be refused access to the stadium.

30 Stadium zones

1. For FIFA events, all stadiums shall be allocated specific zones, which shall be secured with appropriate access control measures through the use of accreditation. This is to ensure that restricted areas are kept secure and that only persons with valid permits will be allowed access. Stewards and/or police or other appropriate security staff will be required to control access to specific zones and areas to prevent unauthorised access.

2. It is essential that the stadium security officer contributes to, and if possible takes the lead in, developing the stadium zoning plan. Basic guidance on stadium zones and areas at FIFA events is contained in **Annexe D**.

31 Stadium perimeters, turnstiles and checkpoints

1. A wall or fence shall enclose the outer perimeter of the stadium. It shall be at least 2.5 metres in height and shall not be easy to scale, penetrate, pull down or remove. Its purpose shall be to deter and delay any unauthorised intruder(s). Perimeter fences shall be protected by CCTV or security posts or a combination of the two.

2. Entry and exit points into and out of the stadium shall be staffed at all times during a match and designed in such a way as to facilitate the flow of people and vehicles in and around the stadium, taking into consideration the special requirements contained hereinafter for VIPs/VVIPs, players and officials and the requirements of the emergency services.

3. All access gates must be able to be opened or closed quickly without causing any danger or hazard. The gates shall be designed to withstand pressure from large crowds of people. When open, the gates must be firmly secured. The gates must also be equipped with fireproof locks.

4. All turnstiles and entry points must be able to accurately check the validity of tickets and/or accreditation and count the number of spectators entering the stadium.

5. Turnstiles and checkpoint facilities may be incorporated within the inner perimeter. They must be able to withstand extreme pressure and be fireproof.

6. Entry points must be equipped with facilities for searching persons and for temporarily storing prohibited items securely.

7. The stadium perimeters must be kept secure at all times for the duration of a FIFA event, including on non-match days.

32 Field of play

1. While the removal of all perimeter fences and screens from football stadiums is desirable and FIFA is opposed to insurmountable fences and screens, it is acknowledged that there are places where local authorities insist upon the provision of such barriers.

2. The field of play must be protected against intrusion by unauthorised persons. Where unauthorised access cannot be controlled by stewards and/or police officers, stadium management may erect a fence, a suitable moat that prevents intrusion, or a combination of the two. Barbed or razor wire shall not be used. Where a physical barrier or fence is used, spectator lines of sight must be taken into consideration. The decision as to whether to have a physical barrier and if so, what type of barrier, shall be considered in a formal risk assessment and the use of such barriers must not present a risk or danger to spectators or players.

3. If a perimeter fence surrounds the field of play, there must be emergency access points/gates onto it. If the spectator areas are separated

from the field of play by a moat, crossing points (bridges) must be provided at the emergency gates. Exceptions to the above are permitted if the local authority has granted prior approval in the safety certificate, provided there are suitable alternative exit routes for spectators that take into account all emergency contingencies. All access points onto the field of play must be staffed by stewards and/or police officers.

4. All emergency gates must be able to be opened quickly and easily towards the field of play. They should be positioned directly in line with the stairways in the respective spectator areas. The emergency evacuation routes to the field of play must not be obstructed by advertising boards or any other objects. Advertising boards must be designed in such a way as to avoid creating an obstacle.

5. The emergency exit gates shall have one door and be at least two metres wide. They shall be a different colour from their surroundings and easily identifiable. When spectators are in the stadium, all emergency exits shall be staffed at all times and not secured by locks.

6. If there is a remote-controlled opening mechanism on the gates, each gate must also have a manual override facility so that it can be opened by hand in an emergency.

7. On entering and leaving the field of play, including during the match, players and officials must be protected from spectators.

33 Special security provisions for teams, officials and VIPs/VVIPs

1. Approach roads and entry/exit points for teams, officials and VIPs/VVIPs shall be kept separate from those for spectators.

2. Drop-off and pick-up points for teams, officials and VIPs/VVIPs as well as the parking facilities for their vehicles shall be kept secure at all times and access denied to the public and unauthorised persons.

3. Working with the local and national police authorities, the event organiser must guarantee the safety and security of the participating teams, their officials, VIPs/VVIPs and FIFA match officials at all times.

34 Spectator areas

1. General

a) Guidance on spectator accommodation specifications can be found in the FIFA publication *Football Stadiums – Technical Recommendations and Requirements*.

b) The three major FIFA tournaments (the FIFA World Cup™ (including qualifying matches), the FIFA Confederations Cup and the FIFA Club World Cup) may only be played in all-seater stadiums. Subject to the respective FIFA competition regulations, other FIFA events may admit standing spectators or permit the use of seated accommodation that does not meet the requirements specified in the FIFA publication *Football Stadiums – Technical Recommendations and Requirements*, provided prior written approval is obtained from the relevant local authorities and FIFA, following a detailed inspection.

c) The spectator areas shall be divided into sectors that are easily identifiable by spectators and stadium staff alike.

d) There shall be adequate diagrammatic signage to help spectators and stadium staff navigate their way around the stadium and locate facilities and seating areas.

e) There should be easy access to public conveniences and refreshment stalls in all sectors of the stadium.

2. Viewing areas for persons with disabilities

Stadiums shall provide accessible viewing areas to spectators with disabilities. Such areas must have suitable access and evacuation routes, taking into consideration the specific needs of the spectators concerned.

3. Viewing standards

The provision of adequate viewing standards is important in ensuring that seated accommodation is both safe and serves its intended purpose. Spectators should have a clear, unrestricted view of the whole of the pitch. Any seats with restricted views must be noted and the stadium security officer, in consultation with FIFA, will need to assess whether or not the seat in question is to be included in the holding capacity of the stadium. Causes of restricted views may include:

a) Inadequate sight lines.

b) Roof supports or roof structures.

c) Flanking walls, screens or overhanging upper tiers of stands.

d) Barriers serving gangways.

e) Segregation barriers or fences (temporary or permanent).

f) Structures such as floodlights, scoreboards or camera platforms.

g) Advertising hoardings.

h) Media personnel (such as photographers and camera operators), stewards and any other personnel.

i) Substitute/team benches and match officials.

35 Temporary demountable structures

1. Temporary demountable structures, such as temporary stands and award ceremony platforms, should be avoided as far as possible. The use of temporary stands should only be considered if there are no other options available and the local authorities have previously inspected the construction in question and subsequently issued a safety certificate approving its use, on which basis FIFA may carry out its own inspection.

2. All temporary demountable structures must be issued with a safety certificate and a full risk assessment of their use shall be completed.

3. Temporary structures should be constructed in a robust, stable, three-dimensional form and designed to support maximum loads for the required period and use with an adequate margin of safety. The following main points should also be considered:

a) Temporary demountable structures are exposed to the threat of accidental damage, unauthorised removal and alteration and general misuse. Stewards should monitor the circulation and behaviour of spectators around the structure to ensure that no one is allowed to climb up or underneath any part of it, or behave in such a way that may cause damage or affect the stability of the structure.

b) The robustness of temporary structures should be such that the effects of accidental damage are not disproportionate, and thus do not lead to progressive collapse.

c) Having assessed the structure's overall stability, ballast and/or anchorage to the ground should be provided where necessary to ensure adequate resistance to overturning or excessive lateral movement.

d) Walkways must have non-slip surfaces and be free from trip hazards.

e) Handrails must be fitted on walkways, stairs and stages, be one metre high and of a design that is sufficient to prevent a person falling from the structure.

f) If the structure contains flammable material such as wood, additional fire safety precautions must be put in place.

g) Adverse weather conditions – especially high winds – should be monitored. If these conditions affect the safety or stability of the structure, it should be immediately taken out of use.

h) The construction of any temporary demountable structure should not obstruct existing exits or walkways.

i) The positioning of the structure should take into consideration sight lines of other spectator accommodation.

36 Venue operation centre (VOC)

1. Purpose and design

a) Each stadium must have a venue operation centre (VOC), which is the room from which those persons responsible for safety and security operations at the stadium can monitor, control, and direct resources in response to any given situation before, during, and after a match. Its main functions include:

i) To allow the stadium safety and security management team to monitor the safety and security of people attending the stadium and in its immediate vicinity.
ii) To coordinate responses to specific incidents.
iii) To provide, if required, a monitoring facility for the emergency services.
iv) To monitor public order.
v) To assist the stadium management in staging the match.

b) The VOC should be located in a secure area of the stadium and have an overall view of the inside of the stadium. The size, configuration, and furnishings of the VOC should be designed to accommodate all equipment and personnel necessary to manage stadium safety and security efficiently. When designing a VOC, the stadium authority should consult with local police, fire and other relevant civil authorities.

c) The VOC and all safety and security equipment must have an uninterruptible power supply.

2. Staffing

a) The exact staffing of the VOC will vary depending on local factors such as the structures of civil authorities and the police. As a minimum requirement, the following posts must be provided for:

i) Stadium security officer.
ii) Police commander responsible for all police activity at the stadium and in its vicinity (more than one police commander may be needed, depending on the structure).
iii) A representative of the medical services.
iv) Fire service commander responsible for all firefighting capabilities at the stadium and in its vicinity.
v) Chief steward.
vi) CCTV operators.
vii) Communications operators and log keepers.
viii) Ticketing coordinator.

b) If any of the above-listed commanders are not positioned in the VOC for any reason, a suitable deputy must be present who has direct contact with the commander at all times.

c) The VOC must be fully operational and fully staffed prior to the gates being opened to the public and must remain operational until the stadium has been cleared and returned to normal non-match operations.

3. Stadium plans, maps and paperwork

Copies of the following must be held as a minimum in the VOC:

a) All contingency plans.

b) Emergency plans.

c) Steward deployment plans.

d) Security personnel deployment plans.

e) Medical plans.

f) Egress and ingress plans.

g) Large-scale stadium maps, including detailed stadium plans (showing key facilities) as well as maps of the surrounding areas.

h) CCTV camera positions.

i) Stadium code of conduct.

j) All relevant regulations and legislation in place.

k) Contact details of all stakeholders.

37 VOC systems

The following systems should be fully integrated into the VOC:

1. Public address system override
Although the public address announcer should not be located in the VOC, he should be situated close by to allow safety and security messages to be passed across the system. The VOC should have a PA override facility to allow safety and security staff to use the PA system in an emergency that has priority control over that of other operators.

2. Fire alarm control panel
The fire alarm control panel is an electronic panel that is the controlling component of the stadium's fire alarm detection and monitoring system. This equipment will need to be staffed by an appropriately trained and qualified person, with direct communication to the commander of the fire services.

3. Pitch lighting control panel
The lighting control panel controls pitch lighting. If the pitch lighting unexpectedly loses power, the control panel allows the VOC to remotely toggle power (on-off) to restore the pitch lighting.

4. Electronic video screen (giant screen) control system (where installed)
The giant screen control system consists of a control panel and monitoring screens that allow a user to manage the time, score, video replays and other entertainment functions on the giant screen. It should also be able to display written messages in case of an emergency, so that instructions and information can be provided to spectators and stadium staff. As with the public address announcer, the main operator of the giant screen should not be located in the VOC but in a separate room near it, so that messages can be passed from the VOC to the operator. Management should consider having an override facility in the VOC to allow safety and security staff to use the giant screen for sending messages when required.

5. CCTV monitors

Sufficient CCTV surveillance monitors and control systems shall be installed in the VOC to properly undertake proactive and reactive surveillance monitoring and control of the cameras. Furthermore, the system shall contain digital video recorders (DVRs) of sufficient capacity to record and store images for a minimum of 60 days.

6. Communications

There shall be a robust and comprehensive communications system for all aspects of stadium safety and security. Standard commercial mobile phone networks often become overloaded during an incident and therefore cannot be relied upon as a means of communication for the purposes of safety and security. As such, the following systems shall be in place in the VOC:

a) External fixed landline, direct dial (i.e. not through a switchboard)

b) Intercom or internal fixed landlines between key locations around the stadium and the VOC to include:

i) PA system announcer
ii) Giant screen operator
iii) Entry points
iv) First aid rooms
v) Police detention rooms
vi) Team and referees' dressing rooms
vii) FIFA General Coordinator's office

c) Radio network for all safety and security functions*

d) Internet/data facilities

*Experience has shown that when using radios at a stadium, earpieces are required to counteract the noise levels during a match and to ensure that messages can be effectively transmitted.

7. Spectator entry counting system

Stadium entry points must have a system for counting spectators. Ideally, this should be automated, but whichever system is adopted, the information must be collated in the VOC at regular intervals of 15 minutes from the time the gates are open until kick-off plus 30 minutes, so that the safety and security management team can assess the entry flow and capacity of the stadium. For venues that have more than one match being played on the same day, entry monitoring must be maintained until kick-off plus 30 minutes of the last game.

8. Uninterruptible power supply (UPS)

a) All electrical systems listed above should have an uninterruptible power supply (UPS), which consists of an electrical apparatus that provides emergency power to a load when the input power source, typically the utility mains, fails. A UPS differs from an auxiliary or emergency power system or standby generator in that it will provide instantaneous or near-instantaneous protection from input power interruptions by means of one or more attached batteries and associated electronic circuitry for low power users. The on-battery runtime of most uninterruptible power sources is relatively short, with 15 minutes being typical for smaller units but sufficient to allow time to bring an auxiliary power source on line, or to properly shut down the protected equipment.

b) If any or all of the above are not integrated into the VOC, appropriate measures must be put in place to ensure that there is direct and immediate communication between the VOC and system user.

38 Rooms for stewards and police officers

1. Police officers and stewards should be provided with meeting, briefing and storage facilities as well as sufficient space for any vehicles that may be required for their operational tasks.

2. Police detention facilities should be provided and located in a secure and suitable area.

3. All of these facilities shall be easily accessible and have controlled access.

39 Safety and emergency lighting and power supply

1. The safety and emergency lighting shall:

a) Provide sufficient levels of illumination to allow people to see hazards and obstacles.

b) Provide sufficient levels of illumination to ensure effective CCTV operations.

c) Avoid issues such as glare or flicker that could mask or cause a risk.

d) Avoid reflections which could impact adversely on safety.

e) Be suitable for the environment (indoors/outdoors).

f) Be positioned so that it does not cause a fire risk.

g) Avoid presenting a risk to users such as burns.

h) Be properly positioned to allow for maintenance and repair.

2. For matches played when there is insufficient natural light, the following areas must be illuminated:

a) All entry and exit points in the outer and inner perimeters, turnstile areas and approaches to the entry and exit points as well as parking areas and paths leading from public transport facilities to the stadium.

b) Paths/areas between the outer and inner perimeters and the spectator accommodation.

c) Spectator and media areas.

d) Stairwells, concourses and vomitories around the stadium.

e) Toilets.

f) Areas containing concession stalls and refreshment facilities.

3. A careful evaluation of the available utility service is crucial to ensuring that all safety and emergency lighting equipment remains operational. Redundant services and on-site power sources will be necessary to provide back-up and ride-through in the event of utility outages. This is essential for all life safety equipment.

4. For more guidance on lighting and emergency power supply, the stadium management should refer to the FIFA publication *Football Stadiums – Technical Recommendations and Requirements*.

40 Electronic video screen (giant screen)

1. Where installed, the stadium's electronic video screen may be used before, during and after the match, provided that the relevant FIFA regulations and instructions are strictly observed.

2. Under the direction of the VOC, safety, security or emergency messages may be transmitted via the electronic video screen. When using the electronic video screen to transmit safety, security and emergency messages, it is recommended that only pre-prepared messages are used.

41 Closed circuit television (CCTV)

1. All stadiums shall be fitted with adequate and effective closed circuit television (CCTV) systems, with monitor screens and control consoles located in the VOC. They should be positioned so as to include coverage of the following areas:

a) All entry and exit points.

b) Approaches to the stadium grounds.

c) Spectator accommodation inside the stadium.

d) Stairways and passageways.

e) Concession/refreshment areas.

f) Broadcast/TV compound.

g) Player and officials drop-off and pick-up points.

h) Corridors leading to players' and officials' dressing rooms.

i) Player entrance onto the field of play.

j) Other key facilities including on-site power generators.

2. The primary function of the CCTV system is to allow personnel in the VOC to identify incidents, or potential problems, assist with the situational assessment and inform courses of action and responses. It is not a substitute for stewarding or safety and security management.

3. The secondary function of the CCTV system is to make recordings that can be used for investigations following an incident or for the purposes of evidence.

4. Personnel operating the system should be suitably trained and, where appropriate, qualified in the operation of CCTV systems. They should also be trained in the interpretation, use and storage of the data.

5. An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) must be provided to ensure continued operation of the CCTV system even in the event of a power failure. Any back-up power supply should be sufficient to enable the CCTV system to continue to function at full load in an emergency, such as a fire or a failure of the mains supply, for up to three hours.

6. CCTV recordings shall be securely stored for a period of 60 days following a match. If there is an incident or accident occurring during a match, recordings shall be securely stored for a period of two years in a format that can be reviewed as required.

42 Public address system

1. The public address (PA) system is the main form of direct communication between the stadium management team and spectators. It can also be used as a form of communication between stadium management and stadium staff during an incident or where mass notification is required.

2. As a guideline, the public address system should meet the following requirements:

a) Intelligibility

The system should be intelligible, so that broadcast messages can be heard under reasonable conditions (including emergencies) by all persons of normal hearing in any part of the stadium to which the public has access, including those people waiting to gain entry.

b) Zoning

Ideally, the PA system should be designed to allow broadcasts to be made to specified individual areas both inside and outside the stadium, including the pitch.

c) Override facility

i) Whilst it is not recommended that the PA system is operated in normal use from the VOC, it is essential that the VOC can override the PA system for safety, security and emergency messages.

ii) Predetermined messages (including any coded messages) should be established and detailed in the stadium's contingency and emergency plans. All such messages must be known by all stadium staff who are required to take action.

iii) If there are areas of the ground which have the facility to turn down the output from the public address system (such as hospitality boxes or lounges), the system should be designed to override these volume controls automatically when emergency messages are broadcast.

d) Back-up power supply

The back-up power supply to the public address system should be sufficient to enable the system to continue to function at full load in an emergency, such as a fire or a failure of the mains supply, for up to three hours.

e) Back-up loudhailers

If the public address system fails, for whatever reason, loudhailers should be available for the use of stewards and police in all parts of the ground, for directing or instructing spectators.

f) Inspections and tests

The PA system must undergo a full system check two weeks before the start of a FIFA event and within 24 hours of kick-off on match days to ensure that the system is fully functional.

43 Public address system – operation

It is important that the operation of the PA system is conducted by a competent and trained individual. The following considerations should be taken into account:

a) Provision of a separate booth

i) It is strongly recommended that the public address announcer is not stationed within the VOC, although, as previously stated, it must be possible for staff in the VOC to override the system during an emergency.

ii) The operating booth for the PA announcer should have a good view of the pitch and be linked to the VOC by telephone or intercom (landline). Ideally, this link should also include the provision of a clearly visible red light, so that the general announcer can see instantly when someone in the VOC is trying to make contact with him.

iii) The ideal location of the PA announcer's booth is directly adjacent to the VOC, with an interconnecting window or door between the two rooms.

iv) Whichever arrangement is provided, it is vital that public address announcements can be heard clearly in the VOC.

b) Pre-announcement signal
Important announcements relating to crowd safety should be preceded by a loud, distinct signal, in order to catch the attention of the crowd.

c) Tone and content of announcements
During an emergency, it is essential that clear, accurate information is given to spectators and staff at the earliest possible time. Messages should be positive, leaving those to whom they are addressed in no doubt as to what is required of them. The messages should be scripted in advance in consultation with the police, fire services, medical teams and stadium security officer.

d) Languages
All emergency public announcements are to be made in the participating teams' native language plus the language of the host nation (if different).

For all predetermined safety announcements, it is recommended that these translations are pre-recorded to ensure that there is no confusion.

44 Stadium announcer

1. The stadium announcer shall be trained accordingly and provided with texts written in advance for broadcasting over the public address system.

2. Texts covering the following eventualities shall be drafted and readily available to both the public announcer and the police:

a) Congestion in spectator area in front of entry gates.

b) Spectators still outside the entry gates at kick-off.

c) Decision to postpone match.

d) Clashes between violent groups of supporters.

e) Penetration of perimeter fence by one or more spectators.

f) Discovery of potentially explosive/inflammable device.

g) Threat of attacks with explosive/inflammable devices.

h) Possible danger caused by poor weather or stadium construction faults.

i) Danger posed by panic among spectators.

45 Crowd build-up

1. Dangerous overcrowding can arise if spectators are able to force their way into a stadium that is already full or nearly full, for example by scaling or breaking through perimeter fences, gates or turnstiles. To avoid this risk, boundary walls, fences and gates should be of the appropriate height and strength, should not provide the opportunity for climbing, and should be monitored by CCTV and/or stewards and/or police officers.

2. Turnstile areas must always be controlled by stewards and/or police officers. For matches where crowd build-up is expected, additional resources may be required.

3. Contingency plans should be drawn up in order to deal with situations where unduly large crowds gather outside the stadium's outer perimeter. Local knowledge of the stadium and crowd patterns should be taken into account in drawing up such contingency plans.

4. It should be stressed that the opening of additional or under-used entrances could lead to sudden uncontrolled movement and possible crushing. If the stadium contingency plans dealing with large crowds outside include the opening of additional entrances, the plan must also contain sufficient measures to prevent uncontrolled crowd movements. It should also ensure that spectators who enter in such situations can still be accurately counted, and that adequate stewarding arrangements are in place for their dispersal once inside the stadium.

5. Under no circumstances should there be uncontrolled admission into the ground.

46 Stadium code of conduct

1. A stadium code of conduct that meets the legal requirements of the host nation and FIFA shall be prepared for all stadiums in consultation with the local authorities and the stadium authority and shall be displayed throughout the stadium.

2. The stadium code of conduct should be made available to spectators in as many forms as required to ensure that they are known. This may include booklets, websites, public announcements, etc.

3. The stadium code of conduct shall contain provisions that help to reduce the risk of spectator behaviour that may threaten safety, security or good order. If these provisions are violated, the offenders shall be punished in accordance with the host nation's laws, which may include eviction from the stadium.

4. Guidance on stadium codes of conduct can be found in **Annexe C**.

47 Safety signs

1. Safety signs appear in five different categories, and should follow the host nation's standardised formatting for signs. The five categories are:

a) Prohibition signs: for example, "No smoking".

b) Warning signs: for example, "Low headroom" or "Uneven steps".

c) Mandatory signs: for example, "Spectators must have a valid ticket".

d) Emergency signs: for example, escape routes or first aid stations.

e) Firefighting equipment signs: for example, hose reels, extinguishers.

2. All signs in these categories should be easily seen and understood. In conditions of poor natural light, it may be necessary to provide either artificial illumination and/or to ensure the signs use reflective material.

3. Where possible, signs should be pictorial in design to assist those who cannot read or understand the language in which the sign is written.

48 Information signs

1. These are signs communicating information relative to the stadium or event or to specific restrictions. Such signs include:

a) Stadium plans: simplified ground plans shall be displayed at suitable locations, such as by main entrances, and, where appropriate, in places where they might benefit spectators. The ground plans should display any colour-coded information relating to ticketing and entry requirements.

b) Stadium regulations/stadium code of conduct: including information on prohibited items.

c) Directional signs: both outside and inside the ground.

d) Block, row and seat indicators.

2. Signs in these categories should not use predominant colouring which could lead to their being confused with safety signs.

49 Commercial signs and hoardings

1. Care should be taken to ensure that signs and hoardings in this category are located in such a way that they do not obscure or detract from safety or information signs, for example, by being too close, by blocking the line of vision, or by the overuse of predominant colours utilised in the safety or information signs.

2. Commercial signs must not restrict movement of spectators or block entrances and exits.

50 Alcoholic beverages

1. FIFA recognises that the regulation of the consumption of alcohol is critical. If the possession, sale, distribution or consumption of alcohol is to be permitted at a match, the event organiser must take all reasonable measures to ensure that the consumption of alcohol does not interfere with the spectators' safe enjoyment of the match. Unless otherwise regulated by the law of the country where the FIFA event takes place, the following minimum measures shall be applied:

a) Restrict the sale and distribution of alcohol to that by authorised personnel only.

b) Prohibit the possession and distribution of alcohol at the stadium premises (outer security perimeter) or in the stadium itself by any unauthorised individuals.

c) Prohibit the admission of any individual who appears to be drunk.

d) Prohibit the possession and distribution of glass, cans or any closed portable containers that may be thrown and cause injury.

2. FIFA, the confederations and associations reserve the right to further restrict the possession, sale, distribution or consumption of alcohol at matches, including the type of beverages that may be sold, where alcoholic beverages may be consumed, or to ban alcohol, as deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

51 Fire services

1. The stadium safety and security management team shall plan, organise, control, monitor and review the necessary preventative and protective fire safety measures and record these arrangements in writing.

2. The host nation's fire safety legislation shall be referred to and adhered to within all stadiums.

3. It is a requirement that a competent person or authority produce a fire risk assessment. If the risk of fire at a stadium or a section of the stadium is deemed as medium to high, the capacity of the section should be limited to the number of spectators who can safely exit within the appropriate time.

52 Minimising fire risks

The following measures and practices should be considered when seeking to minimise the fire risk:

a) Sources of ignition

The fire risk assessment should identify all potential sources of ignition at the stadium. Where possible, those sources should be removed or replaced. Where this cannot be done, the ignition source should be kept well away from combustible materials, be adequately guarded or made the subject of management controls. Ignition sources may include:

i) Cooking appliances.
ii) Central heating boilers.
iii) Room heaters.
iv) Light fittings.
v) Certain electrical apparatus, especially if not maintained.
vi) Smoking areas.

b) Smoking

i) The stadium safety and security management team must ensure that if smoking is permitted inside the stadium perimeter, it does not increase the risk of fire. This can be achieved by designating smoking areas at controlled points that are equipped with suitable ashtrays and extinguishers.

ii) The stadium safety and security management team should adopt and enforce a clear policy on smoking for both staff and spectators. The policy should be supported by suitable signs and use of the public address system to inform spectators.

iii) In areas which are constructed of, or contain, combustible or flammable items or materials, smoking should be strictly prohibited in that vicinity.

c) Flares and fireworks

i) The stadium safety and security management team must adopt and enforce a clear policy prohibiting spectators from bringing flares, fireworks or other forms of pyrotechnics into the stadium. This should be clearly stated in the stadium code of conduct.

ii) Any event activities which include pyrotechnic displays must be included in the fire risk assessment and a formal plan prepared, which must be approved by the fire services and local authorities.

d) Voids

Voids under seating areas, or under the flooring itself, are often used for the unauthorised storage of combustible materials. They may also accumulate waste or litter. All voids should be inspected prior to an event as part of the risk assessment and made safe.

e) Waste and litter

The accumulation of waste and litter (such as programmes and food and drink packaging) should be avoided. Sufficient waste and litter bins must be provided throughout the stadium and arrangements made for their frequent emptying throughout the match.

f) High-risk fire areas

High-risk fire areas should be separated from any other parts of spectator accommodation by a construction having a fire resistance of at least 30 minutes. Such areas may include:

i) Kitchens.
ii) Catering outlets.
iii) Hospitality areas.
iv) Boiler rooms, oil fuel stores and general stores.
v) Enclosed or underground car parks.

Adequate firefighting equipment must be positioned in these areas, taking into consideration the types of extinguisher required, such as CO_2, water, etc.

g) Catering facilities

Wherever possible, all catering facilities should be located in permanent structures. Any temporary or mobile catering facility must be included in the fire risk assessment.

h) Fuel or power supply

Special care should be taken to ensure that any fuel or power supply used for cooking or heating, in particular liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders, is stored safely.

i) Hazardous materials

If it is necessary to utilise hazardous materials, such as fuels (whether in containers or within fuel tanks and machinery), fertilisers, weed killers, paints or gas cylinders used for medical purposes, they should, if held within or near to spectator facilities, be stored in fire-resistant facilities that have appropriate access control.

j) Temporary structures and ancillary activities

Any temporary accommodation or facility must be included within the fire safety risk assessment. Any ancillary activity not included in the overall fire safety risk assessment must be the subject of a site-specific risk assessment.

53 Fire warning and detection systems

1. Consideration should be given to the installation of an automatic fire detection (AFD) system in all high-risk fire areas and also in any unoccupied areas that contain a normal fire risk. This system should:

a) Give an automatic indication of the fire warning and its location.

b) If the fire warning panel is located in a part of the stadium other than the VOC, there should be a repeater panel sited in the VOC.

c) Be designed, installed, commissioned, maintained and tested by professionally competent persons.

2. Whichever warning or detection system is in place, the fire services must be informed immediately of any warning.

3. The procedures for notifying the fire services must form part of the stadium's contingency plans and staff must be trained accordingly.

54 Firefighting facilities and equipment

All stadiums must be provided with adequate firefighting equipment. Advice on the type, level of provision and positioning of firefighting equipment should be sought from the fire services or authority responsible for enforcing fire legislation. When providing such equipment, the following should be considered:

a) Where appropriate, hose reels should provide adequate protection to the whole floor area and be installed in a suitable position by entrances, exits and stairways.

b) Where hose reels are not provided, sufficient portable fire extinguishers should be installed to give adequate cover. The number and type will depend upon the structure's size, layout, fire separation and risk.

c) Fire blankets and appropriate fire extinguishers should be provided in all catering facilities and outlets.

d) Portable firefighting equipment should be located so that it cannot be vandalised but is readily accessible to staff when needed.

e) All firefighting equipment must be regularly inspected to ensure that it is in full working order.

55 Staff fire awareness and training

It is the event organiser's responsibility to ensure that all staff working at the stadium are aware of the need to guard against fire, including the possibility of arson. Staff should be trained in how to respond as follows:

a) To raise the alarm and inform the VOC immediately.

b) To save life and prevent injury to others, without becoming a casualty themselves.

c) Provided it is safe to do so, to attempt to put out the fire and/or prevent it from spreading.

d) To assist in the safe evacuation of the section/stadium/area concerned.

56 Emergency evacuation and places of safety

1. The emergency evacuation time is a calculation which, together with the appropriate rate of passage, is used to determine the capacity of the emergency exit system from the viewing accommodation to a place of safety or reasonable safety, during an emergency.

2. The fire risk assessment should take into account the availability and location of one or more places of safety or reasonable safety.

3. A place of safety may be a road, walkway or open space adjacent to, or even within, the boundaries of the stadium.

4. Within a large stadium, there may also be a need to designate a place or places of "reasonable safety", where people can be safe from the effects of fire for 30 minutes or more (unless otherwise stated by the host nation's laws and legislation), thus allowing extra time for them to move directly to a place of safety. A place of reasonable safety may include:

a) An exit route that is protected throughout its length by a construction having a fire resistance of 30 minutes, unless otherwise stated by the host nation's laws and legislation.

b) A stairway that is in the open air and protected from fire breaking out onto or below it.

c) The field of play.

5. Emergency evacuation routes, one inside and one outside of the stadium, must be agreed upon with the police, stewards, fire service, first aid and emergency services. The external evacuation route shall have two lanes and be negotiable by vehicle and must be kept unobstructed at all times.

6. The field of play within the stadium must be accessible by at least one vehicle entry point.

7. If it is determined that the field of play is to be used as a place of reasonable safety, there must be a method of subsequently moving evacuated spectators from the field of play to a place of safety outside the stadium.

57 Emergency evacuation of spectators with disabilities

Contingency plans for emergency evacuation must take into account the special needs of spectators with disabilities.

58 Medical

1. Every stadium must ensure that appropriate and qualified medical and first aid provisions are available for all spectators, including VIPs/VVIPs, in addition to the medical facilities set aside for players and officials.

2. In order to assess the level of requirement, the event organiser should commission a medical risk assessment from a competent person(s) or organisation.

3. Medical provisions must comply with the relevant national legislation for the provision of medical services at large public gatherings/sporting events. For further advice and guidance, stadium management should refer to the following FIFA publications:

a) Medical Assessment and Research Centre (F-MARC) – *Football Emergency Medicine Manual*.

b) *Football Stadiums – Technical Recommendations and Requirements.*

59 TV and media

1. General

a) The stadium security officer is responsible for ensuring that TV and media activities do not interfere with the safety and security operations of the stadium.

b) Media and TV companies, in conjunction with the host broadcaster, must provide the stadium security officer with a risk assessment for their installations. In addition, the stadium security officer shall ensure that all media and TV facilities, whether permanent or temporary, are included within the overall stadium risk assessment.

c) The stadium security officer is responsible for ensuring that appropriate security is in place to prevent unauthorised access to TV broadcast compounds and other TV and media facilities, in agreement with the host broadcaster. He must further ensure that all TV and media equipment inside the stadium grounds is not stolen, vandalised or interfered with in any way. The following provides guidance on the levels of security required and principles to be applied:

i) **Level A:** From the time that broadcast installation starts at a stadium (e.g. cabling, temporary buildings, etc.), suitable monitoring must be in place to prevent the accidental or deliberate tampering with the facilities at any time.

ii) **Level B:** From the time that full technical or office installation starts at a stadium, 24-hour security must be provided for the broadcast compound. In addition, broadcast areas within the stadium must be included within the overall stadium security plan.

iii) **Level C:** On match day and match day -1 (or on days when team training sessions or similar activities take place), full security must be in place to ensure that all broadcast areas are free from accidental or deliberate interference by unauthorised personnel.

d) TV and media parking and broadcast compounds must be

segregated from the public and be provided with appropriate levels of lighting.

2. TV and media pre-event planning

a) Pre-event planning and briefings should include proposed arrangements for pre-match, half-time or post-match entertainment or ceremonies. Consideration should be given to appointing a safety and security liaison officer for media and TV activities.

b) If any TV or media provision results in restricted views for any areas of spectator accommodation, tickets for those areas should not be sold, and access to them not permitted for spectators during the event.

c) TV and media personnel unfamiliar with emergency procedures at the stadium should be fully briefed by the stadium security officer. This is particularly important with regard to any pitchside operators or remote camera positions.

3. TV and media pre-event inspections

The stadium security officer should consider the following:

i) TV and media vehicles should not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct ingress and egress to the stadium.
ii) Cables should not run along or across gangways or passageways, or otherwise obstruct the movement of spectators. Where laid in front of pitch perimeter exits, cables should be buried or installed in a cable duct.
iii) Where camera platforms are located above spectator areas, protective measures, such as netting, should be provided to guard against falling objects.
iv) Where cameras or camera gantries are located in spectator areas, or where sight lines are restricted as a result of their location, seat kills must be factored into the overall capacity of that section of the stadium. Stadium management should also ensure that tickets for the affected areas are not sold.
v) The precautions listed above apply also to loudspeaker systems and other media installations, such as video screens, stages, etc.

vi) The output from loudspeaker systems should not drown out police and stewards' radios, or the public address system. Provision should be made for an override switch (normally in the VOC), so that the loudspeaker output can be interrupted if necessary.

4. TV and media personnel – identification

a) All TV and media personnel, in particular everyone whose function requires them to operate around the field of play or have access to other restricted areas, should be clearly identified, but in such a way that their clothing cannot be confused with that of the stewards or other safety and security personnel.

b) Regardless of role and location, all media and TV personnel must be properly accredited.

60 Prevention of provocative and aggressive actions

1. Political action

The promotion or announcement of political or religious messages or any other political or religious actions, inside or in the immediate vicinity of the stadium, by any means, is strictly prohibited before, during and after matches.

2. Provocative and aggressive action and racism

a) The event organiser must guarantee in cooperation with the local security authorities that, in the stadium or its immediate vicinity, supporters do not act in a provocative or aggressive manner. This includes, for example, unacceptable levels of verbal provocation or aggression towards players, match officials or opposing fans, racist

behaviour and banners and flags that bear provocative or aggressive slogans. If such actions arise, the event organiser and/or security forces must intervene over the public address system and immediately remove any offensive material. Stewards must draw the attention of the police to serious acts of misbehaviour, including racist insults, so that offenders may be removed from the stadium.

b) Furthermore, all associations and clubs shall observe the relevant FIFA regulations and implement all available measures to prevent such misconduct.

c) Any serious acts of misbehaviour, including racist insults, shall result in the offender being removed from the stadium, in line with the stadium code of conduct. If a civil or criminal offence is committed, the police shall be informed immediately so that appropriate action can be taken.

3. Supporter liaison officer

a) All associations shall employ a supporter liaison officer.

b) The supporter liaison officer shall be responsible for ensuring that all measures are taken to ensure that the association's supporters are prevented from engaging in any behaviour that may threaten safety or security inside or outside the stadium. The supporter liaison officer shall also make special efforts to identify and eliminate any violent tendencies and to eradicate or at least reduce existing prejudices.

c) The supporter liaison officer shall take the following measures in particular to meet the above objectives:

i) Engage in dialogue with spectators and disseminate information.
ii) Mix with spectators and encourage sensible behaviour.
iii) Assist stadium stewards and police in dealing with unruly fans.

61 Stadium bans

1. The relevant authorities retain the right to impose a stadium ban or other sanctions on and take necessary legal action against any identified person(s) whose behaviour either inside the stadium or outside the stadium affects or poses a threat to the safety and security of the event or to other people.

2. The relevant authorities retain the right to impose sanctions and take legal action against any identified person(s) who is in breach of the stadium code of conduct or whose behaviour is in breach of local laws.

3. The relevant authorities must collaborate and exchange and verify information at their disposal before every event, thus ensuring the smooth application of stadium bans in the area of jurisdiction of the organiser.

4. Only the body that imposed the ban or other sanction may rescind it.

62 High-risk matches

1. It is primarily the responsibility of the host association to classify the matches and to determine whether a match is to be regarded as high-risk. This decision shall be taken as soon as possible after consultation with the relevant stakeholders, and in particular, with the senior national security advisor. The association shall inform the FIFA general secretariat of its decision immediately. In exceptional circumstances, the FIFA general secretariat or the respective confederation may, on the basis of its own information, designate the match as high-risk.

2. The following measures shall be implemented for matches classified as high-risk:

a) Strict segregation of fans by allocating sectors other than those indicated on the match ticket (enforced segregation).

b) Creating and reserving empty stadium sectors between "dangerous" spectator sectors.

c) Increasing the number of stewards and/or police officers, particularly at entry and exit points in spectator sectors, around the field of play and between groups of rival supporters.

d) Assigning stewards to the visiting association/club to accompany the fans from the airport, railway station, port or bus/tram station and back. Where appropriate, police services may also be required.

e) Employing a stadium announcer from the visiting association/club.

f) Keeping spectators in the stadium at the end of the match until order can be guaranteed outside the stadium. In such cases, the following principles shall be observed:

i) Shortly before the end of the match, the decision to retain a group of supporters shall be announced over the public address system in the language of the supporter group concerned.
ii) The match organiser shall ensure that, during the period of retention, the retained supporters have access to refreshments and sanitary facilities.
iii) If possible, the retained supporters shall be entertained (music, giant screen, etc.) to help the waiting time pass more quickly and keep them calm.
iv) The retained supporters should be informed regularly of how much longer they may have to wait before being allowed to leave the stadium.

3. Whilst FIFA may decide at any time to appoint a FIFA security officer for its matches, a FIFA security officer will be appointed for all high-risk matches.

4. Associations, confederations and event organisers shall report to the FIFA Security Division any information that may be relevant to illegal activity, illegal gambling or match-fixing. The FIFA Security Division retains the right to appoint an investigator or investigators to any match or event that is under suspicion of illegal activities, illegal gambling or match-fixing without prior communication with the association, confederation or event organiser. Associations shall cooperate fully with FIFA with regard to the above and, where requested, facilitate the investigator(s) attending the match and conduct interviews as required.

63 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup

1. The articles contained within these regulations shall also apply to FIFA Beach Soccer World Cups, with the exception of those articles or parts of articles as defined in **Annexe E**.

2. It is recognised that certain aspects of safety and security are specific to the requirements of FIFA Beach Soccer World Cups. Further guidance on the additional and/or minimum requirements is provided in **Annexe E**.

64 FIFA Futsal World Cup

1. The articles contained within these regulations shall also apply to FIFA Futsal World Cups, with the exception of those articles or parts of articles as defined in **Annexe F**.

2. It is recognised that certain aspects of safety and security are specific to the requirements of FIFA Futsal World Cups. Further guidance on the additional and/or minimum requirements is provided in **Annexe F**.

65 Administrative rules

If a stadium does not meet the structural, technical, organisational and operational requirements specified in these regulations, and severe safety, security or disorder problems are to be expected as a result, a stadium may be prohibited from hosting FIFA events.

66 Violations

Violations of these regulations may be subject to disciplinary measures in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code, provided these regulations are applicable in accordance with article 1.

67 Matters not provided for

Any matters that are not provided for in the present regulations shall be dealt with by the relevant FIFA bodies. Such decisions are final.

68 Diverging texts

The regulations exist in the four official languages of FIFA (English, French, German and Spanish).

If there is any discrepancy between the four texts, the English version shall be authoritative.

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69 Effective date

The FIFA Executive Committee adopted these regulations on 14 December 2012. These Stadium Safety and Security Regulations shall come into force on 1 January 2013.

Tokyo, 14 December 2012

For the FIFA Executive Committee

President:	Secretary General:
Joseph S. Blatter	Jérôme Valcke

Annexe A	Requirements of the national security officer, the senior national security advisor and the stadium security officer
Annexe B	Counter-terrorism
Annexe C	Recommended content of the stadium code of conduct
Annexe D	Stadium areas and zones
Annexe E	Guidance for FIFA Beach Soccer World Cups
Annexe F	Guidance for FIFA Futsal World Cups

Acknowledgements
FIFA acknowledges the support provided by the Sports Grounds Safety Authority and its agreement to the reproduction, where appropriate, of advice contained in the *Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds*.

Requirements of the national security officer

In order to discharge his duties properly, the national security officer should meet the following requirements:

Competence
A person will be regarded as occupationally competent for the role of national security officer when he has sufficient training, experience and knowledge to be able to fully perform his roles and responsibilities.

Status
During FIFA events, the national security officer should be recognised as being in overall control of operational safety and security management issues relating to the event in conjunction with the senior police commander/senior national security advisor. On non-match days, he should be regarded as the principal advisor to the member association on all safety and security issues in relation to football stadiums and hosting FIFA events.

The national security officer will be responsible for ensuring that all stadium security officers appointed for FIFA events are properly trained and competent. He will provide guidance and advice to ensure that any stadium used for a FIFA event meets FIFA's minimum safety and security standards.

Requirements of the senior national security advisor

In order to discharge his duties properly, the senior national security advisor should meet the following requirements:

Competence
The senior national security advisor shall be a serving senior police officer who has experience and knowledge of sporting events.

Status
The senior national security advisor should not be a full-time position but should involve regular contact with the national security officer. During events, he will be in overall control of all security matters involving the police
and/or other relevant agencies and will work with the national security officer to ensure constant liaison between authorities and event organisers.

The senior national security advisor shall be instrumental in assisting with the planning and preparation of a FIFA event and with the delivery of resources
to provide the security infrastructure together with the relevant authorities. He shall also oversee the production of major incident plans.

Requirements of the stadium security officer

In order to discharge his duties properly, the stadium security officer should meet the following requirements:

Competence
A person will be regarded as occupationally competent for the role of stadium security officer when he has sufficient training, experience and knowledge to be able to fully perform his roles and responsibilities.

Status
The stadium security officer should be recognised as being in overall control of operational safety and security management issues on a match day in conjunction with the senior police commander at the stadium. On non-match days, the stadium security officer should be regarded as the principal advisor to the stadium management on all safety and security issues.

Although the stadium security officer may be appointed on a part-time basis, he must not be deployed on the day of a match in which they have had no input into the safety and security planning at that stadium.

Counter-terrorism

FIFA events are targets for terrorist groups or individuals, regardless of whether the host nation possesses an intrinsic capability. Terrorism can come in many forms, not just physical, and can include threats or hoaxes designed to frighten and intimidate.

All counter-terrorism matters should be addressed by the relevant national authorities as part of an overall national security strategy, and specific advice relating to terrorist threats must be obtained from the relevant national authorities prior to the start of any FIFA event. Counter-terrorism measures should be integrated into stadium contingency plans wherever possible.

As a basic measure, the stadium safety and security management team should establish low-level search and awareness policies. The vigilance of all staff (including cleaning, maintenance and ground staff and contract staff) is an essential means of deterrence and detection. As they know their own work areas, stadium staff should be encouraged to be alert to unusual behaviour or items that are out of place.

Basic searches of the stadium should be conducted as part of a daily routine, especially on match days. As a guideline, stadium searches should be conducted on the following occasions:

a) Prior to a stadium being handed over for a FIFA event and accreditation being enforced.

b) Prior to any official training taking place at the stadium.

c) Prior to any match.

Detailed searches utilising professional resources should be conducted in response to any specific threat or on the discovery of a suspicious item.

All staff must have the confidence to report anything suspicious in the knowledge that reports, including false alarms, will be taken seriously and regarded as a contribution to the safety and security of the event. Under the direction of the senior national security advisor, training and briefings should be conducted at all stadiums for all staff, not only safety and security employees. Staff should be briefed to look out for packages, bags or other items in odd places, carefully placed (rather than dropped) items in rubbish bins and unusual interest shown by strangers.

If there is an increased risk of terrorist activity at a particular stadium or across the whole event, it may be necessary to conduct more thorough searches of people and vehicles entering the stadium. This may require additional resources on the approaches to the turnstiles or entry points, which in turn may reduce the rate at which spectators can enter on match days. If this is the case, it may be necessary to inform spectators in advance and open the gates earlier than usual to compensate for the time it will take spectators to pass through security.

Search plans

The stadium security officer and the local police commander are responsible for developing a stadium search plan.

a) Search plans should be prepared in advance of the event and all staff should receive training and perform rehearsals for them.

b) The overall objective of the plan is to make sure that the entire stadium area is searched in a systematic and thorough manner so that no part is left unchecked.

c) Those best placed to search a stadium are those who work there on a regular basis. Police and other agencies can conduct searches, but they may not be familiar with the layout or be aware of what should be there or is out of place, and as such cannot search as quickly or as thoroughly as stadium staff.

d) The member(s) of staff nominated to carry out the search do not need to have expertise in explosives or other types of device, but they must be familiar with the place they are searching. They are looking for any items that should not be there, that cannot be accounted for or are out of place.

e) Ideally, those conducting searches should do so in pairs.

Recommended action
Consider dividing the stadium into sections that are of a manageable size and easily understood.

The search plan should have a written checklist, to be signed when completed by the stadium security officer. A copy should be held in the VOC.

Remember to include any stairs, fire escapes, corridors, toilets and lifts in the search plan, as well as car parks, service yards and other areas outside that fall within the outer perimeter of the stadium.

If evacuation is considered or implemented, then a search of the assembly areas, the routes to them and the surrounding area should also be made prior to evacuation.

Consider the most effective method of initiating the search, for example by sending a message to the search teams over a public address system (the messages should be coded to avoid unnecessary disruption and alarm to the public).

Search plans should incorporate the following key instructions:

a) Do not touch or attempt to move any suspect items.

b) Move everyone away to a safe distance and out of line of sight.

c) Notify the VOC immediately.

d) Prevent others from approaching the suspect item.

e) Communicate safely and calmly to staff, officials, players, VIPs/VVIPs and spectators who are in the area.

f) Only use hand-held radios or mobile phones away from the immediate vicinity of a suspect item, remaining out of line of sight and behind hard cover.

g) Ensure that whoever found the item or witnessed the incident remains on hand to brief the police.

Searching of persons entering a venue

Subject to the threat assessment, once a stadium search is complete all persons entering the stadium should be subjected to a search regime.

Consider the following:

a) Anyone refusing to be searched will not be permitted access into the stadium.

b) The search regime is for everyone entering the stadium, including all staff, goods deliverers, volunteers and members of the public.

c) Consider advising spectators that searches will be carried out. They should arrive early and be encouraged not to bring bags. This can be achieved via tickets, websites or pre-event advertising. A list of banned items should also be included in the information.

d) Ensure that the search staff are properly briefed and trained on their powers and what they are searching for.

e) If detection equipment such as metal detectors and scanners is used, ensure that those operating the equipment fully understand how they work and their limitations.

f) Ensure that the search areas have sufficient space.

g) Ensure that there are sufficient staff to carry out the searches.

h) Ensure that there are sufficient search facilities to handle the expected attendance within the available time.

i) If there is a car park within the outer perimeter of the stadium being used, all cars entering the car park must be searched.

j) The vehicles of VIPs/VVIPs, players and officials should be searched daily and, where possible, guarded to prevent any interference. When transporting VIPs/VVIPs, players and officials to the stadium, vehicles should be fully searched prior to passengers alighting from the vehicle and escorted to the stadium by police so as to avoid them having to be searched on entry to the stadium.

Recommended content of the stadium code of conduct

For all FIFA events, a formal stadium code of conduct shall be established between FIFA, the host nation, the relevant local authority and the stadium authority.

The stadium code of conduct shall contain provisions that help to reduce the risk of any spectator behaviour that may threaten safety, security or good order. If these provisions are violated, the offender(s) shall be punished in accordance with the host nation's laws and subject to eviction and/or banning from stadiums.

When drawing up the stadium code of conduct, the following should be considered:

1. Entry to the stadium
This section describes the conditions of entry into the stadium by visitors and accredited persons. It should include the requirements of producing a valid ticket or accreditation and, where requested, proof of identity. Furthermore, stadium visitors and accredited persons must submit to searches and agree that access is limited to those areas of the stadium as specified on the ticket or accreditation.

2. Prohibited items
This section deals with all items that stadium visitors and accredited persons are not permitted to use, possess, hold or bring into the stadium. Prohibited items are loosely grouped into the following categories:

a) Any item that could be used as a weapon, cause damage and/or injury or be used as a projectile.

b) Illegal substances, not just limited to narcotics.

c) Items of a racist, xenophobic, charitable or ideological nature or items that could detract from the sporting focus.

d) Items that increase the risk of fire or are harmful to health, not solely pyrotechnics.

e) Animals, except those used for the purpose of assisting people with disabilities or impairments.

f) Large, unwieldy objects that cannot be stowed under a seat.

g) Any item that could distract the players and/or officials, including laser pointers and items that produce excessive volumes of noise.

h) Promotional or commercial materials.

i) Recording devices or cameras of any kind other than those for personal use.

j) Any other object that could compromise public safety and security and/or
harm the reputation of the event.

k) Any items that could restrict the view of other spectators.

3. Common sense conduct inside the stadium

This section sets out the required standard of behaviour of stadium visitors and accredited persons whilst inside the stadium. It should include, but not be restricted to, such provisions as:

Stadium visitors and accredited persons shall:

a) Conduct themselves in a manner that is not offensive to, endangers the safety of, hinders or harasses others.

b) Only occupy seats and hospitality facilities as indicated on the ticket.

c) Not cause obstructions or restrict the circulation of people or vehicles.

d) Not drop litter.

e) Smoke only in designated areas.

f) Not enter the field of play or other restricted areas, unless authorised.

g) Not obstruct the view of others.

h) Not throw any objects or substances at others or on to the field of play.

i) Not cause fire or the risk of fire or use pyrotechnics of any kind.

j) Not act in a manner that could cause offence to others, including but not restricted to acts of racism.

k) Not act in a manner that could detract from the sporting event.

l) Not sell goods or tickets to others unless authorised to do so.

m) Not create any threat to safety or life, or harm themselves or others.

n) Not climb on or over any structures not intended for general use.

o) Unless authorised to do so, not record, photograph, transmit or disseminate any sound, image, description or result of any activity within the stadium for commercial use.

p) Not act in a manner that could distract or harm the players or officials.

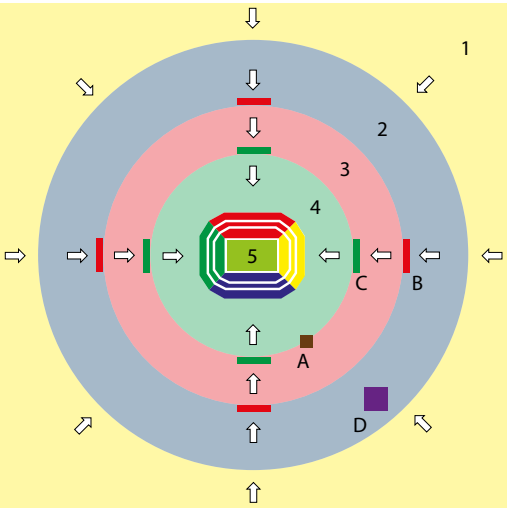
q) Not engage in any activity that could compromise the safety, security or reputation of the event.

When drawing up the stadium code of conduct, the local laws, customs and past spectator behaviour will need to be considered.

Stadium areas and zones

Stadium perimeters and areas

Stadiums used during FIFA events are divided into five distinct perimeters, as follows:



1. The public zone
2. The exclusive zone
3. Outer perimeter (visual ticket check)
4. Inner perimeter (electronic access control)
5. The stands
A. TCP
B. Mags & bags
C. Turnstiles
D. STC

Notes:
TCP: Ticketing clearing point
STC: Stadium ticketing centre

1. Public zone

This area includes the city and surrounding outskirts of the stadium precinct and is outside of stadium control.

2. Exclusive zone

This is the exclusive commercial zone, which is strictly monitored according to the Rights Protection Programme (RPP) rules and regulations for the FIFA event.

3. Outer perimeter (visual ticket check)

The first visual check of a pass and search are carried out at this perimeter. Access to this area requires a valid accreditation badge or match ticket.

4. Inner perimeter (electronic access control)
This is where the turnstiles are located and also includes the public access areas and hospitality suites.

5. Stands
These are the seating areas and playing field.

Stadium zones
Stadiums used during FIFA events are designated nine further zones, which are designed to control access to restricted areas and areas of work for those with accreditation. The designated zones will be indicated on accreditation passes. Only persons with the correct accreditation showing the zone number may enter that zone.

On match days, supplementary accreditation devices (SADs) may be deployed to further restrict access to key zones such as zones 1 and 2.

It is recommended that signs be put up at all entry points into the various stadium zones showing which passes are valid for entry.

Zone	Area	Details
1	Field of play	• Pitch • Substitutes' benches • Fourth official's bench • Photographers' positions • Pitch access and tunnel
2	Competition areas	• Dressing rooms, players • Dressing rooms, referees • Medical examination room • FIFA delegation room • Doping control room • Corridors (with access to these areas) • Teams' and officials' drop-off and pick-up points

Zone	Area	Details
3	Public areas	• General public entrance and areas • Public toilet facilities • Public concession stands • Public first aid facilities • Commercial and host city displays • Spectator accommodation
4	Operations areas (offices)	• FIFA and LOC office • VOC • Stadium announcer, giant screen and sound rooms • Medical facilities • IT room • FIFA and LOC storage rooms • Police and security facilities
5	VIP areas	• VIP reception room • VIP stand • VIP interview area • VVIP area
6	Media tribune	• Print media seats • Seats for radio and TV commentators and observers • Mixed zone • Press conference room
7	Media centre	• Media work area • Media catering area • Media briefing area • Photographers' area • Development and service centres
8	Broadcast area	• TV compound • TV and radio studios
9	Hospitality area	• Commercial affiliates' village • Commercial hospitality • Hospitality lounges • Sky boxes

FIFA Beach Soccer World Cups

General

1. The articles contained in these regulations shall be referred to, taking into consideration the deletions and insertions detailed below.

2. It is recognised that certain aspects of safety and security are specific to the requirements of FIFA Beach Soccer World Cups. This Annexe provides further guidance, highlighting the additional and/or minimum requirements.

Article	Delete	Insert	Further guidance/comments
7	3. d)		Full risk assessments must be completed, paying particular attention to the construction and type of materials used to construct the stadium site, including back of house areas.
9	2. e) vi)		
11			If car parks are contained within the outer perimeter of the stadium site or within 500 metres of the stadium, they must be included in the risk assessment and stadium security plan.
12	1. k)		
14			Some matches are likely to attract greater spectator demand than the capacity of the stadium and this must be factored into the steward deployment plan, and where required additional police support secured.
15	1. d) 1. f)		
16	f)		

Article	Delete	Insert	Further guidance/comments
21			Of particular importance, stewards must be able to clearly identify when the stadium has reached maximum capacity, and take appropriate action to prevent overcrowding and subsequent overloading of the stadium structure.
24			The construction of the stadium must be robust enough to support the calculated weight loading, in line with article 35. This must be included in the safety certificate.

Article	Delete	Insert	Further guidance/comments
25	1. a)	Public admittance is permitted without tickets free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the maximum safe capacity of the stadium.	Spectators are expected to come and go throughout the day, with anticipated surges for popular matches, such as those involving the host nation's team. As such, there must be a robust access control mechanism in place to ensure that the stadium never exceeds its maximum safe capacity. The following points are to be considered: • There must be a counting system to count entries into and exits from the spectator viewing areas. • The stadium security officer must monitor the crowd at all times to ensure that no sections of the stadium become overcrowded. • Entrances into the spectator viewing areas must be able to be closed once the stadium has reached its maximum safe capacity, whilst leaving suitable separate exit routes for spectators leaving the stadium under normal conditions or in an emergency. • Access into the spectator viewing areas must be controlled at all times.
26	Art. 26		

Article	Delete	Insert	Further guidance/comments
29	1. a) 1. g)	That the person possesses a valid permit to gain access to restricted areas of the stadium. That the person complies with the stadium code of conduct.	
31			The stadium site must have appropriate levels of full-time security from the moment construction of the site starts. This shall include the TV broadcast compound and media facilities.
32	3. 4. 5. 6.		Due to the construction of beach soccer stadiums, the field of play should at no time be considered as a suitable evacuation route, place of safety or reasonable place of safety. As such there must be sufficient emergency exit routes from the stadium to a place of safety for spectators as well as officials and players.
36	2. a) viii)		
45			It is essential that the spectators entering the stadium site are aware at all times of the number of available seats in the viewing area, so that expectation management can be handled away from the entry points into the spectator viewing areas to avoid congestion, overcrowding and surges.
56	4. 6. 7.		Due to the construction of beach soccer stadiums, the field of play should at no time be considered as a suitable evacuation route, place of safety or reasonable place of safety.
62	2.		

FIFA Futsal World Cups

General

1. The articles contained in these regulations are to be referred to, taking into consideration the deletions and insertions detailed below.

2. It is recognised that certain aspects of safety and security are specific to the requirements of FIFA Futsal World Cups. This Annexe provides further guidance, highlighting the additional and/or minimum requirements.

3. When these regulations refer to a stadium, it shall also mean a sports hall.

Article	Delete	Insert	Further guidance/comments
7		p) Areas of the sports hall not being used for the FIFA event.	
11			If car parks are contained within the outer perimeter of the stadium site, or within 500 metres of the stadium, they must be included in the risk assessment and stadium security plan.
24			The safety certificate must incorporate all areas within the sports hall, whether they are used or not during the FIFA event.
32			The field of play should at no time be considered as a place of safety.
34			FIFA Futsal World Cups are to be played in all-seater stadiums.
36			A single VOC must be established for the sports hall. While it may not be possible for the VOC to have a physical overview of the football pitch and viewing areas, it must have sufficient CCTV coverage to allow monitoring of crowd conditions.

Article	Delete	Insert	Further guidance/comments
39			All lighting inside the sports hall must have an uninterruptable power supply to ensure that there are no periods of blackout, either on the field of play, or within the stairways, vomitories and entry/exit routes.
41			CCTV coverage should also include areas within the sports hall that are not in use for the FIFA event.
51		1. Fire risk assessments must include all areas of the sports hall, whether they are in use or not during the FIFA event.	
53			Consideration should be given to including fire detection and warning systems in all areas of the sports hall, whether they are in use or not during the FIFA event.
54		f) Suitable fire precautions that meet the host nation's regulations shall be implemented in all areas of the sports hall, whether they are in use or not for the FIFA event.	
56			The field of play should at no time be considered as a place of safety.

FIFA®



FIFA Equipment Regulations

2025

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FIFA KIT SUMMARY

PART ONE

INTRODUCTION

1. THESE REGULATIONS

1.1 The FIFA Council approved these Regulations on 3 October 2024. They come into force on 1 January 2025, replacing the 2022 FIFA Equipment Regulations with effect from that date.

1.2 These Regulations govern the Playing Kit and other clothing and equipment used by the Team Delegations of Member Associations, Clubs, or eFootball Clubs (as applicable), as well as eFootball Players competing on an individual basis, when they are participating in any of the Competitions and Matches identified in section 2B.

1.2.1 Part Two of these Regulations sets out principles that apply generally to all such Playing Kit and other clothing and equipment.

1.2.2 Part Three sets out provisions that are specific to the Playing Kit and other items that must be worn or used by Players during a Match in a Competition that is not a FIFA beach soccer or futsal Competition or FIFA eFootball Competition and during International Friendly Matches; while Parts Four and Five set out provisions specific to the other clothing and equipment that may be worn or used by the members of a Team Delegation during, before or after such Matches.

1.2.3 Part Six sets out the clothing and other items that must, or may, be worn by the members of a Team Delegation in connection with a FIFA beach soccer Competition or a FIFA futsal Competition.

1.2.4 Part Seven sets out the clothing and other items that must, or may, be worn by eFootball Players and any other members of a Team Delegation in connection with a FIFA eFootball Competition.

1.2.5 Part Eight sets out the kit and other clothing to be worn by the Match Officials and by the Match Support Personnel at the Matches specified in these Regulations.

1.2.6 Annexe A sets out rules to be used to interpret these Regulations, as well as the meaning of the defined words and phrases used in these Regulations. The meaning of the defined words and phrases used in these Regulations are identified by capitalised text as set out in article 13 paragraph 1, article 14 paragraph 1, and article 15 paragraph 1.

1.2.7 Annexe B sets out the process to be followed by Member Associations, Clubs, eFootball Clubs, and eFootball Players to obtain FIFA's approval for Playing Kit and other clothing and equipment covered by these Regulations.

1.3 Other FIFA rules and regulations also apply to these issues, as follows:

1.3.1 The primary rules applicable to the use of kit and equipment on the field of play are set out in Law 4 of the Laws of the Game, as amended from time to time. In the event of conflict between the Laws of the Game and these Regulations, the Laws of the Game prevail.

1.3.2 The FIFA Disciplinary Code, as amended from time to time, will govern any action taken to enforce these Regulations. Any sanctions or consequences imposed pursuant to the FIFA Disciplinary Code or other relevant rules to which FIFA is bound (e.g. the World Anti-Doping Code) that conflict with these Regulations (e.g. because they mandate the use of neutral uniforms by a Team in a Competition covered by these Regulations) prevail over these Regulations.

1.3.3 The regulations applicable to a specific Competition (in particular, the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations) and/or FIFA circulars may include further provisions relating to the use of clothing and other equipment in that Competition, in particular concerning, clothing and other equipment used in Competition areas other than the Controlled Areas, and provisions aimed at preventing Ambush Marketing. In case of conflict between these Regulations and such Competition regulations and/or FIFA circulars, FIFA shall clarify by circular which provisions prevail.

1.4 FIFA may amend these Regulations from time to time to take account of technological and/or other developments. The amendments will come into effect on the date on which they are published, unless FIFA specifies otherwise.

1.5 Confederations and Member Associations are encouraged to use these Regulations as the basis for regulating the use of clothing and other equipment in their own competitions.

2. SCOPE OF APPLICATION OF THESE REGULATIONS

2A Parties bound by these Regulations

2.1 These Regulations apply to Member Associations and Clubs fielding Teams in a Competition or Match specified in section 2B. They also apply to other entities (such as private commercial gaming teams) fielding Teams in a FIFA eFootball Competition specified in section 2B (each, an "eFootball Club"). Each such Member Association, Club and eFootball Club must comply in full, and must ensure that each individual member of its Team Delegation complies in full, with these Regulations and with any circulars, guidelines, directives, and/or decisions issued by FIFA at any time in relation to these Regulations.

2.2 Each individual member of a Team Delegation, each eFootball Player that enters a FIFA eFootball Competition on an individual basis, and each Match Official and Match Support Person must also comply in full with these Regulations and with any circulars, guidelines, directives, and/or decisions issued by FIFA at any time in relation to these Regulations.

2B Competitions and Matches covered by these Regulations

2.3 These Regulations apply to the following competitions (collectively the "Competitions"):

2.3.1 They apply in full to the following FIFA competitions ("FIFA Final Competitions"):

2.3.1.1 the FIFA World Cup™ final competition, the FIFA Women's World Cup™ final competition, and the FIFA Club World Cup™;

2.3.1.2 the FIFA U-20 World Cup™ final competition, the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup™ final competition, the FIFA U-17 World Cup™ final competition, the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup™ final competition, and the Blue Stars/FIFA Youth Cup™ final competition; and

2.3.1.3 the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup™ final competition, and the FIFA Futsal World Cup™ final competition.

2.3.2 With the exception of any competition that is organised by a Confederation, they also apply in full to the competitions staged as qualifying competitions for the FIFA Final Competitions ("FIFA Preliminary Competitions").

2.3.3 With the exception of any competition that is organised by a Confederation, they also apply in full to the competitions that function as qualifying competitions for the Men's, Women's and Youth Olympic Football Tournaments.

2.3.4 They also apply in full to the following eFootball competitions ("FIFA eFootball Competitions"):

2.3.4.1 team-format competitions in which eFootball Players in a Team representing a Member Association compete against other eFootball Players in Teams representing other Member Associations (e.g. FIFAe Nations Cup™);

2.3.4.2 team-format competitions in which eFootball Players in a Team representing a Club or eFootball Club compete against other eFootball Players in Teams representing other Clubs or eFootball Clubs (e.g. FIFAe Club World Cup™); and

2.3.4.3 competitions in which eFootball Players compete against each other on an individual-format basis, either on behalf of a Member Association, Club or eFootball Club, or in an individual capacity (e.g. FIFAe World Cup™).

2.3.5 Unless FIFA states otherwise, these Regulations will also apply in full to any successor to any of the above Competitions and to any new FIFA competitions.

2.4 Parts Two and Three of these Regulations also apply to International Friendly Matches unless confirmed otherwise by FIFA. Unless confirmed otherwise by FIFA, the Member Associations and/or Confederations will implement and enforce Parts Two and Three of these Regulations in respect of International Friendly Matches, and the relevant Member Associations and/or their Confederations will regulate all other aspects of clothing and equipment use at International Friendly Matches.

2C Areas of the Match venue covered by these Regulations

2.5 These Regulations apply to clothing worn and equipment used on the day of the Match[1] by members of the Team Delegations, the Match Officials, and the Match Support Personnel in all areas of the Match stadium or arena (as the case may be) for which an official accreditation or other security device (not just a Match ticket) is required for access, including the field of play and areas immediately surrounding the field of play, the stage or platform (in respect of FIFA eFootball Competitions), technical areas, warm-up areas, the referee review area, tunnel, dressing rooms, medical and doping control areas, media and interview areas, arrival and departure zones, and all corridors and other spaces connecting such areas (the "Controlled Areas"). The VOR is also considered a Controlled Area for the purposes of these Regulations, even if it is located away from the Match venue.

2.6 These Regulations also apply to the stands and VIP/hospitality areas in the Match venue, but only to the extent that members of the Team Delegation are required to be present there while acting in that capacity (e.g. technical overflow seats in the stand). They do not apply to representatives or affiliates of a Team or to members of a Team Delegation who are present in such areas as ticket-holders or invited guests. Other FIFA rules and/or regulations may apply to such individuals, depending on the Competition.

1 On non-Matchdays, the FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations of the Competition in question apply.

2D Enforcement

2.7 Where applicable, the Match Commissioner will report to FIFA any instance of apparent non-compliance with these Regulations. The Match Commissioner may confiscate the item(s) in question and provide them to FIFA along with a written report.

2.8 Whether or not a report is received from the Match Commissioner, FIFA may investigate any instances of potential non-compliance with these Regulations, with a view to potentially bringing proceedings under the FIFA Disciplinary Code. All parties have a duty to cooperate fully and in good faith with such investigations.

3. LEGAL CONDITIONS

3.1 FIFA will resolve any matters that are not provided for in these Regulations and will present any measures that need to be taken where events of force majeure impact on the ability to implement these Regulations.

3.2 Decisions made by FIFA in respect of enforcement of these Regulations are final and binding and may not be appealed.

3.3 Proceedings for alleged breach of these Regulations will be brought before the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. Notwithstanding this and in accordance with article 57 of the FIFA Statutes, any dispute arising in relation to these Regulations and any challenges to decisions made by FIFA in respect of these Regulations are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The applicable law governing the dispute/challenge will be the FIFA Statutes and these Regulations, with Swiss law applying subsidiarily.

3.4 FIFA will not be liable in any circumstances to any Member Association, Club, eFootball Club, Team Delegation member, Manufacturer, sponsor, Confederation, or other party for any claims, losses, fees, damages, costs, taxes or other charges of any kind whatsoever that may arise or be incurred as a direct or indirect result of the implementation of these Regulations.

PART TWO

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT COVERED BY THESE REGULATIONS

4. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

4.1 This Part Two applies to all of the items of Playing Kit and other clothing and equipment covered by these Regulations.

4.2 Where FIFA so requires in accordance with Annexe B, a Member Association, Club or eFootball Club (or eFootball Player who is entering a FIFA eFootball Competition in an individual capacity) must not use or allow any member of their Team Delegation to use any Playing Kit or other clothing or equipment covered by these Regulations in connection with a Competition or a Match set out in section 2B unless and until the Member Association, Club, eFootball Club or eFootball Player in question has obtained written confirmation that the item complies in full with these Regulations and any other applicable rules or regulations, and/or with any circulars, guidelines, directives, and/or decisions issued by FIFA, and contains only elements that are specifically authorised under these Regulations.

4.3 No item (of Playing Kit or other clothing or equipment or otherwise) may be worn or used in any Controlled Area if FIFA considers that it:

4.3.1 is dangerous, offensive or indecent, includes political, religious, discriminatory or personal slogans, statements, or images, or otherwise does not comply in full with the Laws of the Game;

4.3.2 confers an unfair sporting advantage or fundamentally alters an essential aspect of the game;

4.3.3 seeks to imply a connection with FIFA, or to exploit goodwill belonging to FIFA, or otherwise constitutes Ambush Marketing; or

4.3.4 has not been formally approved, where required, by FIFA in accordance with Annexe B as being fully compliant with these Regulations and/or with any other applicable rules or regulations, and/or with any circulars, guidelines, directives, and/or decisions issued by FIFA.

4.4 Each Member Association, Club and eFootball Club, and each eFootball Player who is entering a FIFA eFootball Competition in an individual capacity, must ensure that they have all of the rights and licences required for the members of their Team Delegation to wear and use their Playing Kit and other clothing and equipment in Competitions and/or International Friendly Matches (as applicable), and that the wearing and use of such Playing Kit, clothing, and other equipment will not infringe the rights of any other party.

4.5 Each Member Association, Club and eFootball Club, and each eFootball Player who is entering a FIFA eFootball Competition in an individual capacity, must indemnify FIFA in respect of any claims, losses, fees, damages, costs, taxes, or other charges or expenses of any kind whatsoever that FIFA incurs because of the failure or alleged failure of the Member Association, Club, eFootball Club or eFootball Player (as applicable) to comply in full with the requirement in article 4.4.

5. MANUFACTURING CONSIDERATIONS

5A Safety

5.1 The Playing Kit and other clothing and equipment falling within the scope of these Regulations must not pose any risk of inflicting injury or illness on the person wearing or using it or on anyone else. In particular:

5.1.1 It must be possible to close a collar opening on a Shirt securely for the duration of the Match.

5.1.2 No collar opening on a Shirt may be longer than 5cm, measured down from the front of the opening.





5.1.3 Items used to fasten the collar on a Shirt – such as zippers, buttons, or magnets – must not be of a shape or made of a material that creates a risk of injury, e.g. laceration or contusion. A drawstring may not be used to fasten the collar.

5.1.4 Zippers (whether metal or of another material) are not permitted on gloves (including goalkeeper gloves) if they pose a threat of injury to the person wearing the gloves or to others.

5.1.5 If drawstrings are incorporated into the waist of Shorts, they must be kept inside the Shorts at all times.

5.1.6 Pockets are not permitted on any item of Playing Kit.



5B Construction

5.2 All elements incorporated into a Playing Kit item (including Names, Numbers, FIFA Event Badges, FIFA World Champions Badges, Team Identifiers, Manufacturer Identifiers, and Decorative Elements) must be permanently incorporated by stitching, heat transfer, a special manufacturing technique listed in article 5.5, or any other technique approved by FIFA. Temporary or removable attachments (e.g. using Velcro) are not permitted.

5.3 No item of Playing Kit, or anything displayed on an item of Playing Kit, may be made of a reflective material, or of a material that changes colour or appearance due to an external influence, such as pressure, light, temperature, or water or another liquid.

5.4 Team Identifiers and Manufacturer Identifiers may only be constructed as holograms if the identifier remains visible at all angles (i.e. the hologram cannot incorporate more than one image) and the hologram does not materially impact the perceived colour of the item on which it is displayed.

5C Special manufacturing techniques

5.5 The following manufacturing techniques are permitted:

5.5.1 jacquard weave (i.e. weaving which incorporates a specific pattern into a fabric using threads of the same basic colour as the surrounding fabric);

5.5.2 tonal print (i.e. a printing technique used to incorporate elements, patterns, etc. of a similar colour into an item);

5.5.3 embossing (i.e. adding texture to the surface of a fabric using heated rollers under pressure to produce a combination of raised and flat areas);

5.5.4 laser etching (i.e. incorporating a specific pattern into a fabric using a laser machine); and

5.5.5 any other special manufacturing techniques that FIFA approves from time to time.

5D Production and circularity

5.6 Playing Kits and other clothing and equipment that fall within the scope of these Regulations are to be sourced and produced taking into account the FIFA Sustainable Sourcing Code, whenever reasonably possible.

In particular, special attention shall be paid to ensure that items and their packaging are made of recycled materials and are recyclable in the territory within which they are used.

Whenever possible, packaging should be avoided. Where that is not possible, it should be kept to a minimum. Finally, Member Associations, Clubs and eFootball Clubs should aim to establish reuse or take-back schemes for used and unused Playing Kits and other clothing and equipment, whenever they are replaced with new ones.

5E Uniformity

5.7 All goalkeepers in a Team must wear the same Playing Kit as each other, and all Outfield Players in the Team must wear the same Playing Kit as each other. All items of a Team's Playing Kit must be produced by the same Manufacturer.

5F Interior areas

5.8 Interior surfaces and other areas of an item may not display anything that is visible on the exterior or that may be used as a means of Ambush Marketing. For example, standard manufacturer labels such as those located on the neck of a shirt should not be oversized or clearly visible from more than 5m away in the event the Player removes the item of clothing (such as after the Match).

6. COLOURS

6.1 Save where these Regulations require otherwise, there is no limit on the number of colours that may appear on a Team's Playing Kit. Furthermore, unless stated otherwise, the restrictions in these Regulations on the use of colours on Playing Kit items do not apply to colours appearing in Team Identifiers, Manufacturer Identifiers, and/or Decorative Elements displayed on Playing Kit.

6.2 The colours used on the respective Playing Kits worn by the two Teams contesting a particular Match must contrast sufficiently to allow the Match Officials, Players, Team Officials, media and spectators in the stadium, and television/broadcast viewers (including, whenever reasonably practicable, those with a colour vision deficiency) to distinguish clearly between the Players and the Match Officials, between the different Teams, and between the goalkeepers and the Outfield Players on each Team, even in difficult weather conditions. For these purposes:

6.2.1 Each item of Playing Kit worn by one Team must contrast sufficiently with the equivalent item of Playing Kit worn by the other Team to allow that clear distinction.

6.2.2 Each Team must have a First-Choice Playing Kit and at least one Alternative Playing Kit in clearly differing colours or colour combinations, for use where necessary to ensure that clear distinction.

6.2.3 The colour(s) of the First-Choice Playing Kit must contrast clearly with the colour(s) of each Alternative Playing Kit.

6.2.4 To that end, where a First-Choice Playing Kit item is predominantly light in colour, at least one equivalent Alternative Playing Kit item should be predominantly dark in colour, and vice versa.

6.2.5 Each Team is encouraged to have a second Alternative Playing Kit, which will commonly be referred to as the "third kit", in a colour or colours differing from both its First-Choice Playing Kit and its first Alternative Playing Kit.

6.2.6 The colour(s) of any item(s) worn underneath the Playing Kit must not be visible through the Playing Kit and must in no way affect the colour of, or the visual impression given by, the Playing Kit.




First-Choice Playing Kit
Alternative Playing Kit
Playing Kit goalkeeper
Playing Kit goalkeeper


Playing Kit Outfield Player
Playing Kit goalkeeper


First-Choice Playing Kit
Alternative Playing Kit
First-Choice Playing Kit
Alternative Playing Kit


Playing Kit goalkeeper
Playing Kit Outfield Player

6.3 If a Playing Kit item features more than one colour,[2] one of the colours must be clearly predominant (the "Dominant Colour") over the other colour(s), and must predominate to the same extent on the front and back of the Playing Kit item.





2 For these purposes, close variants and shades of a colour will be considered to be a single colour, whereas broader variants and shades of a colour will be considered to be multiple colours.

6.4 The only exception to article 6.3 is that the Shirts of the Outfield Players (but not the Shirt of a goalkeeper) may feature a basic geometric repeated pattern (such as stripes, hoops or checks) with two equally prominent colours. In such cases, the Shirt of at least one of the Team's Alternative Playing Kits must not have either of those two colours as its Dominant Colour.





6.5 Where FIFA or the Match Officials consider that there is an insufficient contrast between the colours used on the Playing Kits of two Teams contesting a particular Match to distinguish clearly between the Players and the Match Officials, between the different Teams, and/or between the goalkeepers and the Outfield Players on a Team, they may require one Team (even after the Match has started, if necessary) to switch to, or to combine, different items from its different Playing Kits as necessary in order to achieve a clear distinction.

6.6 Any tape or similar material applied to a Playing Kit item during a Match must match the Dominant Colour of the Playing Kit item (or one of the two equally prominent colours of the Playing Kit item, where applicable).

6.7 FIFA shall measure the colour contrast used on Playing Kits with a spectrophotometer, which will provide an objective means of making a decision. Where the Confederation uses the FIFA Equipment Regulations for their tournaments, the Confederation may choose whether to adopt and/or apply these specific articles.

6.7.1 Measurements shall be taken using a spherical spectrophotometer with an aperture of 6.6mm and a measurement area of 4mm on a white point of D65 and a standard observer angle of 10°. A spectrally neutral grey card with 18% reflectance shall be placed under the single layer of fabric to be measured, and each final measurement shall be calculated from the average of three readings, at 0°, 90° and 45°.

6.7.2 The contrast between the Shirt's colours in the Number Zone must be less than or equal to a Delta L of 25. Colour combinations with a Delta L difference value greater than 25 require a single-colour patch on the back of the Shirt to serve as the Number Zone.

6.7.3 Player Numbers must contrast with the background colour(s) in the Number Zone by a Delta L value equal to or higher than 30.

6.7.4 Tonal prints must be included in a tonal variation of the background colour(s) of the item of Playing Kit into which they are incorporated, with a contrast that is less than or equal to a Delta L value of 10. Background colours are measured before the associated tonal print.

6.7.5 Jacquard weave thread must be the same colour as the fabric into which it is woven. The jacquard weave must not dominate, contain a colour that contrasts with, or otherwise affect the distinctiveness of the item of Playing Kit into which it is incorporated. When measured, the contrast between the two weaves must be less than or equal to a Delta L value of 5. Background colours are measured before the associated jacquard weave thread.

7. NAMES AND NUMBERS

7.1 In FIFA Final Competitions, the Player's Name must appear on the back of the Player's Shirt. The Player's last name or popular name shall be affixed above the number on the back of the Shirt and shall be clearly legible in accordance with these Regulations.

The name on the Shirt must bear a strong resemblance to the Player's popular name as indicated on FIFA's official list of Players and in any other official FIFA documentation. In case of doubt, FIFA shall have the final decision regarding the name that appears on the back of the Player's Shirt.

A Player's Number must appear on the back of the Player's Shirt and on the Player's Shorts in all Competitions (other than FIFA eFootball Competitions) and International Friendly Matches.

In addition, other Competition regulations may require or permit the Player's Number on the front of the Player's Shirt and/or the Player's Name on Playing Kit items and/or other equipment.

7.2 All such Names and Numbers must:

7.2.1 correspond to the Name and/or Number (as applicable) of the Player as it appears on the official list of Players submitted in accordance with the regulations specific to the Competition or International Friendly Match in question, and must not represent an abbreviated form of that Name;

7.2.2 be of one single colour, which must contrast sufficiently with the surrounding colour(s) of the Playing Kit item (or of the Number Zone, where used)[3] and the colour selected must consider colour vision deficiency, and be clearly legible, so that other Players, Match Officials, Team Officials, media and spectators in the stadium, and television/broadcast viewers are able to identify the Player in question;

7.2.3 (in the case of Names) comprise letters of Latin characters only, in upper or lower case (phonological diaereses, such as accents or umlauts, are also permitted);

3 A Number Zone must be used where the Name or Number would not be sufficiently legible otherwise (as may happen, for example, with a patterned shirt).



Art. 7.2



Art. 7.2



7.2.4 be consistent in terms of style, font, size, position and colour for all Players in the same Team, save that:

7.2.4.1 the colour of the Number on the Shirt may be different from the colour of the Number on the Shorts; and

7.2.4.2 the colour of the goalkeepers' Names and Numbers may differ from the colour of the Names and Numbers of the Outfield Players;

7.2.5 not include any Team Identifiers, save that a Team Emblem or Team Symbol no bigger than 5cm² may be included on the bottom of each digit of a Number displayed on the back of the Shirt;

7.2.6 not include any Decorative Elements; and

7.2.7 not function as a trademark or include anything that gives the visual impression of a Manufacturer Identifier or Sponsor Advertising, or that creates an association with a Manufacturer, a sponsor, or other third party, or that constitutes a promotion or other commercial message of any kind.

7.3 Such Names and Numbers may:

7.3.1 incorporate a border or shadow outline in a different colour to improve the legibility of the Name or Number, provided this does not impair the predominance of the Dominant Colour of the Playing Kit item in question;[4]

7.3.2 contain breathing holes that are not more than 2mm wide.

7.4 Each digit of a Number may be divided into no more than four segments, each segment being no more than 2mm apart.



4 Any such border or shadow outline shall not be taken into account in the measurement of Name and Number height and stroke width under these Regulations.

8. TEAM IDENTIFIERS

8.1 Once approved by FIFA, Playing Kit and/or other clothing or equipment may display the following types of Team Identifier in accordance with these Regulations:

Type of	Examples[5]	
graphic identifier	Member Association	Club/eFootball Club
Team Emblem[6]	 (Colombia)	 (FC Bayern Munich)
Team Symbol	 (Netherlands Women's team)	 (Arsenal FC)
National Flag	 (Japan)	
Coat of Arms		 (Seal of Guadalajara, MEX)
Regional Flag		 (Canton of Ticino, SUI)

5 These are examples only. Each of them would still need to be approved by FIFA prior to use.

6 A dedicated Team Emblem that commemorates a jubilee or other significant event may be used on Playing Kit in place of the usual Team Emblem subject to FIFA's prior approval. Such commemorative emblem may incorporate words, numbers (e.g. dates) and/or Decorative Elements, provided it meets the applicable size limits. For FIFA beach soccer Competitions, a Member Association may use its dedicated beach soccer Team Emblem. For FIFA futsal Competitions, a Member Association may use its dedicated futsal Team Emblem. For FIFA eFootball Competitions, a Member Association or Club may use its dedicated eFootball Team Emblem. References in these Regulations to "Team Emblem" include such dedicated Team Emblems.

Type of	Examples[7]	
word identifier	Member Association	Club/eFootball Club
Country Name/Club Name or Team Name (respectively)	**GHANA**	**RIVER PLATE**
Member Association name	**REAL FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE FÚTBOL** (Spain)	
Team Nickname	**LES CAGOUS** (New Caledonia)	**NERAZZURRI** (FC Internazionale Milano)
Team Slogan	**KITA GARUDA** (Indonesia)	**YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE** (Liverpool FC)
Foundation Year	**1863** (England)	**1895** (CR Flamengo)

8.2 Where its use is permitted, the Team Identifier must be displayed in the same colour and form across all respective Playing Kit items of Outfield Players and goalkeepers used by the Team in a particular Competition (save that it may be included in a different colour on the Team's Alternative Playing Kit for that Competition).

8.3 A Club's Team Identifiers must also:

8.3.1 be formally recognised by its Member Association and Confederation, and must be used by the Team either: (a) in all domestic or in all continental competitions in the same season as the FIFA Competition in question; or (b) where applicable, in the domestic and/or continental season just ended or just beginning; and

8.3.2 (if they are, or include, a Regional Flag or Coat of Arms) be formally approved by the relevant authorities in the country or region concerned for use by the Club on its Playing Kit.

8.4 The Team Identifier(s) must not:

8.4.1 impair the ability of Match Officials, Players, Team Officials, media and spectators in the stadium, and television/broadcast viewers (including, whenever reasonably practicable, those with a colour vision deficiency) to distinguish clearly between the Players and the Match Officials, between the different Teams, or between the goalkeepers and the Outfield Players on each Team, even in difficult weather conditions;

7 These are illustrative examples only. Each of them would still need to be approved by FIFA prior to use.

8.4.2 undermine the contrast between a Team's First-Choice Playing Kit and any Alternative Playing Kit;

8.4.3 impair the predominance of a Dominant Colour on a Playing Kit item;

8.4.4 impair the legibility of a Name or Number on a Playing Kit item;

8.4.5 (unless it relates to an eFootball Club, in which case article 12 applies) include anything that gives the visual impression of a Manufacturer Identifier or Sponsor Advertising, or that creates an association with a Manufacturer, a sponsor, or other third party, or that constitutes a promotion or other commercial message of any kind;

8.4.6 contain any words, images, statements or relationship to messages that are political, religious or discriminatory, or personal slogans, statements or images of any kind; or

8.4.7 touch any of the other Team Identifiers or any Name, Number, FIFA Event Badge, FIFA World Champions Badge or Manufacturer Identifiers on the Playing Kit (save that the Team Emblem may be incorporated into Numbers as set out in article 7.2.5).

8.5 There are no restrictions on the shape of the Team Identifier(s), save that any representation of the National Flag must be in the official geometric form and usual proportions of that National Flag, unless its elements are being used as a Decorative Element as per article 10.4.

9. BADGES AND COMMEMORATIVE SYMBOLS

9A Official FIFA Event Badges

9.1 Each Member Association, Club and eFootball Club participating in a Competition or an International Friendly Match must display on its Playing Kit any official FIFA Event Badge(s) provided by FIFA, in accordance with the terms and conditions of use issued by FIFA from time to time.

9B FIFA World Champions Badge

9.2 Subject to the applicable terms and conditions of use issued by FIFA and any regulations specific to the respective competition, the Team that won the most recent edition of any of the following Competitions may display a FIFA World Champions Badge on its Shirts in all competitions and International Friendly Matches (as applicable) while still the reigning champions:

9.2.1 FIFA World Cup™;

9.2.2 FIFA Women's World Cup™;

9.2.3 FIFA Futsal World Cup™;

9.2.4 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup™; and

9.2.5 FIFA Club World Cup™.



9C Commemorative symbols

9.3 A five-pointed FIFA Winners' Star, or such other symbol as FIFA may specify, may be worn by a Member Association's men's or women's senior national representative team (and by each corresponding age group team that competes for that Member Association in the same discipline: see Figure 1) for each edition of the following FIFA Competitions that has been won by that senior team:

9.3.1 FIFA World Cup™;

9.3.2 FIFA Women's World Cup™;

9.3.3 FIFA Futsal World Cup™;

9.3.4 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup™; and

9.3.5 FIFAe Nations Cup™.

Figure 1: An example of the Teams of a single Member Association that may display FIFA Winners' Stars

FIFA titles won:	
FIFA World Cup™	★★★★
FIFA Women's World Cup™	★★
FIFA Futsal World Cup™	★
FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup™	★
FIFAe Nations Cup™	★★★

Display of FIFA Winners' Stars per national representative Team:	
Senior men's national Team	★★★★
Senior women's national Team	★★
U-20 men's national Team	★★★★
U-20 women's national Team	★★
U-17 men's national Team	★★★★
U-17 women's national Team	★★
Futsal senior men's national Team	★
Beach soccer senior men's national Team	★
FIFAe Nations Cup™ Team	★★★

9.4 The year of the respective FIFA title win (e.g. "1994" or "94") may appear within a FIFA Winners' Star.

9.5 There is no equivalent symbol for a Club that has won a FIFA Club World Cup™ (or successor competition).



9D Recognition of continental titles (Member Associations) and national titles (Clubs)

9.6 In FIFA Preliminary Competitions (if the relevant Competition regulations so allow) and in International Friendly Matches, but not in FIFA Final Competitions, a Member Association may display on its Team's Playing Kit an official badge issued by the relevant Confederation, commemorating the Team winning the most recent edition of the highest continental competition corresponding to the competitions listed in article 9.2, provided that such badge and its display comply with all of the provisions of these Regulations that would apply if the badge were a FIFA World Champions Badge, and does not include any Team Identifier, Decorative Element, Manufacturer Identifier, and/or Sponsor Advertising.

9.7 A Club may display stars denoting the number of times it has won its country's top domestic league and/or any continental competitions on its Team's Playing Kit in FIFA Competitions, adjacent to the Team Emblem or Team Symbol, if such stars are also displayed to the same extent when the Club plays in that domestic league and any continental competitions.

10. DECORATIVE ELEMENTS

10.1 A "Decorative Element" is any kind of visual representation or design feature – such as artwork, an abstract design, a simple geometric design, a watermark, or a tonal image (such as an image of an animal or a culturally relevant landmark – see examples under Figure 2) that appears on, or is incorporated into, an item of Playing Kit or other clothing or equipment (for example, in trim along a seam). Team Identifiers, Manufacturer Identifiers and Sponsor Advertising are excluded from this definition.

Figure 2: Examples of Decorative Elements





10.2 Decorative Elements may be displayed on, or incorporated into, Playing Kit items and other clothing and equipment in accordance with these Regulations, provided they are approved by FIFA.

10.3 A Decorative Element must not:

10.3.1 limit the ability of Match Officials, Players, Team Officials, media and spectators in the stadium, and television/broadcast viewers (including, whenever reasonably practicable, those with a colour vision deficiency) to distinguish clearly between the Players and the Match Officials, between the different Teams, and between the goalkeepers and the Outfield Players on each Team, even in difficult weather conditions;

10.3.2 undermine the contrast between a Team's First-Choice Playing Kit and any Alternative Playing Kit;

10.3.3 dominate a Playing Kit item or impair the predominance of a Dominant Colour on a Playing Kit item;

10.3.4 impair the legibility of a Name or Number on a Playing Kit item;

10.3.5 function as a trademark or include anything that gives the visual impression of a Manufacturer Identifier or Sponsor Advertising, or that creates an association with a Manufacturer, a sponsor, or other third party, or that constitutes a promotion or other commercial message of any kind; or

10.3.6 portray, or give the impression of, a person's face or identity, or the shape of a country or territory.

10.4 A Decorative Element may incorporate elements of a Team Identifier. In particular, it may incorporate elements of a National Flag (e.g. its colours) even if they do not maintain the official geometric form and usual proportions of the National Flag.

10.5 Unless otherwise stated below in respect of a particular item, there is no limit on the number, the size, or the positioning of the Decorative Element(s) on the Playing Kit item or other clothing or equipment.

11. MANUFACTURER IDENTIFIERS

11.1 The following types of Manufacturer Identifier may be displayed on Playing Kit and/or other clothing or equipment in accordance with these Regulations, once they have been approved by FIFA:

Examples of Manufacturer Identifiers [7]

	ADIDAS	LOTTO	NIKE	PUMA	UMBRO	NEW BALANCE
Name / Word Mark						
Logo/Graphic Mark						
Composite Mark (Name and logo)						
Script (i.e. a word mark written in a specific font)	adidas		nike	PUMA	UMBRO	new balance
Technology Label						

8 These are illustrative examples only. Each of them would still need to be approved by FIFA prior to use.

11.2 Technology Labels and Quality or Sustainability Seals may be included as a means of evidencing the technological purpose and functioning of the item in question and/or as a means of evidencing the sustainable sourcing of the material used to make the item. They are treated in these Regulations as a type of Manufacturer Identifier, unless stated otherwise in a particular context.

11.3 A Manufacturer Identifier may be of any shape. It must not:

11.3.1 limit the ability of Match Officials, Players, Team Officials, media, and spectators in the stadium, and television/broadcast viewers (including, whenever reasonably practicable, those with a colour vision deficiency) to distinguish clearly between the Players and the Match Officials, between the different Teams, and between the goalkeepers and the Outfield Players on each Team, even in difficult weather conditions;

11.3.2 undermine the contrast between a Team's First-Choice Playing Kit and any Alternative Playing Kit;

11.3.3 impair the predominance of a Dominant Colour on a Playing Kit item;

11.3.4 impair the legibility of a Name or Number on a Playing Kit item;

11.3.5 touch, or be positioned adjacent to, any other Manufacturer Identifier or any Name, Number, or Team Identifier on the item in question;

11.3.6 contain or constitute any form of machine-readable code, such as a barcode or a QR code that provides a link to further information; or

11.3.7 incorporate, by any means, any Team Identifier or Sponsor Advertising or any element(s) thereof.

11.4 A Manufacturer Identifier may appear:

11.4.1 on any buttons, zippers, drawstrings, and/or similar functional device, as long as it blends in with the colour of the device; and/or

11.4.2 on a size label, care instruction, anti-counterfeit label or similar that appears on or is attached to the interior surface of the item.

As long as such Manufacturer Identifier is not visible from more than 5m away (either at all times or in certain conditions, e.g. due to the application of sweat or other moisture or due to the weather conditions), this use will not be considered a display of that Manufacturer Identifier and therefore will not count towards any quotas on Manufacturer Identifier use established in these Regulations.

11.5 Where these Regulations permit the use of an MI Band on more than one Playing Kit item, the MI Band must be identical on each Playing Kit item. It may not touch, or be positioned adjacent to, any Manufacturer Identifier or any Name, Number, or Team Identifier on the item in question.

12. SPONSOR ADVERTISING

12.1 Sponsor Advertising and/or third-party advertising is not permitted on the Playing Kit or any other playing item of a Team representing a Member Association in a Competition or an International Friendly Match.

12.2 Sponsor Advertising approved by FIFA is permitted for a Team representing a Club or eFootball Club in a Competition, but only:

12.2.1 on the identified clothing and equipment, in the same form on each item; and

12.2.2 if it also appears on the clothing and equipment worn by that Team in at least one of the Team's other domestic and/or continental competitions in that season (or, where applicable, in the season just completed or just beginning).

12.2.3 Any sponsor advertising on official playing items, pre-match training shirts, anthem jackets, etc. or any other non-playing items worn by the players or team officials of a participating Football Club not provided for in these Regulations shall fall within the relevant articles of the approved FIFA Media and Marketing Regulations and/or the FIFA circulars issued for the competition in which the Football Club is participating.

12.3 Sponsor Advertising approved by FIFA is also permitted on the Playing Kit of an eFootball Player entering a FIFA eFootball Competition in an individual capacity.

12.4 In any Competition in which Sponsor Advertising is permitted, the Sponsor Advertising must:

12.4.1 only advertise a single product or service or a single, non-composite brand;

12.4.2 not advertise tobacco products (including smokeless tobacco products and electronic tobacco products), drinks with an alcohol content exceeding 15% ABV, weapons, or pornography or other adult material; and

12.4.3 not contravene any advertising laws or regulations in the country in which the Match takes place.

12.5 Other rules and regulations applicable to FIFA eFootball Competitions may also impose additional Sponsor Advertising product category restrictions.

PART THREE

COMPULSORY PLAYING ITEMS IN ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

13. PLAYING KIT (1): SHIRT

13.1 Shirts that are part of the official Playing Kit for Competitions have the following aspects :

13.1.1 Back Area: the entire back of the Shirt, excluding the Collar Zone and the Sleeves.

13.1.2 Chest Area: the top half of the front of the Shirt, excluding the Collar Zone and the Sleeves.

13.1.3 Collar Zone: a 3cm-wide band around the neck opening of the Shirt. If the Shirt has a collar that folds over, the Collar Zone also includes both sides of the folded-over part.

13.1.4 Elbow Point: where the point of the Player's elbow is located when the elbow is bent.

13.1.5 Free Zone: an area at least 12cm high and 8cm wide on each Sleeve, positioned symmetrically along the Shoulder Seam, and centred between the Shoulder Point and the Elbow Point.

13.1.6 Front Area: the Chest Area and Torso Area on the front of the Shirt, but not the Collar Zone or the Sleeves.

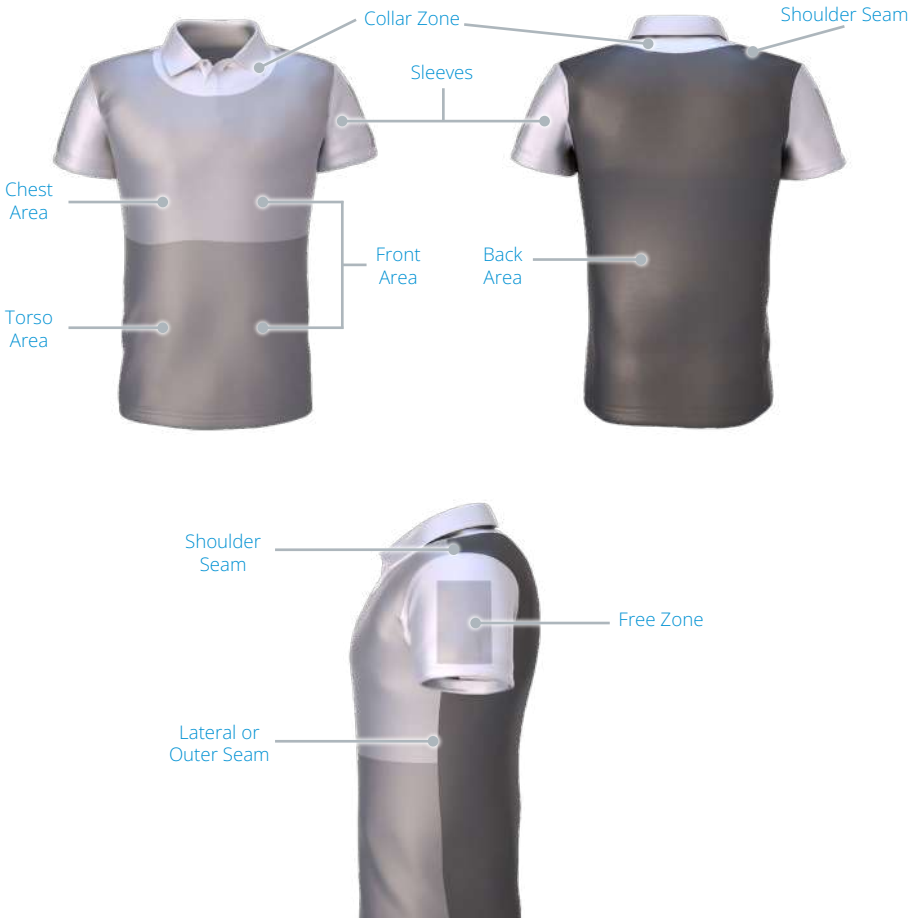
13.1.7 Lateral or Outer Seam: a real or virtual line running along the lateral edge of the Torso Area up to the base of the Sleeve, viewed from the front or the rear perspective, as if ironed flat.

13.1.8 Shoulder Point: where the Chest Area, Back Area, and Sleeves meet.

13.1.9 Shoulder Seam: a real or virtual line running along the lateral edge of the Sleeves of a Shirt, viewed from the front or the rear perspective, as if ironed flat.

13.1.10 Sleeves: the arm coverings, starting at the Shoulder Point and ending at or above the Elbow Point (short Sleeves) or at the wrist (long Sleeves).

13.1.11 Torso Area: the bottom half of the front of the Shirt, immediately below the Chest Area.



13.2 Shirt colour(s):

13.2.1 As per article 6.3, the Front Area and the Back Area of the Shirt must feature the same single Dominant Colour. The Sleeves must be the same colour(s) as each other, which must not undermine the predominant visual impression of the single Dominant Colour on the Front Area and the Back Area of the Shirt.



Art. 13.2.1

Art. 13.2.1



13.2.2 As the sole exception to the single Dominant Colour rule, the Front Area of the Shirt of an Outfield Player (but not a goalkeeper) may feature a basic geometric repeated pattern (such as stripes, hoops, or checks) featuring two equally prominent colours. In such a case:

13.2.2.1 the Back Area of the Shirt must:

a) feature the same pattern and colours;

b) feature the same two colours, giving them equal prominence; or

c) feature the lighter colour of the two as its Dominant Colour; and

13.2.2.2 the Sleeves must feature predominantly the same two colours as the Front Area of the Shirt, but the Sleeves do not need to be identical to each other.





Art. 13.2.2



Art. 13.2.2

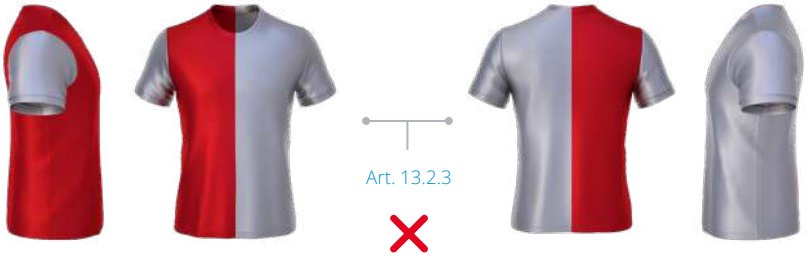


Art. 13.2.2

13.2.3 Any prominent additional colour(s) on the Shirt (in particular, on a sash, bar, or a colour appearing prominently around the Player's shoulders) must not undermine the predominant visual impression of the Dominant Colour (or the two equally prominent colours, as applicable) of the Shirt.

13.2.4 If the prominent additional colour on the Shirt is different from the Dominant Colour of the Shirt, FIFA may require that the Shirt of at least one of the Team's Alternative Playing Kits features neither that prominent colour nor that Dominant Colour.







13.3 The Player's Name:

13.3.1 Where the Player's Name must, or may, be included on the Shirt, it must be positioned on the Back Area, at least 4cm above the Player's Number.

13.3.2 The letters of the Name must be between 5cm and 7.5cm high.

13.4 The Player's Number:

13.4.1 The Player's Number on the back of the Shirt must be:

13.4.1.1 20-35cm (women)/25-35cm (men) high and 2-5cm in stroke width (each digit);

13.4.1.2 positioned in the centre of the Back Area;

13.4.1.3 (where necessary to ensure the Number is legible) located within a Number Zone that:

a) has one horizontal boundary 2cm above the highest point of the Number and the other horizontal boundary 3cm below the lowest point of the Number;

b) has one vertical boundary 3cm from the left edge of the left-hand digit, and the other vertical boundary 3cm from the right edge of the right-hand digit (or of the same digit, if there is only one);

c) is the same Dominant Colour as the Shirt (unless that would mean the Number is illegible, in which case the Number Zone must be a colour that ensures the Number is legible);

d) does not include any Team Identifier, other than as permitted by article 7.2.5; and

e) does not include any Manufacturer Identifier; and

13.4.1.4 entirely visible when the Shirt is tucked into the Shorts.



13.4.2 Where the Player's Number is required on the front of the Shirt, it must be:

13.4.2.1 10-15cm high and 1-3cm in stroke width (each digit);

13.4.2.2 positioned in the Chest Area (in the centre or at or towards one side); and

13.4.2.3 (where necessary to ensure the Number is legible) within a Number Zone that:

a) is proportionate in size to the size of the Number, and big enough to ensure the Number is legible whatever the conditions;

b) is the same Dominant Colour as the Shirt (unless that would mean the Number is illegible, in which case the Number Zone must be a colour that ensures the Number is legible); and

c) does not include any Team Identifier or Manufacturer Identifier.

13.5 Team Identifiers:

13.5.1 One or more of the following Team Identifiers may be displayed (in each case, no more than once) within the Chest Area of the Shirt:

13.5.1.1 Team Emblem – no bigger than 100cm^2;

13.5.1.2 Team Symbol – no bigger than 100cm^2;

13.5.1.3 Team Name or Team Nickname – no bigger than 12cm^2, with the lettering no higher than 2cm;

13.5.1.4 Country Name or Club Name (as applicable) – no bigger than 12cm^2, with the lettering no higher than 2cm; and

13.5.1.5 National Flag or Regional Flag or Coat of Arms (as applicable) – no bigger than 25cm^2.

13.5.2 Where both the Team Emblem (or Team Symbol) and the Country Name (or Club Name, Team Name or Team Nickname) are displayed in the Chest Area of the Shirt, they must be adjacent to each other.

13.5.3 The only Team Identifier that may be displayed on the Sleeves is the National Flag or Regional Flag (as applicable). It may be displayed once on each Sleeve, between the Shoulder Point and the Elbow Point but outside of the Free Zone. It must be no bigger than 25cm^2 in size.

13.5.4 Up to two Team Identifiers may be displayed at the centre of the Collar Zone in the Back Area of the Shirt. Each Team Identifier must be no bigger than 12cm^2 and must be at least 4cm above the Player's Name, with any lettering or numbers no more than 2cm high.

13.5.5 In addition, in accordance with article 10.4, elements of Team Identifiers may appear on the Shirt as part of a Decorative Element.

13.5.6 One Team Identifier may be displayed on the Shirt as part of a special manufacturing technique, as per article 5.5. The colour used must blend in with the Dominant Colour of the Shirt and must not affect its predominance.

13.6 Decorative Elements may be included on the Shirt.

13.7 Official FIFA Event Badges/recognition of titles/Match customisation:

13.7.1 The Free Zones must be:

13.7.1.1 kept free of any Team Identifier, Manufacturer Identifier, or other mark or feature of any kind, the space being reserved instead for the exclusive display of FIFA Event Badges;

13.7.1.2 kept free of any Decorative Element that might impair the prominence of, or distract from, the FIFA Event Badges to be displayed in the Free Zones (but Decorative Elements that do not do either of those things are permitted in the Free Zones);

13.7.1.3 made of the same fabric and by the same technique as the rest of the Sleeve, which fabric and technique must not impede the application of FIFA Event Badges; and

13.7.1.4 of a colour that blends in with the colour of the rest of the Sleeve.

13.7.2 The Shirts of Teams representing Member Associations must display:

13.7.2.1 in the Free Zone on the right Sleeve, the official FIFA Event Badge provided by FIFA for the Competition in question; and

13.7.2.2 in the Free Zone on the left Sleeve, any other official badge provided by FIFA for the Competition in question (e.g. official campaign badge, etc.).

13.7.3 FIFA Winners' Stars may be displayed in the Chest Area of the Shirt, but only if adjacent to a Team Emblem or Team Symbol. Each individual star may be no more than 2cm in diameter, and separate stars must be positioned no more than 2cm apart.

13.7.4 In FIFA Preliminary Competitions, a continental championship winners'

badge no bigger than 8x5.5cm may be displayed once on the Shirt, either:

13.7.4.1 in the Chest Area; or

13.7.4.2 on one Sleeve, between the Shoulder Point and Elbow Point but outside the Free Zone.

13.7.5 The Shirts for a particular Match may display in the Chest Area either the respective Country or Club Names, the National Flags or Club Emblems of the opposing Teams (subject to the consent of the other Team), the date of the Match, and the name of the host city and/or country of the Match, together being a maximum total size of 50cm^2, and with any letters and numbers no higher than 2cm.

13.8 Captain's armband:

13.8.1 For FIFA Final Competitions, the captain of each Team must wear the captain's armband as issued or authorised by FIFA, as the relevant competition organiser, if provided. If FIFA provides a choice of captain's armband, the captain should wear the one that contrasts most clearly with the Sleeve on which it is worn.

13.8.2 In other Competitions and in International Friendly Matches, any captain's armband not provided by FIFA and worn by the captain of a Team:

13.8.2.1 must be of a colour or colour(s) so as to ensure a clear contrast with the Sleeve on which it is worn;

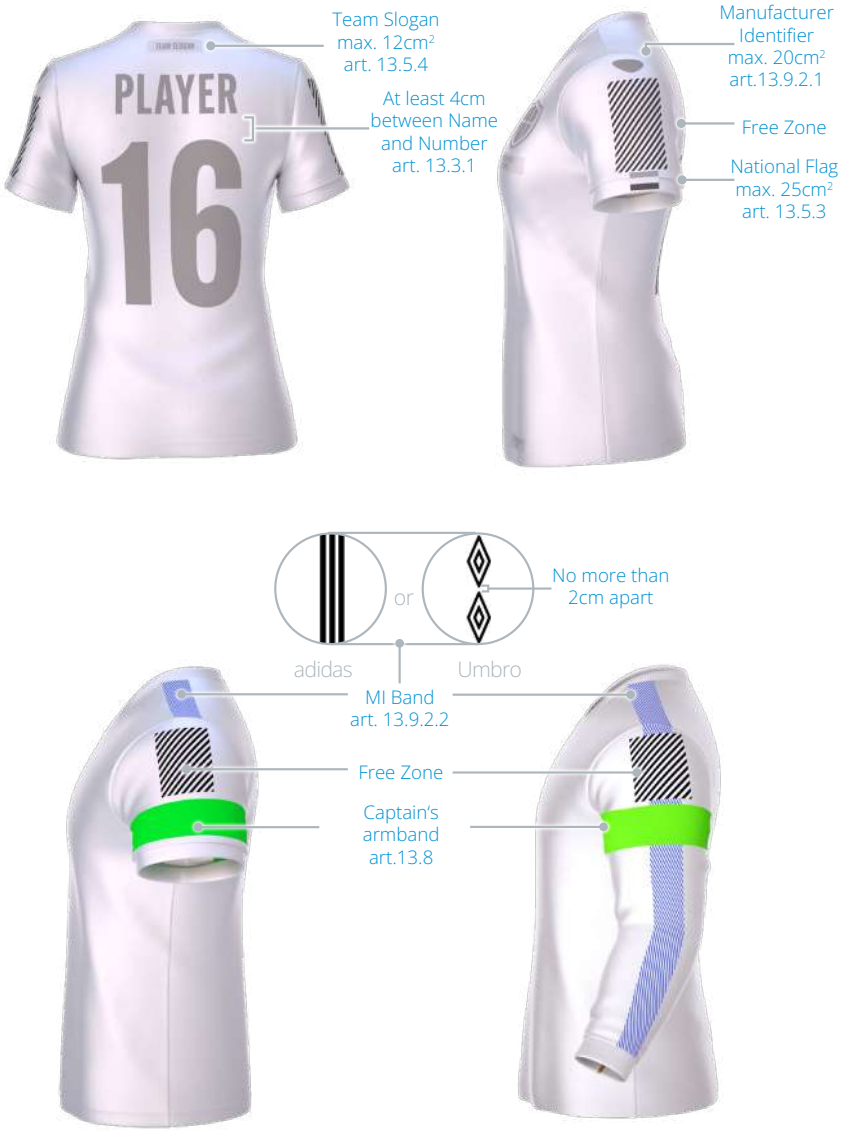
13.8.2.2 may not be incorporated into but rather must be separate from the Shirt itself;

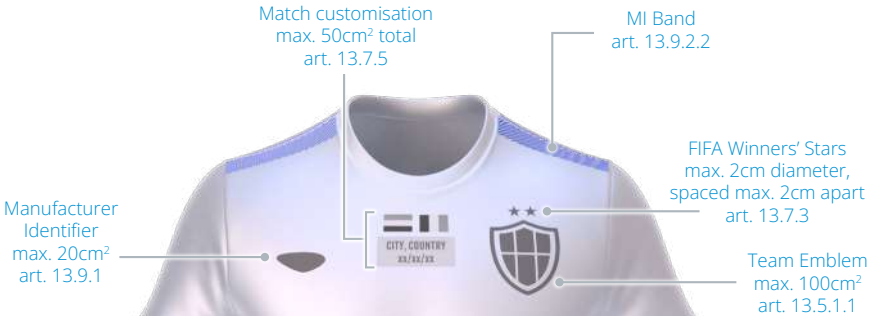
13.8.2.3 must not include any Manufacturer Identifiers, Sponsor Advertising or Decorative Elements;

13.8.2.4 may display the word "captain" (or an abbreviation or translation thereof) in a legible font and with lettering no higher than 5cm.

13.8.2.5 must not display any political, religious, commercial or personal slogans, messages, statements or images of any kind in any language or form.




PLAYER
16
Team Slogan
max. 12cm²
art. 13.5.4
At least 4cm
between Name
and Number
art. 13.3.1
Manufacturer
Identifier
max. 20cm²
art.13.9.2.1
Free Zone
National Flag
max. 25cm²
art. 13.5.3
or
No more than
2cm apart
adidas
Umbro
MI Band
art. 13.9.2.2
Free Zone
Captain's
armband
art.13.8



13.9 Manufacturer Identifiers:

13.9.1 One Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than 20cm² may be displayed once on the Chest Area of the Shirt.

13.9.2 Either:

13.9.2.1 one graphic form of Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than 20cm² may be displayed once on each Sleeve, but it must not be wholly visible when viewing the Shirt from the front or the back; or

13.9.2.2 an MI Band may be included on both the left-hand side and on the right-hand side of the Shirt (same MI Band on both sides), in a continuous band that is no more than 8cm wide, as follows:

a) around the end of the Sleeves; or

b) along the Shoulder Seam or along the Lateral or Outer Seam of the Shirt, provided it is not wholly visible when viewing the Shirt (as worn) from either the front or the back.

13.9.3 One Technology Label and one Quality or Sustainability Seal, each no bigger than 10cm², may be included once each on the front or the back of the Shirt, in each case with its top edge no more than 15cm above the bottom edge of the Shirt.

13.9.4 Another Quality or Sustainability Seal no bigger than 5cm² may be included once anywhere on the Shirt other than in the Collar Zone, Chest Area, or Sleeves.


Team Symbol
max. 12cm²
art. 13.5.4
PLAYER
7
MI Band
max. 8cm wide
art. 13.9.2.2
or
No more than
2cm apart
adidas
Umbro

14. PLAYING KIT (2): SHORTS

14.1 Shorts that are part of the official Playing Kit for Competitions have the following aspects:

14.1.1 Lateral or Outer Seam: a real or virtual line running along the lateral edge of the Shorts as ironed flat, viewed from the front or the rear perspective.

14.1.2 Left Leg: the front and back of the left half of the Shorts, viewed from the Player's perspective.

14.1.3 Right Leg: the front and back of the right half of the Shorts, viewed from the Player's perspective.

14.1.4 Waist Edge: the uppermost edge of the Shorts.



14.2 Colour(s): the Shorts must feature the same single Dominant Colour when viewed from either the front or the back.

Art. 14.2



14.3 The Player's Name may not appear on the Player's Shorts.

14.4 The Player's Number:

14.4.1 The Player's Number must appear on the front of the Player's Shorts, on either the Left Leg or the Right Leg. The Number must be:

14.4.1.1 10-15cm high and 1-3cm in stroke width (each digit);

14.4.1.2 (where necessary to ensure legibility) positioned within a Number Zone that:

a) is proportionate in size to the size of the Number, and provides sufficient space around the Number to ensure the legibility of the Number whatever the weather conditions;

b) is the same Dominant Colour as the Shorts (unless that would mean the Number is illegible, in which case the Number Zone must be a colour that ensures the Number is legible); and

c) does not include any Team Identifier or Manufacturer Identifier; and

14.4.1.3 entirely visible when the Shirt is untucked and hanging loose over the Waist Edge.



14.5 Team Identifiers:

14.5.1 One or more of the following Team Identifiers may be displayed (in each case, no more than once) on the front of the Shorts, either at the bottom of the Left Leg or the Right Leg or centred on the front Waist Edge:

14.5.1.1 Team Emblem – no bigger than 50cm²;

14.5.1.2 Team Symbol – no bigger than 50cm²;

14.5.1.3 Team Name or Team Nickname – no bigger than 12cm², with the lettering no higher than 2cm;

14.5.1.4 Country Name or Club Name (as applicable) – no bigger than 12cm², with the lettering no higher than 2cm; and

14.5.1.5 National Flag or Regional Flag or Coat of Arms (as applicable) – no bigger than 25cm^2.

14.5.2 Where both the Team Emblem (or Team Symbol) and the Country Name (or Club Name or Team Name or Team Nickname) are displayed on the Shorts, they must be adjacent to each other.

14.5.3 One Team Identifier may be displayed on the Shorts as part of a special manufacturing technique, as per article 5.5. The colour used must blend in with the Dominant Colour of the Shorts and must not affect its predominance.

14.6 FIFA Winners' Stars:

14.6.1 FIFA Winners' Stars may be displayed on the front of the Shorts, but only if adjacent to a Team Emblem or Team Symbol.

14.6.2 Each individual star may be no greater than 2cm in diameter, and separate stars must be positioned no more than 2cm apart.



14.7 Decorative Elements may be included on the Shorts.

14.8 Manufacturer Identifiers:[9]

14.8.1 One form of Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than 20cm^2 may be displayed on the Shorts, in any position on either leg.

9 This article 14.8 will also apply to any tracksuit bottoms worn by a goalkeeper during a Match.

14.8.2 An MI Band may be displayed on the Shorts, once on each leg (same MI Band on both legs), as follows:

14.8.2.1 around the bottom edge of the Shorts; or

14.8.2.2 along the Lateral or Outer Seam, provided it is not wholly visible when viewing the Shorts (as worn) from either the front or the back.

14.8.3 One Technology Label and one Quality or Sustainability Seal, each no bigger than 10cm^2, may be included once on the front or the back of the Shorts, in each case with its top edge no more than 5cm above the bottom edge of the Shorts, or with its bottom edge no lower than 5cm below the Waist Edge.



15. PLAYING KIT (3): SOCKS

15.1 Socks that are part of the official Playing Kit for Competitions have the following aspects:

15.1.1 Foot Area: the part of the sock that is not visible when boots are worn.

15.1.2 Leg Area: the parts of the sock that remain visible when boots are worn.



15.2 Each Sock within a pair must visually constitute a single piece of material and must not appear to be cut or altered in any way, when worn by a Player during a Match. If the Socks are to be covered by tape, the tape must be the same colour as the Socks.

15.3 Sock colour(s):

15.3.1 The Leg Area of both Socks must be the same Dominant Colour or feature a basic repeated geometric pattern (such as hoops) featuring two equally prominent colours, provided that such colours appear throughout all regions of the Leg Area.

15.3.2 Where the Shirt displays a basic repeated geometric pattern (such as stripes, hoops or checks) featuring two equally prominent colours, and the Shorts are a different Dominant Colour, the Dominant Colour or the two equally prominent colours of the Socks in that Playing Kit must be one or two of those three colours (as applicable).

15.3.3 The colour of any support bandage or similar item that covers any part of the Leg Area of a Sock must blend in with the colour(s) of the Leg Area of the Sock.



Art. 15.3.1

15.4 The Player's Name and Number may not appear on the Player's Socks.

15.5 Team Identifiers:

15.5.1 One or more of the following Team Identifiers may be displayed (in each case, no more than once) anywhere on one or both Socks in the pair, as follows:

15.5.1.1 Team Emblem or Team Symbol – no bigger than 50cm^2;

15.5.1.2 Team Name or Team Nickname – no bigger than 12cm^2, with the lettering no higher than 2cm;

15.5.1.3 Country Name or Club Name (as applicable) – no bigger than 12cm^2, with the lettering no higher than 2cm; and

15.5.1.4 National Flag or Regional Flag or Coat of Arms (as applicable) – no bigger than 25cm^2.

Art. 15.3.2



15.6 FIFA Winners' Stars:

15.6.1 FIFA Winners' Stars may be displayed in the centre of the Leg Area of each Sock.

15.6.2 Each individual star must be no greater than 2cm in diameter, and separate stars must be positioned no more than 2cm apart.

15.7 Decorative Elements may be included on the Socks.

15.8 Manufacturer Identifiers:

15.8.1 One or two Manufacturer Identifiers, with a combined maximum size of 20cm² (i.e. one identifier of 20cm² or two identifiers each of 10cm²), may be displayed horizontally in the Leg Area of each Sock. They must be the same on each Sock in the pair.

15.8.2 An MI Band may be included across the top edge of each Sock (same MI Band on each Sock). The MI Band must be continuous and no more than 5cm wide.

15.8.3 One further Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than 20cm² may appear once in the Foot Area of each Sock.





16. BOOTS AND SHINGUARDS

16.1 These Regulations do not restrict the types of footwear and shinguards that Players may wear.

16.2 Players on the same Team do not have to wear the same footwear or shinguards. They may wear footwear or shinguards that are made by different manufacturers and that differ in colour and/or appearance.

16.3 In the event that the colour of a part of a Player's boots diminishes the contrast between the colour of the Player's Socks and the colour of the Socks of the opposing Team, the Match Officials may require the Player to cover that part of the boots with a temporary material (such as tape) in order to restore that colour contrast.

16.4 The footwear and shinguards may display the Player's Name and/or Number, and any Team Identifiers, Decorative Elements, and Manufacturer Identifiers (provided in the case of shinguards that they are not visible outside or beneath the Socks).

16.5 Other than Manufacturer Identifiers, footwear and shinguards may not display anything that gives the visual impression of Sponsor Advertising or that creates an association with a sponsor, or other third party, or that constitutes a promotion or other commercial message of any kind.

16.6 The Match Commissioner or the Match Officials may prohibit the use of any footwear or shinguards that they consider to be dangerous.

17. FOOTBALLS

17.1 FIFA will provide the footballs to be used in FIFA Final Competitions.

17.2 In Competitions other than FIFA Final Competitions, the footballs to be used will be provided by the relevant Competition organisers or as directed by them. Unless FIFA states otherwise, those footballs:

17.2.1 may display the following Team Identifiers of the home Team, in each case no more than once:

17.2.1.1 Team Emblem – no bigger than $50cm^2$;

17.2.1.2 Team Symbol – no bigger than $50cm^2$; and

17.2.1.3 Team Name – no bigger than $12cm^2$, with the lettering no higher than 2cm;

17.2.2 may display the following Manufacturer Identifiers in any position on the football:

17.2.2.1 one Quality Seal no bigger than $50cm^2$;

17.2.2.2 one other Manufacturer Identifier displayed any number of times, but in each case no bigger than $50cm^2$; and

17.2.2.3 the name of the type of football (including any brand name) no bigger than $30cm^2$;

17.2.3 may display or incorporate any number of Decorative Elements, in any position and of any size;

17.2.4 except for approved FIFA quality marks, must not include FIFA marks and/or logos and/or Competition identifiers unless approved or required by FIFA;

17.2.5 may display the respective Country Names or National Flags of the opposing Teams, the date of the Match, and the name of the host city and/or country of the Match;

17.2.6 may identify the type of pitch surface or conditions for which the football has been produced (e.g. winter, grass, artificial turf, indoor or sand); and

17.2.7 must not display any Sponsor Advertising.

17.3 The requirements in article 17.2 also apply to footballs to be used in International Friendly Matches.

PART FOUR

OPTIONAL PLAYING ITEMS IN ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

18. GLOVES

18A Goalkeepers' gloves

18.1 Goalkeepers in the same Team may wear gloves that are made by different Manufacturers and/or that differ in size, colour, and/or other appearance.

18.2 Names and Numbers:

18.2.1 The goalkeeper's Name and Number may each appear once on each goalkeeper glove with numbering and lettering no higher than 2cm. They must be identical to the Name and Number on the goalkeeper's Shirt.

18.3 Team Identifiers:

18.3.1 One of the following Team Identifiers may be displayed once on each goalkeeper glove, in any position, as follows:

18.3.1.1 Team Emblem – no bigger than $50cm^2$;

18.3.1.2 Team Symbol – no bigger than $50cm^2$;

18.3.1.3 Team Name or Team Nickname – no bigger than $12cm^2$, with the lettering no higher than 2cm;

18.3.1.4 Country Name or Club Name (as applicable) – no bigger than $12cm^2$, with the lettering no higher than 2cm; or

18.3.1.5 National Flag or Regional Flag or Coat of Arms (as applicable) – no bigger than $25cm^2$.

18.4 Manufacturer Identifiers:

18.4.1 One Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than $20cm^2$ may be displayed once on each goalkeeper glove, in any position.

18.4.2 One Technology Label no bigger than $10cm^2$ may be displayed once on each goalkeeper glove, in any position.

18.4.3 One Quality or Sustainability Seal may be displayed once on each goalkeeper glove, in any position, and must be no bigger than $10cm^2$.



18B Gloves worn by Outfield Players

18.5 Outfield Players on the same Team may wear gloves that differ in size and/or other appearance. However, the gloves must:

18.5.1 be made by the Manufacturer that makes the Team's Playing Kit;

18.5.2 be either the same colour as the Dominant Colour of the respective Sleeve of the Player's Shirt or they must be black; and

18.5.3 not feature the Player's Name or Number.

18.6 Team Identifiers:

18.6.1 One of the following Team Identifiers may be displayed once on each glove, in any position, as follows:

18.6.1.1 Team Emblem – no bigger than 12cm²;

18.6.1.2 Team Symbol – no bigger than 12cm²;

18.6.1.3 Team Name or Team Nickname – no bigger than 12cm², with the lettering no higher than 2cm;

18.6.1.4 Country Name or Club Name (as applicable) – no bigger than 12cm², with the lettering no higher than 2cm; or

18.6.1.5 National Flag or Regional Flag or Coat of Arms (as applicable) – no bigger than 12cm².

18.7 Manufacturer Identifiers:

18.7.1 One Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than 20cm² may be displayed once on each glove, in any position.

18.7.2 One Technology Label no bigger than 10cm² may be displayed once on each glove, in any position.

18.7.3 Up to two Seals (either two Quality Seals, two Sustainability Seals or one of each) may be displayed on each glove, in any position, one no bigger than 10cm², the other no bigger than 5cm².

19. HEAD COVERINGS

19A Caps

19.1 Goalkeepers on the same Team may wear caps on the field of play that differ in size, colour, and/or other appearance. They must be made by the Manufacturer that makes the Team's Playing Kit.

19.2 Off the field of play, Outfield Players and other Team Delegation members may wear caps (meaning any type of cap, hat, knitted cap, or bonnet) that differ in size, colour, and/or other appearance. If they are not made by the Manufacturer that makes the Team's Playing Kit, they must not display any Manufacturer Identifiers.

19.3 The Player's Name and Number:

19.3.1 The goalkeeper's Name and/or Number may each appear once on the goalkeeper cap with numbering and lettering no higher than 2cm. They must be identical to the Name and Number on the goalkeeper's Shirt.

19.3.2 The cap worn by an Outfield Player off the field of play may also display the Player's Name and/or Number.

19.4 Team Identifiers:

19.4.1 One of the following Team Identifiers may be displayed once in any position on each goalkeeper cap and on the cap of each other member of the Team Delegation, as follows:

19.4.1.1 Team Emblem – no bigger than 50cm²;

19.4.1.2 Team Symbol – no bigger than 50cm²;

19.4.1.3 Team Name or Team Nickname – no bigger than 12cm², with the lettering no higher than 2cm;

19.4.1.4 Country Name or Club Name (as applicable) – no bigger than 12cm², with the lettering no higher than 2cm; or

19.4.1.5 National Flag or Regional Flag or Coat of Arms (as applicable) – no bigger than 25cm².

19.5 Manufacturer Identifiers:

19.5.1 One Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than 20cm² may be displayed once anywhere on the goalkeeper cap/Team Delegation member's cap.

19.5.2 One Technology Label no bigger than 10cm² may be displayed once anywhere on the goalkeeper cap/Team Delegation member's cap.

19.5.3 Up to two Seals (either two Quality Seals, two Sustainability Seals, or one of each), one no bigger than 10cm², the other no bigger than 5cm², may be displayed (in each case, no more than once) anywhere on the goalkeeper cap/Team Delegation member's cap.



19B Other Permitted Head Coverings

19.6 The only other head coverings that may be worn by Players on the field of play are those worn for religious reasons, such as hijabs, turbans, or similar items ("Permitted Head Covering").

19.7 Players on the same Team may wear Permitted Head Coverings that differ in size and/or other appearance. However, each Permitted Head Covering must:

19.7.1 be either the same colour as the Dominant Colour on the Player's Shirt or it must be black;

19.7.2 not feature the Player's Name or Number or any abbreviation of them;

19.7.3 not feature any Team Identifier or Decorative Element; and

19.7.4 not compromise the safety of the Players on either Team in any way. For example:

19.7.4.1 it must not be attached to the Shirt;

19.7.4.2 it may not have any form of fastening mechanism around the neck; and

19.7.4.3 no part(s) of it may extend out from the surface of the head covering.

19.8 If the Manufacturer of the Permitted Head Covering is also the Manufacturer of the Player's Playing Kit, the Permitted Head Covering may feature one Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than 20cm^2, which must blend in with the rest of the Permitted Head Covering and not be visible from more than 5m away.



20. HAIRBANDS, HEADBANDS AND WRISTBANDS

20.1 Players on the same Team may wear hairbands, headbands, and/or wristbands that differ in size and/or other appearance. However, they must:

20.1.1 be either the same colour as a colour on the Player's Shirt, Shorts or Socks or they must be black or white; and

20.1.2 not feature the Player's Name or Number or any abbreviation of them.

20.2 Team Identifiers:

20.2.1 One of the following Team Identifiers may be included once in any position on each hairband, headband, and/or wristband, as follows:

20.2.1.1 Team Emblem – no bigger than $12cm^2$;

20.2.1.2 Team Symbol – no bigger than $12cm^2$;

20.2.1.3 Team Name or Team Nickname – no bigger than $12cm^2$, with the lettering no higher than 2cm;

20.2.1.4 Country Name or Club Name (as applicable) – no bigger than $12cm^2$, with the lettering no higher than 2cm; or

20.2.1.5 National Flag or Regional Flag or Coat of Arms (as applicable) – no bigger than $12cm^2$.

20.3 Manufacturer Identifiers:

If the Manufacturer of the hairband, headband, and wristbands is also the Manufacturer of the Playing Kit worn by the Player:

20.3.1 one Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than $20cm^2$ may be displayed once on each headband and/or wristband, in any position;

20.3.2 one Technology Label no bigger than $10cm^2$ may be displayed once on each headband and/or wristband, in any position; and/or

20.3.3 up to two Seals (either two Quality Seals, two Sustainability Seals, or one of each), one no bigger than $10cm^2$, the other no bigger than $5cm^2$, may be displayed once on each headband and/or wristband, in any position.

21. UNDERGARMENTS

21.1 Under their Playing Kit, Players may wear underwear, T-shirts, sports bras, thermal shorts, and/or any sort of cooling apparel (each, an "Undergarment"), provided that the Undergarment:

21.1.1 is made by the Manufacturer that makes the Team's Playing Kit;

21.1.2 is not visible outside or beneath the Playing Kit, or, if it is visible:

21.1.2.1 is of the same Dominant Colour as the item it is underneath; and

21.1.2.2 does not display any Team Identifiers, Manufacturer Identifiers, or Decorative Elements; and

21.1.3 does not display any Sponsor Advertising.

21.2 An item designed to house electronic performance and tracking systems is not considered an Undergarment, but instead must comply with article 22.2.

21.3 An Undergarment must not be attached to any part of the Playing Kit.

21.4 An Undergarment may not display the Player's Name or Number, or any abbreviation of them.

21.5 An Undergarment may display one Team Identifier.

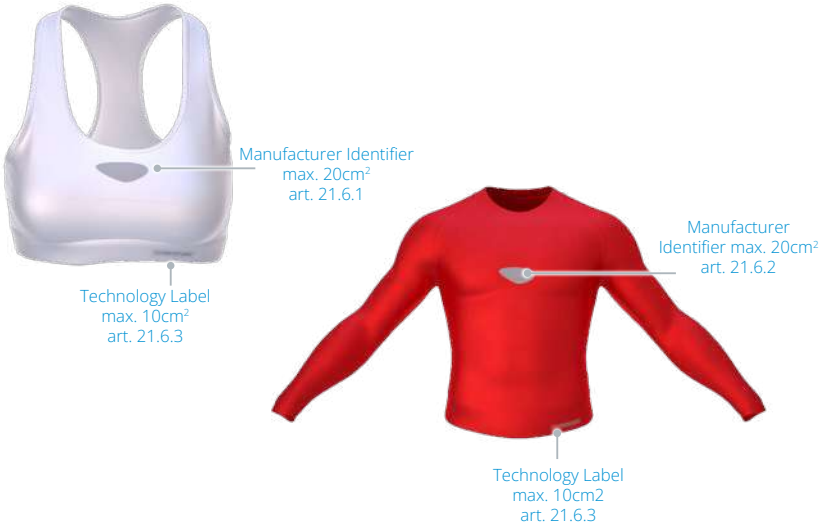
21.6 An Undergarment may display Manufacturer Identifiers as follows:

21.6.1 One Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than $20cm^2$ may appear once on the front and/or the back of an undershirt or sports bra, positioned anywhere other than in the Collar Zone.

21.6.2 One Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than $20cm^2$ may appear once anywhere on underwear, undershorts, or thermal shorts.

21.6.3 One Technology Label no bigger than $10cm^2$ may be displayed once on each Undergarment, in any position.

21.6.4 Up to two Seals (either two Quality Seals, two Sustainability Seals, or one of each), one no bigger than $10cm^2$ and the other no bigger than $5cm^2$, may be displayed on each Undergarment, in each case no more than once, in any position.



22. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

22.1 Equipment to be used by Players for medical reasons during a Match covered by these Regulations – such as any form of protective wear, including but not limited to protective headgear, protective face masks, knee and arm protectors, eyewear, medical tape for strapping and medical casts or splints – must:

22.1.1 be approved by FIFA, the Match Commissioner or the Match Officials prior to use;

22.1.2 not feature the Player's Name or Number or any abbreviation of them; and

22.1.3 not display any Team Identifier, Manufacturer Identifier, Decorative Element or other words or marks unless FIFA or the Match Commissioner or the Match Officials so permit.

22.2 Electronic performance and tracking system equipment may be worn by Players during a Match covered by these Regulations as follows:

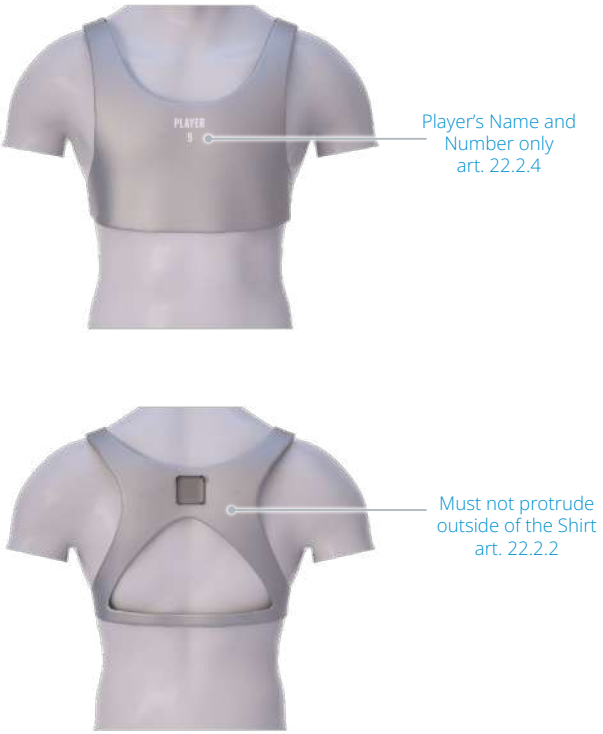
22.2.1 They must be certified and approved for use under the FIFA Quality Programme for Wearable Electronic Performance and Tracking Systems.

22.2.2 They must be worn either underneath the Shirt or on the lower limbs. If the tracking system equipment is worn underneath the Shirt, it must not protrude outside of the Shirt.

22.2.3 They must not endanger the safety of any Player or Match Official, whether in their shape, the manner of their construction, the materials used, or otherwise, and be securely fastened.

22.2.4 They may display the Player's Name and Number once.

22.2.5 They may not display any Team Identifier, Manufacturer Identifier, Decorative Element, or Sponsor Advertising.



PART FIVE

NON-PLAYING ITEMS

23. FORMAL ATTIRE

23.1 Team Officials and Players before and after they play may wear, formal attire such as a shirt, jacket, tie, suit trousers, skirt, and/or waistcoat ("Formal Attire") that displays the following:

23.1.1 Team Identifiers no bigger than 100cm^2, in any position and quantity.

23.1.2 FIFA Winners' Stars, but only if adjacent to a Team Emblem or Team Symbol. Each individual star must be no greater than 2cm in diameter and separate stars must be positioned no more than 2cm apart.

23.2 No Manufacturer Identifiers or Sponsor Advertising may be displayed on, or affixed to, the Formal Attire.



24. OUTERWEAR

24.1 Team Officials and Players before and after they play may wear, training shirts, anthem jackets, pre-Match ceremony attire, hoodies, t-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, tracksuit bottoms, shorts, winter trousers, rainwear, and/or other forms of outerwear ("Outerwear"). Celebratory Attire is not included in the definition of Outerwear.

24.2 Each item of Outerwear may display:

24.2.1 Team Identifiers in any size, quantity, and positioning;

24.2.2 FIFA Winners' Stars of any size, which must be adjacent to a Team Emblem or Team Symbol; separate stars must be positioned no more than 2cm apart;

24.2.3 up to five Manufacturer Identifiers, in any position, each no bigger than 20cm^2;

24.2.4 (on upper body Outerwear) up to two MI Bands, as follows:

24.2.4.1 around the end of the Sleeves; and

24.2.4.2 along the Shoulder Seam or along the Lateral or Outer Seam, provided in each case that it is not wholly visible when viewed from the front or the back (as worn);

24.2.5 (on lower body Outerwear) up to two MI Bands, as follows:

24.2.5.1 around the bottom edge; and

24.2.5.2 along the Lateral or Outer Seam, provided that it is not wholly visible when viewed from the front or the back (as worn).

24.2.6 one Technology Label, in any position, no bigger than 10cm^2;

24.2.7 up to two Seals, (either two Quality Seals, two Sustainability Seals, or one of each), one of which may be no bigger than 10cm^2, and the other no bigger than 5cm^2, which may be in any position; and

24.2.8 the Team Names or the National Flags of the opposing Teams (subject to the consent of the other Team), the date of the Match, and the name of the host city or country of the Match, together being a maximum total size of 50cm^2, and with any letters and numbers no higher than 2cm;

provided always that the Outerwear worn by members of the Team Delegation next to the field of play must not undermine the clear distinctiveness of the Playing Kit worn by the Players or the clothing worn by Match Officials on the field of play.

24.3 For FIFA Final Competitions, no Sponsor Advertising may be displayed on any Outerwear, save only that upper body Outerwear worn by a Team Delegation representing a Club in a Competition may have Sponsor Advertising no bigger than 20cm^2 on the front or back, provided it has been approved by FIFA.



25. WARM-UP AND SUBSTITUTE BIBS

25.1 In FIFA Final Competitions, FIFA will supply bibs to each Team (of a different colour for each Team), to be used for the duration of all Official Training Sessions (as defined in the applicable Competition regulations) and worn on Matchdays by the Players while warming up and by the substitute Players before they are substituted into the Match.

25.2 In Competitions other than FIFA Final Competitions, bibs used by Teams:

25.2.1 must be clearly distinguishable in colour from the Shirts of both Teams and from the shirts worn by the Match Officials;

25.2.2 may not display the Player's Name or Number or any abbreviation thereof;

25.2.3 may display one or more Team Identifiers in any size and quantity and in any position on the bib;

25.2.4 may display one Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than 100cm², once in any position on the front of the bib, and once in any position on the back of the bib; and

25.2.5 may not display any Sponsor Advertising.



26. BAGS AND OTHER ITEMS

26.1 For FIFA Final Competitions, FIFA may supply bags (e.g. ball nets and/or medical bags) for use by Team Delegations. These bags may display FIFA marks and logos and/or identifiers of the relevant Competition. Ball nets may also display the graphic Manufacturer Identifier of the official supplier of the Match ball. If instructed by FIFA, Team Delegations must use such bags to the exclusion of any other comparable items.

26.2 Bags used by Team Delegations within the Controlled Areas (including medical bags, equipment bags and ball nets) in FIFA Final Competitions:

26.2.1 may display Team Identifiers (in each case no bigger than 100cm²) in any position and quantity;

26.2.2 in the case of equipment bags only, may display one Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than 20cm², once, in any position; and

26.2.3 may not display any Sponsor Advertising.

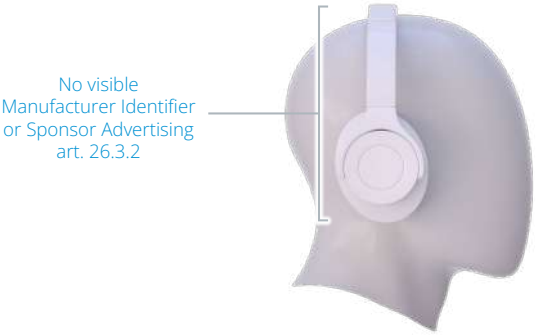


26.3 Any other items used by Team Delegation members within the Controlled Areas (including, by way of example, personal devices, personal bags, accessory clothing items, and other fashion accessories) in FIFA Final Competitions:

26.3.1 may display Team Identifiers in any position, size, and quantity;

26.3.2 may not display Manufacturer Identifiers or Sponsor Advertising, or include anything that creates an association with a Manufacturer, a sponsor, or other third party, or that constitutes a promotion or other commercial message of any kind; and

26.3.3 must not be used in such a manner that in FIFA's opinion could amount to Ambush Marketing.



27. CELEBRATORY ATTIRE

27.1 A Team may wear T-shirts commemorating their qualification for or their winning of a FIFA Final Competition ("Celebratory Attire"). That Celebratory Attire:

27.1.1 must all be made by the same Manufacturer;

27.1.2 may display Team Identifiers in any size, position, and quantity;

27.1.3 may refer to the fact of the qualification or the victory, but may not display any FIFA marks and/or logos or Competition identifiers unless the Manufacturer has been formally licensed by FIFA to do so;

27.1.4 may display FIFA Winners' Stars of any size, which must be displayed adjacent to a Team Emblem or Team Symbol, each star no more than 2cm apart;

27.1.5 may display one Manufacturer Identifier in any position, but no bigger than 20cm^2; and

27.1.6 may not display any Sponsor Advertising.

27.2 In FIFA Final Competitions, Celebratory Attire must be submitted to FIFA for approval no later than 48 hours prior to the match at which the Celebratory Attire is to be worn. Celebratory Attire may only be worn on the field of play after the following official FIFA activities have taken place (during which the Team must wear the Shirts they wore during the Match in question):

27.2.1 the trophy presentation;

27.2.2 official FIFA photographs; and

27.2.3 official media appearances.

PART SIX

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT AT FIFA BEACH SOCCER COMPETITIONS AND FUTSAL COMPETITIONS

28. BEACH SOCCER

28.1 Each Player on a Team entered in a FIFA beach soccer Competition:

28.1.1 must wear a Shirt that complies with Part Two and article 13;

28.1.2 must wear Shorts that comply with Part Two and article 14;

28.1.3 may wear hairbands, headbands and wristbands that comply with article 20; and

28.1.4 may wear beach soccer foot bindings (which include other support bandages, additional socks, and similar items provided for in Law 4 of the FIFA Beach Soccer Laws of the Game)[10] that:

28.1.4.1 are of any colour(s);

28.1.4.2 do not display any Team Identifiers or the Player's Name or Number;

28.1.4.3 include the following, once in each case, but only in a manner that blends in with the rest of the foot binding, and that is not visible from more than 5m away:

a) one Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than $20cm^2$;

b) one Technology Label no bigger than $10cm^2$; and

c) up to two Seals, (either two Quality Seals, two Sustainability Seals, or one of each), one no bigger than $10cm^2$, and the other no bigger than $5cm^2$; and

28.1.4.4 otherwise do not display anything that functions as a trademark, that creates an association with a Manufacturer, a sponsor, or other third party, or that constitutes a promotion or other commercial message of any kind.

28.2 Each member of a Team Delegation for a FIFA beach soccer Competition may wear or use any of the optional clothing or equipment referenced in Parts Four and Five.

10 The Laws of the Game forbid the use of footwear in beach soccer.

29. FUTSAL

29.1 Each Player on a Team entered in a FIFA futsal Competition must wear:

29.1.1 a Shirt that complies with Part Two and article 13;

29.1.2 Shorts that comply with Part Two and article 14;

29.1.3 Socks that comply with Part Two and article 15; and

29.1.4 indoor shoes (either canvas or soft leather training or gymnastic shoes with soles of rubber or a similar material) compliant with Law 4 of the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game.

29.2 In addition, the goalkeeper(s) on a Team entered in a FIFA futsal Competition may wear padded trousers compliant with Law 4 of the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game and that meet the same requirements (amended as necessary to fit the different context) as set out in article 14.

29.3 Each member of a Team Delegation for a FIFA futsal Competition may wear or use any of the optional clothing or equipment referenced in Parts Four and Five.

PART SEVEN

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT AT FIFA EFOOTBALL COMPETITIONS

30. GENERAL PROVISIONS

30.1 Each eFootball Player representing a Member Association or a Club in a FIFA eFootball Competition must wear either:

30.1.1 a Shirt that complies in full with Part Two and article 13 (save that it may only display a Player Number and/or official FIFA badges as permitted by article 31); or

30.1.2 a Shirt that complies in full with Part Two and article 31 (an "eFootball Shirt").

30.2 Each eFootball Player representing an eFootball Club in a FIFA eFootball Competition must wear an eFootball Shirt that complies in full with Part Two (reading "eFootball Club" for "Club") and article 31.

30.3 Each eFootball Player not representing a Member Association or Club or eFootball Club competing in a FIFA eFootball Competition in an individual capacity must wear an eFootball Shirt that complies in full with Part Two and article 31 (excluding article 31.5).

30.4 While competing in a FIFA eFootball Competition, the eFootball Player must not wear anything that hides or obscures their Shirt or eFootball Shirt (as applicable). Any Undergarment that the eFootball Player wears underneath their Shirt or eFootball Shirt must:

30.4.1 be made by the Manufacturer that makes the eFootball Shirt; and

30.4.2 must not be visible outside or beneath the eFootball Shirt, or, if it is visible:

30.4.2.1 must not display any Team Identifiers, Manufacturer Identifiers, or Decorative Elements.

30.5 If a member of a Team Delegation for a FIFA eFootball Competition chooses to wear a head covering or any item(s) of Outerwear during a FIFA eFootball Competition, the head covering must comply with article 32 (eFootball Caps) or section 19B (other Permitted Head Coverings), as applicable, and the Outerwear must comply with article 33 (Outerwear).

30.6 Save as set out above, while participating in FIFA eFootball Competitions, Team Delegation members may wear any kind of clothing and any kind of footwear, as long as it does not display any Sponsor Advertising.

30.7 Items of non-apparel equipment (e.g. controllers) will be addressed elsewhere, not in these Regulations.

31. EFOOTBALL SHIRT

31.1 In this article 31, the terms Back Area, Chest Area, Collar Zone, Free Zone, Front Area, Shoulder Point, Shoulder Seam, Sleeves, and Torso Area, have the meanings given to those terms in article 13.1.

31.2 Colour(s):

31.2.1 The eFootball Shirt may be of any colour(s). Article 6 does not apply to eFootball Shirts.

31.3 Name:

31.3.1 The eFootball Player's Name (which, for the purposes of this Part Seven, means the eFootball Player's given name or their Gamertag registered with FIFA prior to the FIFA eFootball Competition in question) must be displayed on the top of the Back Area of the eFootball Shirt, with its top edge being no more than 8cm below the neck opening.

31.3.2 The letters must be between 5cm and 7.5cm high.

31.4 Number:

31.4.1 An eFootball Shirt may not display any Number for the eFootball Player.

31.5 Team Identifiers:

31.5.1 One of the following Team Identifiers may be displayed once within the Chest Area of the eFootball Shirt:

31.5.1.1 Team Emblem – no bigger than $100cm^2$;

31.5.1.2 Team Symbol – no bigger than $100cm^2$;

31.5.1.3 Team Name or Team Nickname – no bigger than $12cm^2$, with the lettering no higher than 2cm;

31.5.1.4 Country Name or Club Name or eFootball Club Name (as applicable) – no bigger than $12cm^2$, with the lettering no higher than 2cm; or

31.5.1.5 National Flag or Regional Flag or Coat of Arms (as applicable) – no bigger than $25cm^2$.

31.5.2 No Team Identifier may be displayed on the Sleeves of the eFootball Shirt.

31.5.3 One Team Identifier no bigger than 20cm² may be displayed at the centre of the Collar Zone in the Back Area of the eFootball Shirt. Any lettering or numbers must be no more than 2cm high.

31.5.4 A Team Identifier may be displayed on an eFootball Shirt as part of a Decorative Element, in accordance with article 10.4.

31.5.5 One Team Identifier may be displayed on the eFootball Shirt as part of a special manufacturing technique, as per article 5.5. The colour used must blend in with the colour(s) of the eFootball Shirt.

31.6 FIFA badges:

31.6.1 Each eFootball Player in each Team must display the FIFA Event Badge provided by FIFA for the FIFA eFootball Competition in question in the Free Zone on the right Sleeve of the eFootball Shirt, and any other FIFA Event Badge provided by FIFA in the Free Zone on the left Sleeve of the eFootball Shirt.





31.6.2 Unless FIFA permits otherwise with respect to any future FIFA eFootball Competitions, FIFA World Champions Badges may not be displayed on any clothing items in any FIFA eFootball Competition.

31.7 FIFA Winners' Stars:

31.7.1 FIFA Winners' Stars may be worn on the Shirts or eFootball Shirts (as applicable) of a Team representing a Member Association in a team-format FIFA eFootball Competition, to commemorate the number of times that the Member Association in question has previously won that FIFA eFootball Competition. The star(s) may be displayed in the Chest Area, but only if adjacent to a Team Emblem or Team Symbol, with each star no bigger than 2cm in diameter, and multiple stars spaced no more than 2cm apart.

31.7.2 FIFA Winners' Stars may not be displayed on eFootball Shirts worn in FIFA eFootball Competitions contested by Clubs, eFootball Clubs, and/or eFootball Players participating in an individual capacity.

31.8 Captain's armband:

31.8.1 For FIFA eFootball Competitions played in a team format, the captain of each Team may wear a captain's armband only if provided by FIFA. If FIFA provides a choice of captain's armbands, the captain should wear the one that contrasts most clearly with the Sleeve on which it is worn.

31.9 Manufacturer Identifiers:

31.9.1 One Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than 20cm^2 may be displayed once on the Chest Area of the eFootball Shirt.

31.9.2 No Manufacturer Identifiers may be displayed on the Sleeves of the eFootball Shirt.

31.9.3 An MI Band may be included on both the left-hand side and on the right hand-side of the eFootball Shirt (the same MI Band on both sides), as follows:

31.9.3.1 around the end of the Sleeves; or

31.9.3.2 along the Shoulder Seam or along the Lateral or Outer Seam of the eFootball Shirt, provided in either case it is not wholly visible when viewing the eFootball Shirt (as worn) from the front or the back.

31.9.4 One Technology Label no bigger than 10cm^2 may be included once on the front or the back of the eFootball Shirt, with its top edge no more than 15cm above the bottom edge of the eFootball Shirt.

31.9.5 One Quality or Sustainability Seal no bigger than 10cm^2 may be included once anywhere on the eFootball Shirt other than in the Collar Zone or Chest Area or on the Sleeves, with its top edge no more than 15cm above the bottom edge of the eFootball Shirt.

31.9.6 Another Quality or Sustainability Seal no bigger than 5cm^2 may be included once anywhere on the eFootball Shirt other than in the Collar Zone, Chest Area, or Sleeves.

31.10 Sponsor Advertising:

31.10.1 Sponsor Advertising is not permitted on eFootball Shirts worn in any FIFA eFootball Competition contested by Member Associations.

31.10.2 Sponsor Advertising is permitted on eFootball Shirts worn in FIFA eFootball Competitions contested by Clubs, eFootball Clubs, and/or eFootball Players participating in an individual capacity, as follows:

31.10.2.1 Sponsor Advertising for two sponsors may be displayed at the intersection of the base of the Chest Area and the top of the Torso Area, with a maximum aggregate size of 400cm^2.

31.10.2.2 Sponsor Advertising for the same or another sponsor may be displayed on the Back Area, beginning at least 35cm below the Player's Name, with a maximum size of 200cm².

31.10.2.3 Sponsor Advertising for the same or other sponsors may be displayed along the Shoulder Seam above the Free Zone on both Sleeves, with a maximum size (in each case) of 50cm².



32. EFOOTBALL CAPS

32.1 The members of a Team Delegation in a FIFA eFootball Competition may wear caps that are made by the same manufacturer and that are the same or that differ in size, colour, and/or other appearance (each, an "eFootball Cap").

32.2 No Names or Numbers may be displayed on eFootball Caps.

32.3 Team Identifiers:

32.3.1 One of the following Team Identifiers may be displayed once on an eFootball Cap, in any position:

32.3.1.1 Team Emblem – no bigger than $50cm^2$;

32.3.1.2 Team Symbol – no bigger than $50cm^2$;

32.3.1.3 Team Name or Team Nickname – no bigger than $12cm^2$, with the lettering no higher than 2cm;

32.3.1.4 Country Name or Club Name or eFootball Club Name (as applicable) – no bigger than $12cm^2$, with the lettering no higher than 2cm; or

32.3.1.5 National Flag or Regional Flag or Coat of Arms (as applicable) – no bigger than $25cm^2$.

32.4 FIFA Winners' Stars:

32.4.1 FIFA Winners' Stars may be worn on the eFootball Caps of a Team representing a Member Association in a FIFA eFootball Competition, to commemorate the number of times that the Member Association in question has previously won that FIFA eFootball Competition. FIFA Winners' Stars must be adjacent to a Team Emblem or Team Symbol, with each star no bigger than 2cm in diameter, and multiple stars spaced no more than 2cm apart.

32.4.2 FIFA Winners' Stars may not be displayed on eFootball Caps worn in FIFA eFootball Competitions contested by Clubs, eFootball Clubs, and/or eFootball Players participating in an individual capacity.

32.5 Manufacturer Identifiers:

The following may be displayed, once in each case, anywhere on the eFootball Cap:

32.5.1 one Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than $20cm^2$.

32.5.2 one Technology Label no bigger than $10cm^2$.

32.5.3 up to two Seals (either two Quality Seals, two Sustainability Seals, or one of each), one no bigger than 10cm², and the other no bigger than 5cm².

32.6 Sponsor Advertising is not permitted on eFootball Caps worn in any FIFA eFootball Competition.



33. OUTERWEAR

33.1 Members of the Team Delegation may wear Outerwear compliant with article 24 while participating in FIFA eFootball Competitions.

33.2 Each item of Outerwear may display:

33.2.1 one Team Identifier no bigger than 100cm², in any position;

33.2.2 one Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than 20cm², in any position;

33.2.3 (on upper body Outerwear) up to two MI Bands, as follows:

33.2.3.1 around the end of the Sleeves; and/or

33.2.3.2 along the Shoulder Seam or along the Lateral or Outer Seam, provided in each case that it is not wholly visible when viewed from the front or the back (as worn);

33.2.4 (on lower body Outerwear) up to two MI Bands, as follows:

33.2.4.1 around the bottom edge; and/or

33.2.4.2 along the Lateral or Outer Seam, provided that in each case it is not wholly visible when viewed from the front or the back (as worn);

33.2.5 one Technology Label no bigger than 10cm^2, in any position; and

33.2.6 up to two Seals (either two Quality Seals, two Sustainability Seals, or one of each), one no bigger than 10cm^2 and the other no bigger than 5cm^2, and neither of them with their top edge more than 15cm above the bottom edge of the Outerwear item.

33.3 FIFA Winners' Stars:

33.3.1 FIFA Winners' Stars may be displayed on the Outerwear of a Team representing a Member Association in a FIFA eFootball Competition, to commemorate the number of times that the Member Association in question has previously won that FIFA eFootball Competition. FIFA Winners' Stars must be adjacent to a Team Emblem or Team Symbol, with each star no bigger than 2cm in diameter, and multiple stars spaced no more than 2cm apart.

33.3.2 FIFA Winners' Stars may not be displayed on Outerwear worn in FIFA eFootball Competitions contested by Clubs, eFootball Clubs, and/or eFootball Players participating in an individual capacity.

33.4 Sponsor Advertising:

33.4.1 Sponsor Advertising is not permitted on Outerwear worn in any FIFA eFootball Competition contested by Member Associations.

33.4.2 Sponsor Advertising is permitted on Outerwear worn in FIFA eFootball Competitions contested by Clubs, eFootball Clubs, and/or eFootball Players participating in an individual capacity, as follows:

33.4.2.1 Sponsor Advertising for one sponsor may be displayed in the Back Area of any upper body Outerwear, with a maximum size of 200cm^2.

33.4.2.2 Sponsor Advertising for the same or another sponsor may be displayed below the Manufacturer Identifier on any lower body Outerwear, with a maximum size of 50cm^2.


MI Band
max. 8cm wide
art. 33.2.3
Manufacturer Identifier
max. 20cm²
art. 33.2.2
Team Emblem
max. 100cm²
art. 33.2.1
Quality Seal
max. 10cm²
art. 33.2.6
Technology Label
max. 10cm²
art. 33.2.5
Sponsor
Advertising (except for
Member Associations)
max. 200cm²
art. 33.4.2.1


Team Emblem
max. 100cm²
art. 33.2.1
Manufacturer Identifier
max. 20cm²
art. 33.2.2
Sponsor
Advertising (except for
Member Associations)
max. 50cm²
art. 33.4.2.2


Team Emblem
max. 100cm²
art. 33.2.1
Manufacturer
Identifier
max. 20cm²
art. 33.2.2
Sponsor
Advertising (except
for Member
Associations)
max. 50cm²
art. 33.4.2.2
MI Band
max. 8cm wide
art. 33.2.4

PART EIGHT

MATCH OFFICIALS AND MATCH SUPPORT PERSONNEL

34. MATCH OFFICIALS

34.1 Match Officials must wear the official kit and use the official equipment provided by FIFA when officiating in FIFA Final Competitions, FIFA eFootball Competitions and (where applicable) FIFA Preliminary Competitions, including displaying on the sleeve(s) specified by FIFA any official FIFA Event Badge(s) provided by FIFA (whether affixed to the kit or displayed on armbands).

34.2 FIFA will provide the Match Officials with kit in different colours to help to avoid any clash with the Playing Kit of either Team. The Match Officials officiating at a particular Match who are present on the field of play must wear the same kit as each other.

34.3 The shirts of the Match Officials for a particular Match may display a Match customisation in the Chest Area that complies with article 13.7.5.

34.4 When in a Controlled Area, Match Officials may not wear any kit or clothing that has not been provided or otherwise approved by FIFA.

34.5 The Match Officials' kit may display Manufacturer Identifiers to the same extent as the Playing Kit of the Teams playing in the Match is governed under these Regulations.

34.6 FIFA may place Sponsor Advertising on the sleeves of the shirts worn by Match Officials in FIFA Final Competitions and/or FIFA eFootball Competitions and/or (where applicable) FIFA Preliminary Competitions.

35. MATCH SUPPORT PERSONNEL

35.1 In FIFA Final Competitions and FIFA eFootball Competitions, the Match Support Personnel must wear the official kit and use the official equipment provided by FIFA, including displaying any official FIFA Event Badges provided by FIFA (whether affixed to the kit or displayed on armbands).

35.2 When in Controlled Areas on the day of a Match in a FIFA Final Competition or FIFA eFootball Competition, Match Support Personnel may not wear any kit or clothing that has not been provided or otherwise approved by FIFA.

35.3 FIFA may place Sponsor Advertising on the clothing worn by Match Support Personnel in FIFA Final Competitions and/or FIFA eFootball Competitions.

35.4 For FIFA Preliminary Competitions and International Friendly Matches, persons escorting Players onto the field of play may wear replicas of the Playing Kit of the Players they are escorting, but any other Match Support Personnel must wear clothing that is clearly distinguishable from the clothing of the Players and the Match Officials.


Manufacturer Identifier no bigger than max. 20cm²
FIFA REFEREE 2020
FIFA ASSISTANT REFEREE 2020
FIFA VIDEO MATCH OFFICIAL 2020
FIFA BEACH SOCCER REFEREE 2020
FIFA FUTSAL REFEREE 2020


FIFA may place Sponsor Advertising on sleeves
FIFA may place a Campaign Badge on sleeves

ANNEXE

A

RULES OF INTEPRETATION AND DEFINED WORDS AND PHRASES

1. RULES OF INTERPRETATION

1.1 If there is any inconsistency between the official English, French, and/or Spanish texts of these Regulations, the official English text will prevail.

1.2 The illustrations set out in, and the annexes to, these Regulations form an integral part of these Regulations, but if there is any inconsistency between them and the provisions in the main body of these Regulations, the provisions in the main body of these Regulations will prevail.

1.3 In these Regulations, unless expressly stated otherwise:

a) words importing the singular include the plural, and vice versa;

b) words importing one gender include the other genders;

c) references to parts, sections, articles, or annexes are to parts, sections, articles, or annexes of these Regulations, in each case as amended from time to time;

d) references to a "day" means any calendar day; and

e) any phrase introduced by the terms "including", "in particular", "for example", "such as", or any similar expression is illustrative and does not limit the sense of the words preceding those terms.

2. DEFINED WORDS AND PHRASES

Alternative Playing Kit: the Shirt, Shorts, and Socks worn by the Players on the field of play during a Match instead of the First-Choice Playing Kit. A Team may have more than one Alternative Playing Kit.

Ambush Marketing: any attempt by any entity or individual to gain an unauthorised association with a Competition and/or the organiser of the Competition, or to exploit the goodwill and publicity generated by the Competition and/or the Competition organiser in a manner not expressly authorised by the Competition organiser.

Celebratory Attire: as defined in article 27.1.

Club: a football club that is a member of, or affiliated to, a Member Association and whose representative team participates in the FIFA Club World Cup™, FIFAe Club World Cup™, and/or another FIFA club competition.

Club Emblem: the official emblem selected by the Club to represent its team.

Club Name: the official name of the Club, including standardised abbreviations of that name.

Coat of Arms: the officially recognised heraldic emblem or symbol of the city, town, village, or region represented by the Club or eFootball Club.

Competition: as defined in article 2.3.

Confederation: a group of Member Associations recognised by FIFA that belongs to the same continent (or assimilable geographic region).

Content Creator: any individual who is contracted by a Member Association, Club, eFootball Club or an eFootball Player to produce audiovisual content in relation to a FIFA eFootball Competition.

Controlled Areas: as defined in article 2.5.

Country Name: the official name of a country recognised by the international community represented by a Member Association, including standardised abbreviations thereof.

Decorative Element: as described in article 10.1.

Dominant Colour: as defined in article 6.3.

eFootball Cap: as defined in article 32.1.

eFootball Club: as defined in article 2.1.

eFootball Club Name: the official name of the eFootball Club, including standardised abbreviations of that name.

eFootball Shirt: as defined in article 30.1.

eFootball Player: an eFootball player competing in a FIFA eFootball Competition.

FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

FIFA Event Badge: an official badge provided by FIFA, including the Competition badge, the badge of an official campaign, etc., but not including the FIFA World Champions Badge.

FIFA eFootball Competition: as defined in article 2.3.4.

FIFA Final Competition: as defined in article 2.3.1.

FIFA Preliminary Competition: as defined in article 2.3.2.

FIFA Winners' Star: as defined in article 9.3.

FIFA World Champions Badge: a special badge designed by FIFA that may be provided to the respective reigning champions of a FIFA Final Competition or FIFA eFootball Competition.

First-Choice Playing Kit: the preferred Shirt, Shorts, and Socks worn by the Players on the field of play during a Match.

Foundation Year: the year that the Member Association, Club or eFootball Club was founded, displayed in a script or figure.

Formal Attire: as defined in article 23.1.

International Friendly Match: a Match between national representative teams of Member Associations that does not take place as a part of or count towards any Competition or any other competition organised by a Confederation but that is incorporated into FIFA's International Match Calendar.

Laws of the Game: means, as applicable, the following laws established in accordance with article 7 of the FIFA Statutes: (1) the laws of association football issued by The IFAB; (2) the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game issued by FIFA; or (3) the FIFA Beach Soccer Laws of the Game issued by FIFA, each as may be amended from time to time.

Manufacturer: a company whose core business is designing, producing (directly or through a non-branded licensee) and selling clothing and/or other equipment that is covered in these Regulations. Suppliers, retailers or other entities creating and/or distributing such products are not considered Manufacturers.

Manufacturer Identifier: any mark, word, sign, or device that signifies that the item in question was manufactured by a particular Manufacturer. Also commonly referred to as an "MI".

Match: an association football, beach soccer or futsal match or an eFootball match.

Match Commissioner: the official who is appointed and entrusted by FIFA to supervise the orderly organisation of a Match and to ensure that FIFA's regulations and instructions are observed.

Match Officials: the referee, assistant referees, VAR Team, and the fourth official on the International List, and any other appointed match officials.

Match Support Person/Personnel: the ball boys and girls, persons escorting Players and/or Match Officials onto the field of play, flag bearers and any other support workers who are required to be present in the Controlled Areas on the day of a Match.

Member Association: an association that has been admitted into membership of FIFA by the FIFA Congress.

MI Band: a repeated linear pattern of graphic form of the Manufacturer Identifier, either connected to each other or spaced equally apart by no more than 2cm, in a continuous band that is no more than 8cm wide, unless it is included on Socks in which case it may be no more than 5cm wide.

Name: the name of the Player or eFootball Player wearing or using the item of Playing Kit or other clothing or equipment in question.

National Flag: the officially recognised national flag of the country represented by a Member Association.

Number: the official number assigned to the Player wearing the item of Playing Kit or other clothing or equipment in question.

Number Zone: an area of uniform size, based on the dimensions of a two-digit Number, located on the Back Area (and, if applicable, on the Front Area) of the Shirt, and on the front of the Shorts, that is reserved exclusively to display the Player's Number.

Outfield Player: any member of a Team other than the goalkeeper.

Outerwear: as defined in article 24.1.

Permitted Head Covering: as defined in article 19.6.

Player: any association football, beach soccer or futsal player (including Outfield Players, goalkeepers and substitutes) who is selected by a Member Association to play for its national representative Team in a Competition or an International Friendly Match, or who is selected by a Club to play for its Team in a club Competition.

Playing Kit: the Shirt, Shorts, and Socks worn by the Players on the field of play during a Match.

Quality or Sustainability Seal: a type of Manufacturer Identifier, whether a tag, label or comparable element, affixed to an item may contain one Manufacturer mark no bigger than $5cm^2$. The seal may, among others, be used to identify the Manufacturer, prevent counterfeiting and/or evidence the sustainable production of the item.

Regional Flag: the officially recognised flag of the state, province, canton or similar region of a country represented by a Club or eFootball Club.

Regulations: this 2025 edition of the FIFA Equipment Regulations.

Shirt: the shirt worn by a Player during a Match as part of the official Playing Kit, as described in article 13.1.

Shorts: the shorts worn by a Player during a Match as part of the official Playing Kit, as described in article 14.1.

Socks: the socks worn by a Player during a Match as part of the official Playing Kit, as described in article 15.1.

Sponsor Advertising: commercial messaging of any kind promoting a sponsor of the Team (but excluding Manufacturer Identifiers when the Manufacturer is a sponsor of the Team).

Team: the Players in the starting line-up and the Players named as substitutes for a Match in a Competition or an International Friendly Match; or (where the context so requires) a team competing in a FIFA eFootball Competition.

Team Delegation: the Players in the starting line-up and the Players named as substitutes for the Match, as well as the Team Officials and any other Players accompanying the Team to and within the Controlled Areas for the Match;

or (in the context of a FIFA eFootball Competition) the eFootball Player(s), their named coach(es) and Content Creator.

Team Emblem: the official emblem, symbol, mark or logo selected by a Member Association, Club or eFootball Club (as applicable) to represent its Team.

Team Identifier: any graphic or text-based feature used by a Member Association, Club or eFootball Club (as applicable) to identify its Team.

Team Name: the official name of a Team as notified to FIFA, in the national language(s) of the Member Association or country of the Club or eFootball Club or in any other official FIFA language, as well as common abbreviations of that name.

Team Nickname: a descriptive name or designation commonly used and understood to refer to a given Team. A slogan, campaign or similar message associated with a Team shall not be considered a Team Nickname.

Team Officials: all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, media officers, medical staff (doctors, physiotherapists, etc.), representatives, and other individuals appointed by a Member Association or Club (as applicable) to support the Team.

Team Slogan: a short descriptive phrase commonly used and understood to refer to the history or identity of a Team.

Team Symbol: any symbol or graphic element (other than the Team Emblem) that is used by the Member Association, Club or eFootball Club (as applicable) to represent its Team officially.

Technology Label: a type of Manufacturer Identifier that is used as an identification label by a Manufacturer to communicate a material or method used in the manufacturing of an item.

The IFAB: The International Football Association Board.

Undergarment: as defined in article 21.1.

VAR Team: video assistant referee, assistant video assistant referee and other support staff located in the VOR.

VOR: video operation room.

ANNEXE B

APPROVAL PROCESS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A Member Association, Club, eFootball Club or eFootball Player participating in a Competition in an individual capacity, must not use or allow their Team Delegation to use any Playing Kit or other clothing or equipment that is covered by these Regulations in connection with a Competition or International Friendly Match unless it complies in full with all of the requirements of these Regulations and any other applicable FIFA rules or regulations, and/or with any circulars, guidelines, directives, and/or decisions issued by FIFA, and contains only elements that are specifically authorised under these Regulations.

1.2 Where FIFA specifies that any Playing Kit or other clothing or equipment item must be reviewed for compliance prior to use in any Competition or International Friendly Match, the item must not be used unless and until FIFA has reviewed a physical sample of the item and provided written confirmation of its compliance ("FIFA Approval").

a) For a FIFA Preliminary Competition, FIFA may delegate this authority to grant or withhold approval to the Match Commissioner or relevant Competition organiser.

b) For International Friendly Matches, FIFA may delegate this authority to grant or withhold approval to the competing Member Associations or to the Confederation(s) of the competing Member Associations.

1.3 Use without FIFA Approval of any Playing Kit or other clothing or equipment that require FIFA Approval constitutes a breach of these Regulations, even if the item otherwise complies in all respects with the Regulations.

1.4 FIFA may issue detailed guidelines and/or instructions and/or forms to supplement this Annexe B and to assist submissions for preliminary examination or applications for FIFA Approval. However, in case of any inconsistency between those materials and this Annexe B, this Annexe B prevails.

2. SUBMISSION OF SAMPLES FOR PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

2.1 A Member Association, Club, eFootball Club or eFootball Player (or any Manufacturer that is supplying relevant items to a Member Association, Club, eFootball Club or eFootball Player) may submit to FIFA samples of Playing Kit and other clothing or equipment for which FIFA Approval is required at any stage.

2.2 The Member Association, Club, eFootball Club or eFootball Player (as applicable) may send to FIFA electronic files (e.g. of artwork and/or product specifications). FIFA will only review such electronic files if they constitute a complete specification of the sample item, and include, if and when requested by FIFA, full details of the method of manufacture, materials and techniques used. The Member Association, Club, eFootball Club or eFootball Player (as applicable) may also send life-size physical samples of each such item to FIFA.

2.3 FIFA will use all reasonable endeavours to conduct a preliminary examination of each item within no more than 30 working days of receipt.

2.4 FIFA may respond with a non-binding indication of whether an item made to such specifications would be likely to be given FIFA Approval. However, this process does not equate to, or act as a substitute for, FIFA Approval of Playing Kit and other clothing and equipment applicable to each Competition. Instead, a formal application for FIFA Approval must still be made and the outcome of that application may not be assumed. No claim may be brought against FIFA based on the non-binding indication or on any subsequent rejection of an application for FIFA Approval in respect of the item.

2.5 FIFA will not review incomplete submissions for preliminary examination. At any time, FIFA may seek any further information that it considers necessary to conduct the preliminary examination.

2.6 All costs incurred in connection with the submission for preliminary examination are to be borne by the party submitting the sample(s). In no circumstances will they be recoverable from FIFA.

3. TIMELINE OF APPLICATION FOR FIFA APPROVAL

3.1 The Member Association, Club, eFootball Club or eFootball Player (as applicable) must submit an application for FIFA Approval by no later than the deadline specified in the applicable Competition regulations or associated circular.

3.2 Alternatively, FIFA may specify a day or period in advance of a particular Competition when it will physically inspect all items relevant to that Competition.

3.3 FIFA will process each application as quickly as reasonably possible without undermining the integrity of the process. FIFA will use all reasonable endeavours to complete the process and to provide its decision within no more than 30 working days of receipt of the completed application. In no circumstances may FIFA be held liable if, despite that use of all reasonable endeavours, it is unable to meet that deadline.

3.4 Where FIFA sets a deadline for the submission of samples of items for use at a particular Competition, it has no obligation to process applications received after that deadline.

3.5 The deadline for submission of samples of Celebratory Attire is no later than 48 hours prior to the Match at which the Celebratory Attire would be worn.

4. PROCESSING THE APPLICATION

4.1 The application for FIFA Approval must include a full-size physical sample of the item for which FIFA Approval is sought, together with full details of the method of manufacture, materials and techniques used, if and when requested by FIFA. If a preliminary application has previously been made in respect of such item, this subsequent application shall specify any differences between the sample item as previously submitted and the sample item as now submitted.

4.2 FIFA will assess the sample item for compliance with each provision of these Regulations that applies to that item. FIFA will make its assessment in good faith and without discrimination. Its decision will be final and is not subject to appeal.

4.3 FIFA will assess compliance with colour requirements by visual inspection. Where it considers it appropriate to do so, FIFA may supplement the visual inspection by means of alternative colour measuring techniques with defined contrast parameters, such as the use of a spectrophotometer.

4.4 All Team Identifiers, Manufacturer Identifiers, and other relevant features displayed on the item will be measured according to their smallest and simplest geometric form, such as square, rectangle, triangle or circle, and the dimensions of that form will be calculated using the applicable mathematical formula. To calculate the surface area, the widest part of the feature will be measured from edge to edge. Exceptionally, the features may be divided into several individual geometric forms. Features of Socks, hairbands, headbands and wristbands will be measured on an "as worn" basis.

4.5 The applicant may submit to FIFA a written proposal as to how to measure non-standard types of Manufacturer Identifiers, Team Identifiers, or other features. FIFA will decide in its absolute discretion whether to follow that proposal.

4.6 Manufacturer Identifiers are measured as individual geometric forms when the distance between the various elements does not exceed 0.5cm.

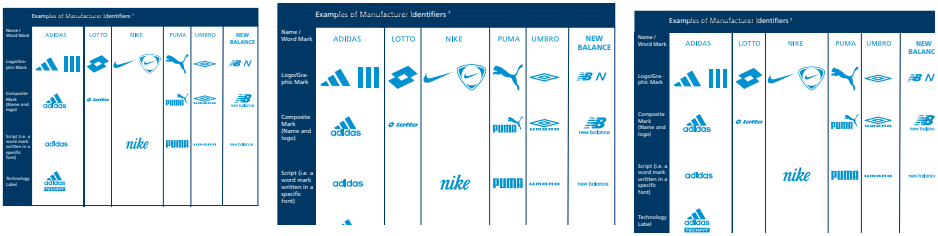
4.7 The following diagrams and related descriptions provide examples of the measurement procedure:

a) Manufacturer logo:

i) The Nike logo size is calculated using the formula: "a" x "b"

ii) The Puma logo size is calculated using the formula: ("c" + "d") /2 x "h"

iii) The adidas logo size is calculated using the formula: ("b" x "h")/2



b) Manufacturer composite mark:

i) The total size is calculated by adding the size of the two separate areas, measured as follows:

A) The word mark size, which is calculated using the formula: "a" x "b"

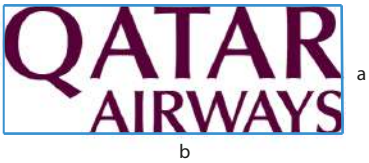
B) The design mark size, which is calculated using the formula: "b" x "d"

ii) The distance between the design mark and the word mark in a composite mark may not exceed 0.5cm (otherwise they will be considered to be two separate Manufacturer Identifiers).



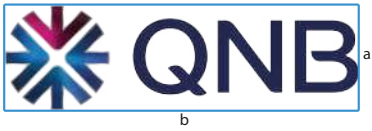
4.8 Sponsor Advertising will be measured by using the larger of the following surface areas of the sponsor brand: (i) the surface area of the Sponsor Advertising, if it is printed directly on the Shirt or on a patch that is the same colour as the Shirt; or (ii) if the patch is not the same colour as the Shirt, the surface area of the patch. It is measured as several individual geometric forms when made up of more than one separable line of text or consisting of a logo and text separately (the distance between the various elements must not exceed 5cm).

a) Sponsor Advertising on a neutral patch – the Sponsor Advertising size is calculated using the formula of the neutral patch: "a" x "b"



b) Sponsor Advertising applied on a coloured patch:

i) the size of Sponsor Advertising made up of a single constituent part is calculated using the formula: "a" x "b"



ii) Sponsor Advertising containing more than one constituent part is measured by adding together the size of the two separate parts, measured as follows:

A) Two words calculated as ("a" x "b")+("c" x "d")

B) Word and logo calculated as ("a" x "b")+(area of the circle "c")

C) The distance ("d") between the word and the logo may not exceed 5cm



5. GRANT OF FIFA APPROVAL

5.1 FIFA Approval is only valid when granted in writing, in the form of an official FIFA communication. No reliance may be placed on any approval purportedly given in any other form.

5.2 The granting of FIFA Approval constitutes confirmation that, in FIFA's view, the item in question complies in full with all of the requirements in these Regulations and any other applicable FIFA rules or regulations, as well as any circulars, guidelines, directives and/or decisions issued by FIFA.

a) FIFA will not consider whether the item complies with all applicable national and transnational laws and the granting of FIFA Approval provides no assurance of such compliance.

b) It is the responsibility of the Member Association, Club, eFootball Club or eFootball Player in question to ensure that the item complies with all applicable national and transnational laws.

5.3 Unless otherwise specified, a granted FIFA Approval will be valid for all Competitions and International Friendly Matches played within a calendar year of it being granted.

5.4 Where FIFA Approval is granted conditionally or with restrictions, such conditions must be strictly satisfied and such restrictions (e.g. where the approval lapses after a specified date) must be strictly observed by the applicant, or else the FIFA Approval will be withdrawn.

5.5 Any granting of FIFA Approval is specific to the sample item reviewed by FIFA. It does not apply to any item that is not identical in all specifications to that sample item. A new application for FIFA Approval would have to be made in respect of any such non-identical item. Use of the non-identical item without separate FIFA Approval will constitute a breach of these Regulations.

5.6 Notwithstanding the granting of FIFA Approval, the Match Officials retain the right to determine whether any item may be used by a Team during a Match. Among other things, they may order parts of an item to be covered and/or may require a Team to combine Playing Kit items from its First-Choice Playing Kit and an Alternative Playing Kit in order to meet their requirements.

5.7 For the avoidance of doubt, changing the context of the design, text, images, associated messages or any other material in which the item is intended to be used, constitutes a change to the approved use of such item. If the approved item is used in any manner conflicting with the applicable FIFA requirements and regulations, FIFA shall have the right to, at any time, withdraw its approval and the item may not be used.

5.8 Where circumstances are not explicitly covered by any specific provision of these Regulations, FIFA shall retain the exclusive right to make a final decision. FIFA will make its assessment in good faith, without discrimination and in accordance with the general principles and objectives of these Regulations. FIFA's decision-making authority extends to situations where these Regulations are silent, lack clarity or do not provide explicit guidance. The decision rendered by FIFA under this clause are final, binding and may not be appealed.

6. REFUSAL OF FIFA APPROVAL

6.1 Where FIFA refuses an application for FIFA Approval in respect of an item, it will give written reasons for that refusal, so that the applicant may understand what changes are required in order to obtain FIFA Approval for the item.

ANNEXE

FIFA KIT SUMMARY

C

NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITION

Front



Manufacturer Identifier
max. 20cm²
art. 13.9.1

FIFA Winners' Stars
max. 2cm diametre
spaced max. 2cm
art. 13.7.3

Team Symbol
max. 100cm²
art. 13.5.1.2

Team Emblem
max. 100cm²
art. 13.5.1.1

Country Name
max. 12cm²
art. 13.5.1.4

Player's Number
10-15cm high;
1-3cm stroke width
art. 13.4.2.1

Quality or
Sustainability Seal
max. 10cm²
art. 13.9.3

Technology Label
max. 10cm²
art. 13.9.3

National Flag
max. 25cm²
art. 14.5.1.5

Technology Label
max. 10cm²
art. 14.8.3

Player's Number
10-15cm high;
1-3cm stroke width
art. 14.4.1.1

FIFA Winners' Stars
max. 2cm diametre
spaced max. 2cm
art. 14.6

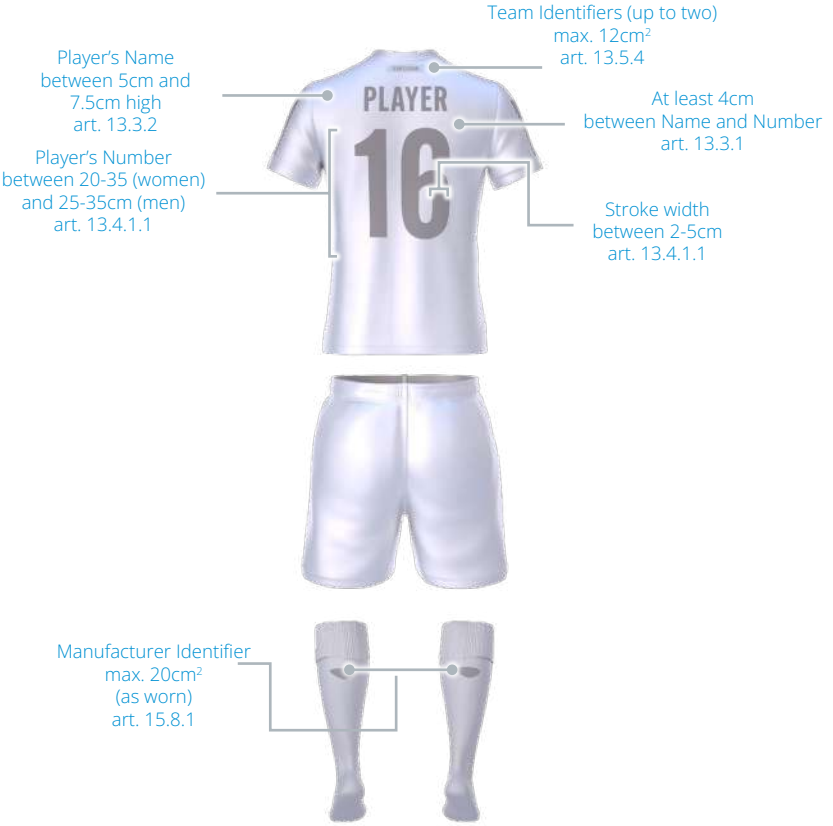
Manufacturer Identifier
max. 20cm²
art. 14.8.1

Team Emblem
max. 50cm²
art. 14.5.1.1

Team Emblem
max. 50cm²
(as worn)
art. 15.5.1.1

Team Name
max. 12cm²
(as worn)
art. 15.5.1.2

Back


Team Identifiers (up to two)
max. 12cm²
art. 13.5.4
Player's Name
between 5cm and
7.5cm high
art. 13.3.2
At least 4cm
between Name and Number
art. 13.3.1
Player's Number
between 20-35 (women)
and 25-35cm (men)
art. 13.4.1.1
Stroke width
between 2-5cm
art. 13.4.1.1
PLAYER
16
Manufacturer Identifier
max. 20cm²
(as worn)
art. 15.8.1

CLUB TEAM COMPETITION

Front



CLUB TEAM COMPETITION

Back



FIFA®
FORWARD



REGULATIONS

FIFA Forward Development Programme (Forward 3.0)

DECEMBER 2022

PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

When it launched the Forward development programme, FIFA embarked upon a new era of global football development that is now heading into its third cycle. With the implementation of Forward 3.0, FIFA is further strengthening its commitment to building a stronger foundation for the growth of football. Among other things, Forward 3.0 will provide the following:

• Increased investment in football development

• More impact through the achievement of football development objectives

• Continued oversight to ensure that all funds are used responsibly

The third cycle of the FIFA Forward development programme will dedicate more financial resources than ever before to developing football, with an overall increase of approximately 30% compared to Forward 2.0 and, in total, a seven-fold increase compared to the development programmes in place prior to 2016. More specifically, it will provide the following support during the 2023-2026 cycle:

• Up to USD 5 million for each member association to cover its operational/running costs in relation to football activities

• USD 3 million for each member association to execute well-planned, specific football projects that contribute to the achievement of long-term football development objectives

• For member associations that are identified as needing the most assistance, up to USD 1.2 million each to cover the costs of travel and accommodation for their national teams as well as football equipment

• USD 60 million for each confederation to develop, promote and organise football within the regions of its member associations

• Up to USD 5 million for each zonal/regional association to organise regional football competitions for men, women and youth

As with the previous incarnations of the programme, a contract of agreed objectives will be finalised through Forward 3.0 between FIFA and each member association or confederation that will lay the foundations for the impactful and tailored development of football. Furthermore, FIFA will continue to provide non-financial support in the form of digital tools, as well as capacity-development expertise and opportunities for sharing knowledge.

Overall, FIFA is continually evolving and is adapting football to the modern society around it. This requires enhanced flexibility in the way the Forward Programme is delivered in accordance with the needs of each beneficiary, while ensuring that defined control mechanisms to scrutinise the use of the funds and report on their impact and legacy are retained.

I look forward to continuing to work with everyone in the worldwide football community to develop the modern, accessible and inclusive global game that we envision.



FIFA President

Gianni Infantino

PREAMBLE

The FIFA Forward development programme is one of the priorities linked to FIFA's statutory objectives "to improve the game of football constantly and promote it globally in the light of its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes" and "to promote the development of women's football and the full participation of women at all levels of football governance" (cf. art. 2 (a) and (f) of the FIFA Statutes).

By adopting this new set of regulations for the FIFA Forward development programme at its meeting on 16 December 2022 (based on art. 34 paras 11 and 12, in conjunction with art. 13 par. 1 (f) of the FIFA Statutes), the Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the promotion of football as a sport that strives to embody fairness, solidarity and equality around the world. These regulations represent a collaboration between FIFA, its member associations and the confederations in a spirit of partnership, focusing on the future and the common aim of making football development impactful.

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ANNEXE A

SCOPE OF APPLICATION



These regulations primarily define the financial and non-financial support allocated in the context of the FIFA Forward Development Programme (hereinafter the "Forward Programme") during its third cycle (hereinafter "Forward 3.0"), starting on 1 January 2023 and ending on 31 December 2026, as well as the rights, duties and obligations of the parties involved.

OBJECTIVE



The first partial cycle of the Forward Programme spanned three years and was applicable to the financial period ending on 31 December 2018 (hereinafter "Forward 1.0"). The second full cycle of the Forward Programme spanned four years and was applicable to the financial period ending on 31 December 2022 (hereinafter "Forward 2.0"). Forward 1.0 and Forward 2.0 were established to provide financial and non-financial support primarily to all of FIFA's member associations and the confederations in their endeavours to develop football in all its forms and at all levels within their territories based on their individual needs. Forward 3.0 follows the same main objective.

BENEFICIARIES



1. The beneficiaries of Forward 3.0 are:

   a. associations that are admitted as members of FIFA;

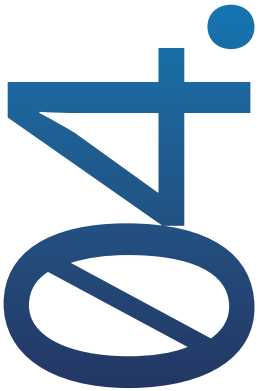
   b. confederations recognised by FIFA; and

   c. zonal/regional associations which meet the requirements stipulated in article 6 paragraph 9 of these regulations.

2. In exceptional circumstances, other football associations, which are not FIFA members but are full members of the relevant confederation and are organising competitions and/or football projects, may also benefit from Forward 3.0, if so decided on a case-by-case basis and only if so identified by the FIFA general secretariat and approved by the FIFA Development Committee. The applicable conditions and procedure will be defined by the FIFA general secretariat in each case. The Development Committee may amend the eligibility requirements for these other football associations to benefit from Forward 3.0, based on the recommendation of the FIFA general secretariat.

3. By way of solidarity, the member associations and confederations may inform the FIFA general secretariat that they do not need all or part of their entitlement to Forward 3.0 funds. In such cases, the FIFA general secretariat shall devise a proposal to reassign all or part of this entitlement to support the development initiatives of other Forward 3.0 beneficiaries. Irrespective of the amount to be reassigned, the FIFA general secretariat shall submit its proposal to the Development Committee, which shall decide whether to approve such proposal. The applicable conditions and procedure for such reassignment shall be defined by the FIFA general secretariat in each case.

RIGHTS OF THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AND THE CONFEDERATIONS



1. As a result of FIFA having a pyramid structure and an organisational model that places solidarity at the heart of its values, the member associations and confederations benefit from part of the revenues from the FIFA World Cup™. This part of the revenues is reinvested in football development, subject to compliance with these regulations.

2. The member associations and the confederations are entitled to have at least the "essential footballing conditions" in place to develop football in their territories and to provide their registered players and the wider football community with decent conditions in which to play football. Forward 3.0 is in line with this philosophy.

3. The member associations and the confederations are entitled to receive advice and continuous support from FIFA in determining the specific objectives of football development in their territories.

DUTIES OF FIFA



1. FIFA shall be attentive to its member associations and the confederations and available to assist them, particularly in the implementation of the Forward Programme, in order to ensure that the programme responds to the specific objectives of football development in their territories.

2. FIFA shall be professional, impartial and transparent in its management of the Forward Programme.

3. Unless more time is required due to circumstances, the FIFA general secretariat shall reply to any written communication from a member association and/or confederation concerning Forward 3.0 within five working days.

FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL SUPPORT



Member associations

1. Subject to compliance with these regulations, the funding granted to each member association under Forward 3.0 includes a contribution of up to USD 8 million for the four-year cycle (2023-2026), representing an increase of USD 2 million compared to the Forward 2.0 cycle and USD 3 million compared to the Forward 1.0 cycle.

2. Each member association shall therefore be entitled to receive:

   a. up to USD 5 million over the four-year cycle (2023-2026) for operational/running costs; and

   b. USD 3 million over the four-year cycle (2023-2026) for specific projects.

3. Operational/running costs

   a. A first instalment of USD 650,000 shall be paid to member associations in January of each year to cover their operational/running costs for recurring/routine activities, including but not limited to:

      i. organising domestic competitions;

      ii. training and participation in matches for various national teams;

      iii. organising training sessions for football stakeholders, such as administrators, technical staff, referees and volunteers;

      iv. remunerating administrative and technical staff;

      v. organising committee meetings and general assemblies;

      vi. settling utility bills;

      vii. managing financial oversight, including audits;

viii. maintaining or renting facilities;

ix. maintaining websites and other technology platforms, such as corporate email systems.

b. Conditionally, a second instalment of up to USD 600,000 shall be paid in July of each year, provided that the member association:

i. Organises men's competitions (championship, league or cup), meaning nationwide regular competitions played:

1. over a period of at least six months;

2. with at least ten teams; and

3. with at least 90 matches.

ii. Organises women's competitions (championship, league or cup), meaning nationwide regular competitions played:

1. over a period of at least six months;

2. with at least ten teams; and

3. with at least 90 matches.

iii. Has an active men's "A" national team that has played at least four (official or friendly) matches in the relevant year.

iv. Has an active women's "A" national team that has played at least four (official or friendly) matches in the relevant year.

v. Organises boys' competitions (championships, leagues or cups) in at least two age categories (e.g. U-15 and U-17):

1. nationwide or regionally;

2. with at least ten youth teams in each of the age categories;

3. with at least 90 matches in each age category; and

4. over a period of at least six months.

vi. Organises girls' competitions (championships, leagues or cups) in at least two age categories (e.g. U-15 and U-17):

1. nationwide or regionally;

2. with at least ten youth teams in each of the age categories;

3. with at least 90 matches in each age category; and

4. over a period of at least six months.

vii. Has active boys' national teams in at least two age categories that have played at least four (official or friendly) matches in the relevant year in each of the age categories.

viii. Has active girls' national teams in at least two age categories that have played at least four (official or friendly) matches in the relevant year in each of the age categories.

ix. Has a functioning digital registration and competition management system which is regularly updated by an appointed staff member, such as a registration and/or competitions manager.

x. Has an established programme for the promotion and development of refereeing, which includes:

    1. an appointed full-time head of refereeing with the relevant refereeing expertise;

    2. at least ten refereeing workshops/seminars organised by it for its referees in the different categories per year; and

    3. women referees.

xi. Has undertaken initiatives within the context of its operations in at least five of the following areas:

    1. safeguarding children and vulnerable adults from any form of harassment and abuse;

    2. integrating the principles of anti-discrimination, diversity, accessibility, gender equality and inclusivity;

    3. embedding a culture of compliance to prevent improper conduct;

    4. combatting match manipulation;

    5. combatting doping;

    6. reducing the adverse environmental impact of activities;

    7. offering an alternative dispute resolution system to settle and resolve disputes within the local/national context;

    8. incorporating minimum requirements for contracts of professional players based on guidelines provided by FIFA;

    9. providing a secure environment to participants and attendees at matches and/or events organised by it; and

    10. implementing any initiative other than the above that strengthens good governance within the member association.

c. Regarding paragraph (b) above:

i. The amount of USD 50,000 shall be released to the member associations in July each year for each of the ten conditions stipulated in article 6 paragraph 3 (b) (i) to (x) that they have fulfilled in the previous year and/or football season.

ii. The amount of USD 100,000 shall be released to the member associations in July each year if they have undertaken initiatives in at least five areas stipulated in article 6 paragraph 3 (b) (xi) in the previous year and/or football season.

iii. The member associations shall demonstrate to FIFA by 30 April of each year which of the ten conditions stipulated in article 6 paragraph 3 (b) (i) to (x) they have fulfilled in the previous year and/or football season. The member associations shall also demonstrate at least five areas in which they have undertaken initiatives as stipulated in article 6 paragraph 3 (b) (xi) in the previous year and/or football season.

iv. In exceptional circumstances, member associations that were not able to fulfil any number of the conditions stipulated in article 6 paragraph 3 (b) during any year in the Forward 3.0 cycle will have a one-time opportunity to submit the grounds for non-fulfilment, in writing, to the FIFA general secretariat by 30 April 2026. On the basis of the grounds, the FIFA general secretariat may, at its discretion, decide to seek the approval of the Development Committee after 30 April 2026 to allow the member associations to use the total amount of funds assigned to the non-fulfilled conditions under Forward 3.0 to fund specific projects aimed at the development of the area(s) associated with the respective condition(s). Upon approval of the Development Committee, this amount will be added to the existing entitlement of the member association for specific projects as provided for in article 6 paragraph 4 of these regulations.

4. Specific projects

a. USD 3 million for the four-year cycle (2023-2026) shall be granted for well planned projects entailing the execution of a temporary activity or task (with a specific start and end date) that would enable the member association to achieve a specific objective established in the relevant contract of agreed objectives and that therefore have a long-term impact on football development.

b. In particular, such projects shall be related to the following areas:

i. Infrastructure

Improvement of existing football infrastructure or the construction of new football infrastructure for the benefit of the member association within its territory (e.g. the renovation or construction of a stadium, stadium facilities, administration offices, technical centre or pitches).

ii. **Competitions**

Organisation of a new domestic competition or a revamped edition of an existing domestic competition by the member association (e.g. the launch of a women's league or the establishment of a youth league).

iii. **Capacity development**

Organisation of and/or participation in initiatives aimed at developing the skills and abilities of persons associated with the member association (e.g. workshops on how to implement club licensing, FIFA-devised programmes, diplomas, master's courses or other educational initiatives).

iv. **National-team support**

Initiatives aimed at enhancing the performance of the member association's national teams (e.g. the introduction of technological innovations to improve player performance or the establishment or implementation of a holistic national teams' improvement strategy).

v. **Subventions**

Provision of a subvention to support football development within the region of the member association (e.g. leagues organised by regional football associations or initiatives for the development of clubs undertaken by regional football associations).

vi. **Other**

Football development projects that do not fall within the remit of the above-mentioned areas (e.g. implementing VAR technology in competitions organised by the member association or executing a youth football development programme).

c. The member association may apply for football infrastructure projects other than for a stadium that meets the requirements to host at least FIFA World Cup™ preliminary competition matches, a suitable headquarters or a centre or facility to train its national teams, or projects in areas other than football infrastructure, provided that the member association:

i. owns or has guaranteed access to at least one stadium within its territory that meets the requirements to host at least FIFA World Cup preliminary competition matches;

ii. owns or has a finalised usage agreement for at least the duration of the Forward 3.0 cycle for a suitable headquarters; and

iii. owns or has a finalised usage agreement for at least the duration of the Forward 3.0 cycle for a centre or facility to train its national teams.

The Development Committee may amend the above-mentioned requirements or grant exceptions based on the recommendation of the FIFA general secretariat in exceptional circumstances.

5. Operational/running costs funding for specific projects

If the member association so wishes, all or part of its unreleased entitlement for operational/running costs may be used to fund specific projects as per article 6 paragraph 4, provided that:

a. The member association fulfilled all of the conditions mentioned under article 6 paragraph (3) (b) to obtain the second instalment of the operational/running costs in each of the previous four years at least. Where the Development Committee approved the waiving of any conditions mentioned under article 6 paragraph 3 (b) for any of the previous four years, the member association will be deemed to have fulfilled the respective condition(s) for that year.

b. The request is justified (e.g. the project entails costs which are higher than USD 3 million and constitutes an important legacy for the member association) and the funds will be used in accordance with the provisions of article 6 paragraph 4 of these regulations.

6. Specific projects funding for operational/running costs

If the member association so wishes, all or part of its entitlement for specific projects provided for under article 6 paragraph 4, excluding any funds approved by the Development Committee as per article 6 paragraph 3 (c) (iv) to fund specific projects, may be used to cover its operational/running costs, provided that:

a. The member association has:

   i. met the three infrastructure requirements detailed in article 6 paragraph 4 (c) pertaining to a stadium, association headquarters and training centre/facility;

   ii. due to exceptional circumstances, obtained an exemption from the Development Committee in relation to any three of the infrastructure requirements; or

   iii. ongoing Forward Programme projects which, based on the assessment of the FIFA general secretariat, have already been considerably executed, will not be adversely impacted by the member association's request and, upon completion, would ensure that the member association meets the three infrastructure requirements set out in article 6 paragraph 4 (c).

b. The request is justified (e.g. if the size of the country requires additional costs for organising domestic competitions).

7. Travel and equipment

For certain member associations only (and subject to compliance with these regulations), Forward 3.0 provides:

a. A contribution of up to USD 1 million for the four-year cycle (2023-2026) (i.e. an increase of USD 200,000 compared to the Forward 2.0 cycle) to primarily cover the cost of travel and accommodation for their national teams, following which any remaining funds may be used to cover the cost of travel and accommodation for domestic competitions organised by the member associations. This contribution shall be allocated only to those member associations that are identified as needing the most assistance (cf. article 6 paragraph 7 (c) of these regulations).

b. A contribution of up to USD 200,000 for the four-year cycle (2023-2026) to cover the cost of any football equipment related to the training of players and organisation of matches (e.g. full kits for the national teams, balls, mini-goals, bibs, substitution boards and referees' communication systems) for those member associations that are identified as needing the most assistance (cf. article 6 paragraph 7 (c) of these regulations).

c. A member association is identified as needing the most assistance, for the purpose of the contributions above, where their annual revenues (excluding Forward Programme funds as well as funds from any other FIFA programme/initiative) do not exceed USD 4 million. This figure shall be reflected in the latest annual statutory audit report submitted to the FIFA general secretariat within six months after the closing of the relevant financial year. The Development Committee may amend this revenue threshold and/or add additional criteria for both contributions.

d. The above contributions for travel will be released in four equal instalments of USD 250,000 each in January every year, whilst those for equipment will be released in four equal instalments of USD 50,000 each in January every year provided that the member association has fulfilled the conditions in article 6 paragraph 7 (c) of these regulations.

Confederations

8. Subject to compliance with these regulations, Forward 3.0 provides a contribution of USD 60 million over the four-year cycle (2023-2026) for each confederation (i.e. an increase of USD 12 million compared to the Forward 2.0 cycle and USD 20 million compared to the Forward 1.0 cycle), aimed at developing, promoting and organising football in general within the regions of its member associations. This contribution will be released in equal biannual instalments of USD 7.5 million in January and July of each relevant year. The confederations may use the funds to support the football development initiatives that they have designed for their member associations – while mentioning explicitly

that these funds are provided by FIFA – and to strengthen their own organisation. The details of the use of all the funds released to the confederations shall be clearly recorded in writing and submitted to the FIFA general secretariat on a yearly basis by 28 February (for the previous year) in order to ensure that the funds are invested in accordance with the aims described in this paragraph and the objectives of the confederation, as established in the relevant contract of agreed objectives (cf. art. 7 par. 1) and in accordance with the requirements of these regulations.

Zonal/regional associations

9. Subject to compliance with these regulations, the funding granted under Forward 3.0 includes a contribution of up to USD 5 million over the four-year cycle (2023-2026) for each zonal/regional association (i.e. an increase of up to USD 1 million compared to the previous cycles of Forward 2.0 and Forward 1.0) that was recognised by its confederation at the time that these regulations came into force and had legal status as an entity within the regions of its member associations on the date that these regulations came into force. The funds amounting to USD 1.25 million will be released to the relevant confederations in January of each relevant year for the zonal/regional associations to organise regional men's, women's and youth competitions (for girls and boys). These funds shall only be distributed where the zonal/regional association organises at least one women's, two boys' and two girls' competitions (for national teams or clubs) during the relevant year.

Should the zonal/regional association not organise all of these competitions during the relevant year, the allocated funds will be reduced by USD 250,000 for each required competition not organised.

The confederation is responsible for the correct use of these funds, including the annual external independent audit of the released funds (the cost of which will be covered by FIFA) and the release of payments to the zonal/regional association, to the member association hosting a tournament and/or to the participating teams, as the case may be, and as agreed regionally on a case-by-case basis for each tournament. The confederation shall report on the use of these funds to FIFA on a yearly basis by 28 February (for the previous year) and submit the audit report annually upon its completion.

In exceptional circumstances, the Development Committee may amend the requirements on an annual basis for the confederations to release funds to the zonal/regional associations after evaluating the grounds for any such amendment submitted, in writing, by the zonal/regional association to the FIFA general secretariat in consultation with the relevant confederation. Such grounds may be submitted to the FIFA general secretariat by 31 March 2023 for the release of funds in 2023 and by 31 December of the preceding year for the release of funds in all subsequent years (2024-2026) (e.g. by 31 December

2023 for the release of funds in 2024).

10. Digital tools

Under Forward 3.0, FIFA provides the following digital tools free of charge for the proper organisation and operation of the relevant beneficiaries of Forward 3.0:

a. FIFA Connect Platform for the secure and accurate electronic registration of all football stakeholders;

b. FIFA Connect ID to prevent duplicate registration of football stakeholders;

c. FIFA Connect competition management system for the digital management of competitions;

d. International Transfer Matching System for the conclusion and matching of international transfers;

e. Domestic Transfer Matching System for the conclusion and matching of domestic transfers; and

f. FIFA+ LitePlayer for over-the-top content and streaming of live and/or video-on-demand content.

In this respect, FIFA may provide assistance in evaluating and operating the digital systems and tools that the beneficiaries are currently using. Beneficiaries may not use Forward Programme funds to purchase digital tools (including licences) that provide a similar service to those they are eligible to receive from FIFA (as listed above). The FIFA general secretariat shall decide on the approval and applicable procedure for the provision of the above-mentioned digital tools and any corresponding assistance to the beneficiaries.

The FIFA general secretariat may make changes at any time to the above-mentioned list of digital tools as well as the conditions associated with the use of Forward Programme funds in relation to digital tools that provide a similar service.

11. Provision of capacity development experts and coordination for placements

The FIFA general secretariat will provide support to the member associations and confederations, if required, firstly to create a football development strategy and secondly to devise an action plan to achieve the objectives defined in this strategy and those included in the relevant finalised contract of agreed objectives. As a result, where it emerges that the achievement of an objective depends on the member association or confederation having expertise that it does not currently possess, the FIFA general secretariat, through its network of capacity development experts, will help to develop the required expertise within the member association or confederation. All costs and fees related to these experts shall be covered by FIFA. In addition, the FIFA general

secretariat shall determine the type of monitoring required for each expert provided and the capacity development activity organised.

Upon request, the FIFA general secretariat may also coordinate the possibility for member associations and confederations to send their staff members or officials (in the areas of football development, including football administration) to other member associations or even confederations on placement to enhance their skills, and to benefit from knowledge-sharing and good practices to be applied in their member association or confederation.

The FIFA general secretariat shall decide on the conditions, applicable procedure and approval of the provision of the above-mentioned capacity development experts and coordination for placements.

PROCEDURE FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT



After the contract of agreed objectives has been finalised in accordance with this article, the member associations and confederations shall follow the procedure laid down for financial support allocated under Forward 3.0, according to a defined schedule that covers the four phases: proposal, approval, execution and monitoring. A summary of the procedure and corresponding phases for financial support is also provided in Annexe A.

1. Preparation – contract of agreed objectives

a. The member associations, with the assistance of the FIFA general secretariat, shall determine the specific objectives for football development to be achieved during the Forward 3.0 cycle using Forward Programme funds provided for specific projects.

b. The confederations, with the assistance of the FIFA general secretariat, shall determine the specific objectives for football development to be achieved during the Forward 3.0 cycle using the Forward Programme funds provided for developing, promoting and organising football in general within the regions of their member associations.

c. The above-mentioned objectives of the member associations and confederations shall be formally established in a contract of agreed objectives, which shall be finalised by no later than 30 June 2023. The finalised contract of agreed objectives for Forward 3.0 will supersede the contract of agreed objectives for Forward 2.0.

d. In order for the contract of agreed objectives to be finalised:

i. The specific objectives shall be approved by the executive committee of each member association or confederation concerned. The approval must be noted in the relevant meeting minutes and shall be provided to the FIFA general secretariat prior to the approval of the Development Committee.

ii. The information required in all of the annexes to the relevant contract of agreed objectives shall be submitted by each member association or confederation to the FIFA general secretariat (e.g. the strategic framework of a member association or confederation).

iii. the specific objectives for member associations or confederations shall be approved by the Development Committee, which may meet as a bureau as often as necessary in order to ensure approvals are given by the fixed deadline.

iv. the respective contract of agreed objectives shall be signed by each member association or confederation concerned.

v. the contract of agreed objectives signed by each member association or confederation concerned shall be countersigned by FIFA.

e. After the deadline of 30 June 2023, no Forward Programme funds whatsoever will be provided to a member association or confederation without a finalised contract of agreed objectives for Forward 3.0.

f. The specific objectives approved by the executive committee of each member association or confederation shall be communicated to their respective congress or general assembly at the earliest opportunity to do so. The proof of such communication (such as meeting minutes or any form of official correspondence) shall also be provided by the member association or confederation to the FIFA general secretariat by a mutually agreed date.

2. Member associations

a. **Operational/running costs** *(as defined in art. 6 par. 3)*

i. Proposal

The member associations shall not be required to submit an application or proposal in any year for the first instalment of USD 650,000.

The member associations shall submit, by no later than 30 April of each year, all of the necessary information detailed in article 6 paragraph 3 (c) for the second instalment of up to USD 600,000 in the format required by the FIFA general secretariat.

ii. Approval

Formal approval is not required in any year for the first instalment of USD 650,000.

For the second instalment, the FIFA general secretariat shall examine the information and relevant documents, submitted by the member association by 30 April of each year, to approve the release of up to USD 600,000, provided that the submissions by the member association satisfy the requirements established in article 6 paragraph 3 (b) of these regulations.

iii. Execution

The FIFA general secretariat shall take the necessary measures to release the first instalment of USD 650,000 in January of each year to the member associations.

If the FIFA general secretariat deems that the submissions by the member associations satisfy the requirements established in article 6 paragraph 3 (b) of these regulations, it shall take the necessary measures to release the funds of up to USD 600,000 to the member associations in July of each year.

iv. Monitoring

The FIFA general secretariat shall oversee the proper use of the funds and the audit and control process in accordance with articles 13, 14 and 15 of these regulations.

b. **Specific projects** *(as defined in art. 6 par. 4)*

i. Proposal

The member associations shall submit a completed application form with all of the required information and supporting documents listed in the application form, which may vary depending on the type of project application. The FIFA general secretariat is entitled to request additional information or documents for any project application at any time.

The project must contribute to the achievement of the specific objective(s) of the member association concerned as established in the finalised contract of agreed objectives for Forward 3.0. In addition, the purpose of the project application, and the corresponding amount of Forward Programme funds being requested, must already be approved by the executive committee of the member association concerned. Such approval must be noted in the relevant meeting minutes and shall be provided to the FIFA general secretariat as part of the supporting documents with each project application. Such approval shall also be communicated to the congress or general assembly of the member association concerned at the earliest opportunity to do so. The proof of such communication (such as meeting minutes or any form of official correspondence) shall also be provided by the member association to the FIFA general secretariat by a mutually agreed date.

Where a member association uses funds allocated for specific projects to improve or build new football infrastructure for its direct benefit or for the benefit of another entity (e.g. regional associations or clubs), the member association shall also provide, as part of the supporting documents, the FIFA general secretariat with the relevant national land registry certificate or extract confirming that the member association or the other entity is the owner of the land or the agreements confirming the donation, transfer or other form of provision to, or use of land by, the member association or

other entity. The transfer or other form of provision or use of land must be made on an exclusive or preferential use basis for a minimum of 20 years from the date of the submission of the completed project application form to the FIFA general secretariat.

ii. Approval

For projects requiring Forward Programme specific project funds of less than USD 300,000, the FIFA general secretariat shall examine the information in the completed application form and all supporting documents in order to decide on the approval of such projects.

For projects requiring Forward Programme specific project funds equal to or higher than USD 300,000, the FIFA general secretariat shall examine the information in the completed application form and all supporting documents in order to compile a report for the Development Committee, which will decide on the approval of such projects. The Development Committee may meet as a bureau as often as necessary to ensure that the project applications submitted by the member associations can be assessed and approved.

The Development Committee, or the FIFA general secretariat, where applicable, shall examine the funding request of the member association in order to assess its compliance with the criteria and requirements established in these regulations and shall deliver a decision of approval or rejection within the following time frame after the receipt of the member association's completed application form with all of the supporting documents and required information:

- 60 days for projects requiring Forward Programme funds equal to or more than USD 300,000; and
- 30 days for projects requiring Forward Programme funds less than USD 300,000.

Any decision by the Development Committee or the FIFA general secretariat to reject a project application shall be communicated with the grounds for the decision so that the member association can take the necessary steps to ensure compliance and resubmit its project proposal within a reasonable time frame.

All decisions shall be communicated to the member association concerned by the FIFA general secretariat.

iii. Execution

Once a project application has been approved by the Development Committee or the FIFA general secretariat, as the case may be, a statement of approval (hereinafter "SoA") outlining the main obligations of the applicant member association, agreed project milestones and corresponding payments signed by the president and/or the general secretary of the member association shall be returned to FIFA for countersignature within 30 days of the member association receiving the SoA.

Where applicable, the project shall be implemented by the member association with the assistance of any other relevant parties (such as companies, manufacturers, contractors, suppliers and consultants). The FIFA general secretariat shall take the necessary measures to release the required funds directly to the member association in accordance with the financial conditions defined in the SoA.

In the event that the contracts with the parties concerned are signed directly by FIFA (e.g. for a project for an artificial turf pitch):

1. FIFA shall sign a declaration with the parties concerned, stipulating that they undertake to indemnify FIFA and to hold FIFA harmless from any complaints, claims, demands for damages and interest or liability related to the implementation of the project;
2. FIFA shall pay the instalments directly to the contracting parties in accordance with the terms of the above-mentioned contracts; and
3. a tender process shall be conducted for any contract involving a financial obligation for FIFA of USD 300,000 or more.

iv. Monitoring

The FIFA general secretariat shall oversee the proper use of the funds for the project and the audit and control process in accordance with articles 13, 14 and 15 of these regulations.

The FIFA general secretariat shall encourage the member association concerned to take all of the necessary steps to achieve the objectives established in the contract of agreed objectives. The FIFA general secretariat may, at any time, inspect the progress of the project or the appropriate use of the project outcome on site to ensure that the established objectives have been met and the signed agreements have been complied with.

The member associations shall provide the FIFA general secretariat with reports and any documents as outlined in the signed SoA or any additional documents that the FIFA general secretariat deems necessary.

Where a member association uses funds allocated for specific projects to improve or build new football infrastructure for its direct benefit or for the benefit of another entity (e.g. clubs or regional associations), the member association or the other entity must obtain insurance that permanently covers such infrastructure for 100% of its replacement cost value.

At the end of the Forward 3.0 cycle, the FIFA general secretariat shall evaluate the implementation of the established agreed objectives with the member association concerned and shall present its findings to the Development Committee.

c. **Operational/running costs funding for specific projects** *(as defined in art. 6 par. 5)*

i. Proposal

The member associations shall submit a request, as detailed in article 6 paragraph 5, and a completed project application form with all of the required information and supporting documents, as detailed in article 7 paragraph 2 (b) (i), which may vary depending on the type of project for which the funds will be used. The request stipulating the amount of operational/running costs funding required for specific projects must already be approved by the executive committee of the member association concerned. Such approval must be noted in the relevant meeting minutes and shall be provided to the FIFA general secretariat as part of the request. Such approval shall also be communicated to the congress or general assembly of the member association at the earliest opportunity to do so. The proof of such communication (such as meeting minutes or any form of official correspondence) shall also be provided by the member association to the FIFA general secretariat by a mutually agreed date.

ii. Approval

The FIFA general secretariat shall examine the request, project application form and all of the supporting documents submitted by the member association to compile a report for the Development Committee, which will decide on the approval of such requests, irrespective of the amount of funding being requested. The Development Committee may meet as a bureau as often as necessary to ensure that the requests submitted by a member association can be assessed and approved.

Any decision by the Development Committee to reject a request or project application shall be communicated with the grounds for the decision so that the member association can take the necessary steps to ensure compliance and resubmit its request within a reasonable time frame.

All decisions shall be communicated to the member association concerned by the FIFA general secretariat.

iii. Execution

Once the request and the project application are approved by the Development Committee, the steps outlined in article 7 paragraph 2 (b) (iii) shall apply.

iv. Monitoring

The FIFA general secretariat shall oversee the proper use of the funds and the audit and control process in accordance with articles 13, 14 and 15 of these regulations. The requirements in article 7 paragraph 2 (b) (iv) will be applicable in the monitoring of the use of funds for specific projects.

d. **Specific projects funding for operational/running costs** *(as defined in art. 6 par. 6)*

i. Proposal

The member associations shall submit a request as detailed in article 6 paragraph 6 of these regulations with supporting documents. The request stipulating the amount of specific projects funding required for operational/running costs must already be approved by the executive committee of the member association concerned. Such approval must be noted in the relevant meeting minutes and shall be provided to the FIFA general secretariat as part of the request. Such approval shall also be communicated to the congress or general assembly of the member association at the earliest opportunity to do so. The proof of such communication (such as meeting minutes or any form of official correspondence) shall also be provided by the member association to the FIFA general secretariat by a mutually agreed date.

ii. Approval

The FIFA general secretariat shall examine the request and all of the supporting documents submitted by the member association to compile a report for the Development Committee, which will decide on the approval of such requests, irrespective of the amount of funding being requested. The Development Committee may meet as a bureau as often as necessary to ensure that the requests submitted by a member association can be assessed and approved.

Any decision by the Development Committee to reject a request shall be communicated with the grounds for the decision so that the member association can take the necessary steps to ensure compliance and resubmit its request within a reasonable time frame.

All decisions shall be communicated to the member association concerned by the FIFA general secretariat.

iii. Execution

Once the request is approved by the Development Committee, the FIFA general secretariat shall take the necessary measures to release the approved funds to the member association.

iv. Monitoring

The FIFA general secretariat shall oversee the proper use of the funds and the audit and control process in accordance with articles 13, 14 and 15 of these regulations.

e. **Travel and equipment** *(as defined in art. 6 par.7)*

i. Proposal

The eligible member associations shall not be required to submit an application or proposal in any year for the travel and equipment costs contribution.

ii. Approval

Formal approval is not required in any year for the travel and equipment costs contribution.

iii. Execution

The FIFA general secretariat shall take the necessary measures to release the annual contribution of USD 250,000 for travel costs and USD 50,000 for equipment costs to eligible member associations in January of each year.

iv. Monitoring

The FIFA general secretariat shall oversee the proper use of the funds and the audit and control process in accordance with articles 13, 14 and 15 of these regulations.

3. Confederations *(as defined in art. 6 par. 8)*

a. Proposal

The confederations shall not be required to apply or submit a proposal in any year for the annual contribution of USD 15 million to be released to each confederation.

b. Approval

Formal approval is not required in any year for the annual contribution of USD 15 million.

c. Execution

The FIFA general secretariat shall take the necessary measures to release the annual contribution of USD 15 million to each confederation in equal biannual instalments of USD 7.5 million in January and July.

d. Monitoring

The FIFA general secretariat shall oversee the proper use of the funds and the audit and control process in accordance with articles 13, 14 and 15 of these regulations.

4. Zonal/regional associations *(as defined in art. 6 par.9)*

The procedure for zonal/regional associations, their obligations and any other aspects relating to the granting of funds as per these regulations shall be defined, in accordance with the requirements of these regulations, by the Development Committee following consultation with the confederation concerned.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS AND THE CONFEDERATIONS



1. Any member association or confederation that receives Forward Programme funds shall:

a. Fully comply with all the provisions of the Forward 3.0 regulations, including the corresponding finalised contract of agreed objectives, as well as any signed SoA, where required, the FIFA Statutes and any other regulations, circulars or directives issued by FIFA. In particular, the member association and confederation, as well as all persons associated with them, shall fully comply with the rules of conduct in the FIFA Code of Ethics.

b. Fully collaborate at all times with the FIFA general secretariat in relation to the use or intended use of the Forward Programme funds and the implementation of the established agreed objectives, including, but not limited to, by providing the FIFA general secretariat with all of the necessary information and supporting documentary evidence related to the use or intended use of the Forward Programme funds.

c. Employ a general secretary and appoint a competent and dedicated person in the administration to be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the established agreed objectives and the use of Forward Programme funds. The member association and confederation shall also employ a technical (development) director.

d. Respect the schedule and the corresponding requirements, where applicable, established by FIFA as per article 7 of these regulations.

e. Open a separate bank account in its own name (i.e. the name of the member association or confederation) with a bank in the country in which it has its registered headquarters especially for the Forward Programme funds and for its direct benefit. The bank account (hereinafter the "dedicated Forward bank account") may be the same as for Forward 1.0 and Forward 2.0. Any transfer of the Forward Programme funds shall be made by the FIFA general secretariat to the dedicated Forward bank account of the beneficiary member association or confederation.

f. Make all payments related to the Forward Programme directly from the dedicated Forward bank account. The dedicated Forward bank account may under no circumstances have a negative balance (overdraft) or be pledged. The FIFA general secretariat reserves the right to demand a statement of the dedicated Forward bank account at any time.

g. Avoid using cash in transactions using Forward Programme funds.

h. Use the Forward Programme funds exclusively for the purposes allocated, except in cases where the Development Committee has approved the request of a member association to use operational/running costs funding for specific projects and/or specific projects funding for operational/running costs.

i. Retain all supporting documents for all expenditures and payments made with Forward Programme funds.

j. Obtain cost estimates from at least three relevant third parties (e.g. companies, contractors, manufacturers, suppliers or consultants) or produce proof of a competitive procurement process, where the cost of required services or products is USD 50,000 or more and will be fully or partially funded using Forward Programme funds.

k. Conduct a tender process where the cost of required services or products is USD 300,000 or more and will be fully or partially funded using Forward Programme funds.

l. Endeavour to involve local partners (e.g. sponsors and public authorities,) in the implementation of the established agreed objectives in order to raise, if necessary, the remaining funds required.

m. Refrain from pledging assets developed using Forward Programme funds to secure loans from financial institutions or any other entity/person or using Forward Programme funds to make payments for any loans provided by financial institutions or any other entity/person. This obligation does not apply to any loans provided by or secured through FIFA.

n. Refrain from investing Forward Programme funds in financial instruments (e.g. shares, stocks, bonds, fixed deposits and crypto currencies).

o. Refrain from using Forward Programme funds for luxury or excessive expenditures which may be perceived as disproportionate to the derived benefit and are not reasonable for football development (e.g. first class air travel for officials, purchase/rental of luxury vehicles and excessive allowances for officials and players).

p. Immediately inform the FIFA general secretariat in the event of any difficulty and/or changes concerning the implementation of the established agreed objectives (including in relation to member association projects) and the use of Forward Programme funds. Based on the guidance from the FIFA

general secretariat, the member association or confederation shall request the approval of the Development Committee or the FIFA general secretariat, as the case may be, to address any major difficulties or implement changes.

q. Where applicable, obtain the authorisation of the competent government authorities to import any products and materials purchased using the allocated funds and facilitate the administrative steps involved.

r. Promote the use of the allocated funds, including the projects of the member association, in the country or geographical zone concerned, based on guidelines provided by the FIFA general secretariat.

s. Avoid any situation giving rise to a conflict of interests and respect FIFA's zero-tolerance policy towards any attempt at or act of corruption whatsoever, in any territorial jurisdiction, including attempts or acts that are authorised or tolerated by the law in the relevant jurisdiction or cannot be prosecuted in the country concerned. In the event that a football official has obtained or attempted to obtain gratification through a favourable decision taken, or information, a vote or any other type of benefit received for themselves or for any other persons, the member association or confederation concerned shall immediately inform FIFA of this.

t. Respect all applicable laws, including those relating to the confidentiality and protection of data, and privacy.

u. Respect international and national gender equality and child protection law, in particular legal provisions that prohibit child labour and forced labour, and all forms of violence, abuse, harassment, neglect and exploitation. The member association or confederation shall embed safeguarding in all aspects of its operations to safeguard children and vulnerable adults from any form of harassment and abuse and to promote their well-being within football.

v. Develop and implement adequate policies and action plans to integrate human rights and the principles of anti-discrimination, diversity, accessibility and inclusivity, across its activities.

w. Evaluate and reduce the environmental impact of its activities and use the resources in a responsible manner in order to achieve growth that is sustainable and respects the environment, biodiversity and the climate.

x. Establish appropriate procedures, particularly regarding tender processes in order to evaluate and select the suppliers and subcontractors on the basis of their commitment in terms of their social and environmental responsibilities.

y. Ensure that funds requested, where applicable, through the Forward Programme have not and will not be requested as part of any other request for funding from FIFA, a confederation, a member association, a regional association or any other authority or entity.

z. Take measures to implement a corporate email system and a functioning official website which is regularly updated.

2. Regarding article 8 paragraph 1 of these regulations, the FIFA general secretariat may:

a. Request the approval of the Development Committee to grant an exception to any of these obligations where such exception can be justified, it does not violate any legal regulation or moral and ethical principle, and it serves the interests of football development. The bureau of the Development Committee may also grant exceptions to obligations (under the same conditions as the Development Committee) in relation to funding requests from member associations that can be approved by the bureau.

b. Decide to grant exceptions (in accordance with the conditions established in article 8 paragraph 2 (a) of these regulations) to obligations in relation to funding requests from member associations that can be approved by the FIFA general secretariat.

PAYMENTS



1. Payments shall be made in accordance with the conditions established in these regulations. Exceptions for payments not provided for in the current regulations may be made only where the exception can be justified, following a prior decision of the Development Committee and the Finance Committee.

2. If a member association does not use the entirety of the Forward 3.0 funds it has already received in the dedicated Forward bank account for operational/running costs and/or travel and equipment costs during the period for which they were granted, the remaining balance of funds shall be kept in the dedicated Forward bank account until they are completely used up. The FIFA general secretariat is entitled to set a deadline for the member associations to completely use the unused funds. After such deadline, any unused funds shall be returned to FIFA or deducted from any future Forward Programme payments due to the member association.

3. Forward 3.0 funds from the entitlement of member associations for specific projects, the use of which has been approved by the FIFA general secretariat or the Development Committee, as the case may be, and therefore committed towards a specific project of the member association, shall be used in accordance with the provisions of the respective SoA for the relevant specific project, irrespective of whether these funds have been transferred to the member association. If any part of the funds committed towards a specific project is no longer required for the implementation of the project and therefore remains unused, such funds shall be reapproved for use by the FIFA general secretariat or the Development Committee, as the case may be, irrespective of whether the funds have been transferred to the member association. The unused funds will be accrued until 31 December 2028.

4. Forward 3.0 funds from the entitlement of the member associations for specific projects, the use of which has not yet been approved by the FIFA general secretariat or the Development Committee, as the case may be, and therefore not committed towards a specific project of the member association, shall be accrued until 31 December 2028.

5. If a confederation does not use the entirety of the Forward 3.0 funds it has already received in its dedicated Forward bank account, the remaining balance of funds shall be kept in the dedicated Forward bank account until they are completely used up. The FIFA general secretariat is entitled to set a deadline for the confederation to completely use the unused funds. After such deadline, the funds shall be returned to FIFA or deducted from any future Forward Programme payments due to the confederation.

6. If a confederation does not release the entirety of the Forward 3.0 funds it has already received in its dedicated Forward bank account for zonal/regional associations as a result of them not organising the required competitions, the remaining balance of funds shall be kept in the dedicated Forward bank account of the confederation until the FIFA general secretariat requires the unused funds to be returned to FIFA. The FIFA general secretariat may also deduct the relevant amount from any future payments to the confederation.

ALIGNMENT OF FUNDING

10.

Under these regulations, FIFA is entitled to deduct the amount owed to FIFA by a member association or confederation from any amount allocated to the member association or confederation under the Forward Programme for any reason. Any such deduction shall be approved and executed by the FIFA general secretariat. The FIFA general secretariat shall inform the member association or confederation about the amount and the corresponding reason for the deduction after it has been executed.

TAXES AND DUTIES

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The member associations and confederations are responsible for the timely payment of any taxes, duties and other lawful charges that are due in connection with the use of Forward Programme funds. The FIFA general secretariat is entitled to request additional information on the pertinent taxes and duties that apply and the corresponding payments made.

FEES AND EXPENSES

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The member associations and confederations shall be liable for any fees and expenses, including legal, administrative, banking and exchange costs, incurred when accessing and using Forward Programme funds. The FIFA general secretariat is entitled to request additional information on the pertinent fees and expenses that apply and the corresponding payments made.

FIFA CENTRAL AUDIT REVIEW

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1. For each financial year, the FIFA general secretariat shall conduct a FIFA central audit review of all of the member associations and confederations that have received Forward Programme funds and funds from any other FIFA programme/initiative in the dedicated Forward bank account in the previous year.

2. The central review auditor shall conduct audit-related services on the Forward Programme funds and funds from any other FIFA programme/initiative released by FIFA to the dedicated Forward bank account, in line with annual instructions provided by the FIFA general secretariat, between 1 April and 31 August for the funds received in the previous year. The auditor shall submit a report detailing its audit conclusions for each member association and confederation to the FIFA general secretariat.

3. As part of the FIFA central audit review, the member associations and confederations shall provide the following documents for the year under review to the FIFA general secretariat within the deadline established and formally communicated by the FIFA general secretariat on an annual basis:

   a. report on the use of Forward Programme funds and funds from any other FIFA programme/initiative released by FIFA to the dedicated Forward bank account (using the template reporting forms provided by the FIFA general secretariat);

   b. confirmation of the dedicated Forward bank account number, account name, beneficial owner(s) and designated signatories, issued by the bank;

   c. statements of the dedicated Forward bank account, issued by the bank; and

   d. accounting records (general ledger) for the funds from the Forward Programme and funds from any other FIFA programme/initiative released by FIFA to the dedicated Forward bank account.

4. Failure to submit the above documents within the established deadline each year will result in a restricted release of funds as per article 15 of these regulations. Furthermore, appropriate additional measures might also be taken by the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee or by any other relevant body.

5. The FIFA general secretariat may at any time request reports, further information and/or audits regarding the use of the allocated funds as part of the Forward Programme. The member association or confederation is under the obligation to provide them and to allow access to all relevant documents. Furthermore, the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee or any other relevant body may also take appropriate additional measures. Refusal to cooperate in this respect will result in the immediate suspension of all funding.

6. The FIFA general secretariat may at any time appoint a consultant for the member association or confederation, who shall be granted access to all accounts and other documents that the FIFA general secretariat deems necessary in relation to funds provided under these regulations.

7. Where a member association or confederation transfers any funds from the dedicated Forward bank account to any other bank account(s), FIFA shall be entitled to include such subsequent bank account(s) in the scope of its audit review process, and the relevant member association or confederation shall be under the obligation to allow the FIFA general secretariat access to all relevant documents and/or any further information or reports that are required at any time.

8. FIFA will cover the costs related to the FIFA central audit review.

STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT

14

1. Each member association or confederation shall:

a. Engage the services of a statutory auditor that has the relevant qualifications in accordance with local legislation for conducting audit-related services on all accounts and finances of the member association or confederation, including funds received from FIFA.

b. Pay any fees arising from the statutory audit. If the member association does not have the means to cover these fees, the Forward 3.0 funds that it has been granted – taken from the budget allocated for operational/running costs – shall be used to cover the cost of the audit.

c. Provide the below-listed information and/or documents within six months at the latest after the closing of its financial year to the FIFA general secretariat every year:

i. Signed minutes of the congress or general assembly meeting at which the statutory auditor was appointed. Where the minutes have not yet been finalised, the member association or confederation shall provide written confirmation to the FIFA general secretariat of the date of the congress or general assembly meeting at which the statutory auditor was appointed and the date by which the signed minutes of the congress or general assembly meeting will be provided to the FIFA general secretariat.

ii. Signed minutes of the congress or general assembly meeting at which the statutory auditor presented the respective audit reports and at which these reports were approved by the congress or general assembly. Where the minutes have not yet been finalised, the member association or confederation shall provide written confirmation to the FIFA general secretariat of the date of the congress or general assembly meeting at which the statutory auditor presented the respective audit reports and at which these reports were approved, and of the date by which the signed minutes of the congress or general assembly meeting will be provided to the FIFA general secretariat. Where the congress or general assembly meeting has not yet taken place, the member association or confederation shall provide written confirmation to the FIFA general secretariat of the date on which such congress or general assembly meeting is scheduled to take place and the date by which the signed minutes of the congress or general assembly meeting will be provided to the FIFA general secretariat.

iii. Latest annual financial statements of the year under review and the corresponding audit report compiled by the statutory auditor.

iv. Specific information extracted from the audit report compiled by the statutory auditor (using the template reporting forms provided by the FIFA general secretariat).

v. Link to access the relevant section on the official website of the member association or confederation where the latest annual financial statements of the year under review and the corresponding audit report compiled by the statutory auditor, as well as the activity report have been published by the member association or confederation.

d. Failure to submit the above information and/or documents by the established deadline each year or mutually agreed deadline (between the FIFA general secretariat and the member association or confederation) in cases of pending congress or general assembly meeting minutes will result in a restricted release of funds, as per article 15 of these regulations. Furthermore, the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee or any other relevant body may take appropriate additional measures.

MISUSE OF FUNDS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST FRAUD

15

1. If, on the basis of the documents prescribed by article 13 paragraph 3 of these regulations, the report of the FIFA central audit review, in accordance with article 13 paragraph 2 of these regulations, the report of the statutory auditor, in accordance with article 14 of these regulations, or any other information FIFA may have received or become aware of, the FIFA general secretariat deems that (i) the Forward Programme funds have not been used in all areas according to the approved purpose, (ii) the transactions involving Forward Programme funds have not been correctly categorised or documented, and/or (iii) there are indications of other forms of non-compliance with these regulations, the FIFA Statutes or other applicable regulations as well as the law in the relevant jurisdiction, it shall inform the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee accordingly.

2. In such circumstances, the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall take the appropriate measures to protect the funds allocated by FIFA under the Forward Programme and, if deemed feasible, enforce compliance with the regulations. In particular, the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee may:

   a. Restrict the release of payments to the member association or confederation.

   b. Order the suspension of all new payments and transfers to the member association or confederation concerned until further notice.

   c. Order the FIFA general secretariat or a third party mandated by the FIFA general secretariat to inspect and audit the member association or confederation concerned at any time. The member association or confederation shall provide full access to accounts, any contracts and any other significant documents, such as meeting minutes. Any such audits shall be conducted at FIFA's expense. For the avoidance of doubt, the audit rights of FIFA shall be applicable retrospectively from 1 January 2016.

d. Appoint a financial consultant tasked to develop an action plan for the member association or confederation in collaboration with a local professional services firm, including, among others, in relation to the implementation of relevant preventive measures (processes, policies and controls). The cost of any such financial consultant appointment shall be deducted from the Forward Programme funds entitlement of the member association or confederation.

e. Order the member association or confederation concerned to repay the received amounts to FIFA.

f. Take any other appropriate measures.

3. The restricted release of funds will be in force until the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee issues the decision to return the member association or confederation to the normal funding status and to no longer restrict the release of payments. During the restricted release of payments, the beneficiary shall follow and implement the remedial action plan drafted by the FIFA general secretariat and provided to the beneficiary.

4. Furthermore, in the event of any suspicion of misuse of funds, fraud or any other violation of these regulations, the FIFA Statutes, the FIFA Code of Ethics or other applicable regulations, the FIFA general secretariat may transfer the case to the competent judicial body of FIFA, which will assess the relevance of the application of other possible measures. In application of the FIFA Disciplinary Code and/or the FIFA Code of Ethics, the competent judicial body of FIFA may rule against the member association or the confederation and/or the responsible individuals at the member association or confederation.

5. Where a suspicion or evidence of the misuse of funds, fraud or any other violation of these regulations, the FIFA Statutes or other applicable regulations by one or more individuals (for personal benefit or to an extent that creates unnecessary risk to the financial situation of the beneficiary, to the reputation of the beneficiary, and/or to FIFA) is reported with a reasonable degree of credibility, the FIFA general secretariat shall immediately, upon receiving such report, temporarily suspend the release of Forward Programme funds and inform the competent judicial body of FIFA and the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee accordingly and await further instructions. If either of these bodies requests a forensic audit, the audit should be commissioned within a maximum of 45 days and concluded within another 90 days after the commission. The Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee shall take a decision within two months after receiving the results of the forensic audit.

6. Where funds are restricted pursuant to article 15 paragraph 3 of these regulations or where the restricted release of funds persists for more than one year, the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee may decide to recommend that:

a. a forensic audit be conducted and its results be reported by an independent auditor appointed by the FIFA general secretariat, the cost of which shall either be borne by the member association or confederation from sources other than the Forward Programme or deducted from the member association's or confederation's Forward Programme funds entitlement;

b. the approval of projects and funds be restricted (e.g. by excluding certain categories of activities or limiting the amount to be released on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis);

c. a specific amount be deducted (e.g. an amount that was not protected by the member association or confederation and led to loss of development funds) from the member association's or confederation's Forward Programme funds entitlement, and/or the FIFA general secretariat seek repayment of such amount by any legal means;

d. the release of financial contributions to a member association or confederation be fully suspended;

e. a financial consultant be appointed to be on-site for a specific period, the cost of which shall either be borne by the member association or confederation from sources other than the Forward Programme or deducted from the member association's or confederation's Forward Programme funds entitlement;

f. any other appropriate measures be taken.

ORGANISATION

16.

Development Committee

In accordance with article 41 of the FIFA Statutes and the relevant provisions of the FIFA Governance Regulations, the Development Committee shall oversee the Forward Programme and fulfil its rights and duties as established in these regulations.

FIFA general secretariat

The FIFA general secretariat acts as the secretariat of the Development Committee. It shall fulfil its rights and duties as established in these regulations and shall implement the decisions taken by the Development Committee.

The FIFA general secretariat shall publish on FIFA.com a report on all of the development activities carried out by each member association, confederation and zonal/regional association.

The FIFA general secretariat shall also coordinate with the confederations in order to ensure greater effectiveness of development programmes.

Statutory auditor

The statutory auditor is the external independent auditor that has the relevant qualifications in accordance with local legislation, appointed by the general assembly of the member association or confederation to conduct an audit, in accordance with the relevant accounting principles, of the accounts that have been approved by the executive committee of the member association or confederation, and to subsequently submit a report to its general assembly for its approval.

The statutory audit comprises the review of the accounts of a member association or confederation by an external independent auditor that has the relevant qualifications in accordance with local legislation as is described in the statutes of the member association or confederation concerned.

FIFA central review auditor

The FIFA central review auditor, i.e. FIFA's statutory auditor or another reputable auditing firm that has been engaged by the FIFA general secretariat to provide auditing services, shall inspect the member associations and confederations with regard to their involvement in the programme as established in article 13 of these regulations. The inspection may comprise the application of agreed procedures or another inspection service implemented in accordance with international auditing, inspection and ethical standards and Swiss auditing standards.

MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR

17.

The FIFA Council may take the necessary decisions on any matters that are not provided for in these regulations.

JURISDICTION

18

These regulations shall be governed by Swiss law.

ANNEXES

19.

All annexes form an integral part of these regulations.

AUTHORITATIVE VERSION



These regulations were drawn up in English and translated into French and Spanish. In the event of any discrepancy in the wording of the different languages, the English text shall be authoritative.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

21.

1. These regulations cancel and replace the FIFA Forward Development Programme Regulations for the Forward 2.0 cycle. Any Forward Programme funds that have already been approved (where approval was required) and/or released for use prior to these regulations coming into force shall be governed by the relevant FIFA Forward Development Programme Regulations which were in force when that funding was approved and/or released, with the exception of articles 13, 14 and 15, which apply immediately as from when these regulations come into force.

2. If a member association does not use the entirety of the Forward 1.0 and Forward 2.0 funds it has already received in the dedicated Forward bank account for operational/running costs and/or travel and equipment (in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Forward 1.0 and Forward 2.0 regulations), during the period for which they were granted, the remaining balance of funds shall be kept in the dedicated Forward bank account until they are completely used up. The FIFA general secretariat is entitled to set a deadline for the member associations to completely use the unused funds. After such deadline, the funds shall be returned to FIFA or deducted from any future Forward Programme payments due to the member association.

3. Forward 1.0 and Forward 2.0 funds from the entitlement of member associations for specific projects, the use of which has been approved by the FIFA general secretariat or Development Committee, as the case may be, and therefore committed towards a specific project of the member association, shall be used in accordance with the provisions of the SoA for that specific project, irrespective of whether these funds have been transferred to the member association. If any part of the funds committed towards a specific project are no longer required for the implementation of that project and therefore remain unused, such funds shall be reapproved for use by the FIFA general secretariat or the Development Committee, as the case may

be, irrespective of whether the funds have been transferred to the member association. The unused funds will be accrued until 31 December 2024 and governed in their entirety by these Forward 3.0 regulations.

4. Forward 1.0 and Forward 2.0 funds from the entitlement of member associations for specific projects, the use of which has not yet been approved by the FIFA general secretariat or the Development Committee, as the case may be, and therefore not committed towards a specific project of the member association, will be accrued until 31 December 2024 and governed in their entirety by these Forward 3.0 regulations.

5. If a confederation does not use the entirety of the Forward 1.0 and Forward 2.0 funds it has already received in its dedicated Forward bank account (in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Forward 1.0 and Forward 2.0 regulations), the remaining balance of funds shall be kept in the dedicated Forward bank account until they are completely used up. The FIFA general secretariat is entitled to set a deadline for the confederations to completely use the unused funds. After such deadline, the funds shall be returned to FIFA or deducted from any future Forward Programme payments due to the confederation.

6. If a confederation does not release the entirety of the Forward 1.0 and Forward 2.0 funds it has already received in its dedicated Forward bank account for zonal/regional associations as a result of them not organising the required competitions (in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Forward 1.0 and Forward 2.0 regulations), the remaining balance of funds shall be kept in the dedicated Forward bank account of the confederation until the FIFA general secretariat requires the unused funds to be returned to FIFA. The FIFA general secretariat may also deduct the relevant amount from any future payments to the confederation.

7. The member associations and confederations shall conclude a contract of agreed objectives for Forward 3.0 by no later than 30 June 2023. In the absence of a finalised contract of agreed objectives for Forward 3.0, a transitional period between the entry into force of these regulations and the above deadline shall allow for:

   a. the release of the first instalment of USD 650,000 for operational/running costs in January 2023 to each member association, in accordance with the provisions of article 6 paragraph 3 (a) of these regulations;

   b. the release of the annual contribution of USD 250,000 for travel costs and USD 50,000 for equipment costs in January 2023 to each eligible member association, in accordance with the provisions of article 6 paragraph 7 of these regulations;

   c. the release of the first instalment of USD 7.5 million in January 2023 to each confederation in accordance with the provisions of article 6 paragraph 8 of these regulations;

d. the release of the annual contribution of USD 1.25 million in January 2023 to the relevant confederations for each zonal/regional association, in accordance with the provision of article 6 paragraph 9 of these regulations;

e. the assessment and approval by the FIFA general secretariat or the Development Committee, as the case may be, of the project applications from member associations which require funds from their Forward 1.0 and Forward 2.0 specific project entitlements and contribute to the achievement of the specific objectives established in their contract of agreed objectives under Forward 2.0.

8. Exclusively in July 2023, the full amount of USD 600,000 shall be paid to the member associations without them having to demonstrate the fulfilment of the conditions under article 6 paragraph 3 (b) for obtaining the second instalment of the operational/running costs, considering the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the activities and functioning of the member associations in previous years.

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT FUND

22

The establishment of a specific Football Development Fund shall ensure that the total amount of funding earmarked by FIFA under the Forward Programme for football development remains available for this purpose. The following funds will be automatically transferred to the Football Development Fund to support the beneficiaries of Forward 3.0 indefinitely and exclusively:

1. Forward 1.0 and Forward 2.0 funds budgeted for specific projects of member associations, the use of which has not been approved by the FIFA general secretariat or the Development Committee, as the case may be, and therefore not committed towards a specific project of the member association by 31 December 2024;

2. Forward 2.0 funds budgeted for the benefit of other football associations, which are not FIFA members and are organising competitions and/or football projects, and that have not been approved by the Development Committee by 31 December 2022;

3. Forward 2.0 funds budgeted for travel and equipment costs which have not been assigned to a member association due to unfulfilled conditions by the FIFA general secretariat by 31 December 2022.

The Development Committee shall approve the purpose and corresponding procedure for the use of funds transferred to the Forward Football Development Fund based on the recommendation of the FIFA general secretariat.

ADOPTION AND PERIOD OF VALIDITY

23.

These regulations were approved by the FIFA Council at its meeting in Doha, Qatar, on 16 December 2022.

They come into force on 1 January 2023 and apply to the financial period ending on 31 December 2026.

For FIFA

President:
Gianni Infantino

Secretary General:
Fatma Samoura

ANNEXE A

Beneficiary	Type of financial support	Finalised contract of agreed objectives	Proposal
Member associations	Operational/running costs – first instalment	Required	Not required
	Operational/running costs – second instalment		Demonstrate fulfilment of conditions
	Specific projects		Submission of completed project application form with supporting documents and required information
	Operational/running costs funding for specific projects		Submission of request and completed project application form with supporting documents and required information
	Specific projects funding for operational/running costs		Submission of request with supporting documents and required information
	Travel and equipment		Not required
Confederations	Develop, promote and organise football in general		Not required
Zonal/regional associations	The procedure for zonal/regional associations, their obligations and any accordance with the requirements of these regulations, by the l		

PROCEDURE FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT UNDER FORWARD 3.0 (CF. ART. 7)

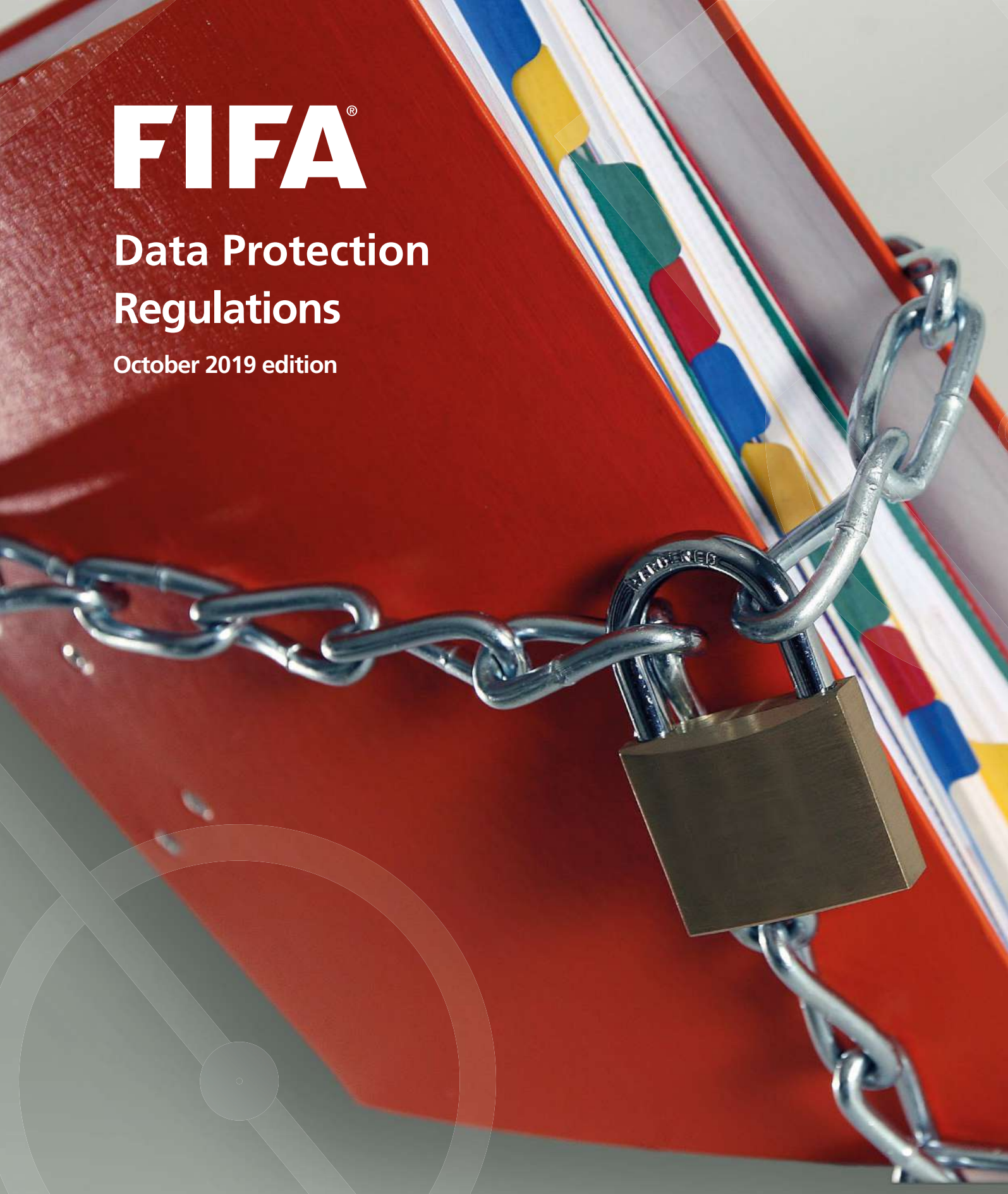
Approval	Execution	Monitoring
Not required	The FIFA general secretariat shall release USD 650,000 in January every year.	The FIFA general secretariat shall oversee the proper use of the funds and the audit and control process, in accordance with the relevant provisions of these regulations. For specific projects, member associations shall provide the FIFA general secretariat with reports/documents, as outlined in the signed SoA, or any additional documents required by the FIFA general secretariat at any time.
FIFA general secretariat approval	If the FIFA general secretariat deems that the submissions by member associations satisfy the requirements, it shall release up to USD 600,000 in July every year.	
Requested funds less than USD 300,000: FIFA general secretariat approval Requested funds equal to or more than USD 300,000: Development Committee approval	Upon approval, the SoA shall be signed and its provisions shall be implemented.	
Development Committee approval	Upon approval, the SoA shall be signed and its provisions shall be implemented.	
Development Committee approval	Upon approval, the FIFA general secretariat shall release the requested funds.	
Not required	The FIFA general secretariat shall release USD 250,000 for travel costs and USD 50,000 for equipment costs in January every year to eligible member associations.	
Not required	The FIFA general secretariat shall release the annual contribution of USD 15 million to each confederation in equal biannual payments of USD 7.5 million in January and July.	

y other aspects relating to the granting of funds under these regulations shall be defined, in Development Committee following consultation with the confederation concerned.

FIFA®

Data Protection Regulations

October 2019 edition



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NB: References to natural persons include both genders. For the sake of simplicity, only the masculine form has been used. All references in the singular are also applicable in the plural and vice-versa.

1 Preamble

FIFA is committed to respecting the individual rights of every person with whom it interacts, and therefore the protection of Personal Data is of great importance. These Regulations define Data Processing principles, data transfers within and between FIFA, its Member Associations and any Entities to which these Regulations are applicable, the standard for protecting Special Categories of Personal Data, and the rights of all Data Subjects.
FIFA's operations include the Processing of various types of Personal Data. With these Regulations, FIFA pursues the following objectives:

- Establishment of a standard to be applied when Processing Personal Data
- Providing preventive safeguards against the infringement of personality and privacy rights through the inappropriate Processing of Personal Data

These Regulations apply in addition to the Applicable Data Protection Laws. Compliance with the latter must be achieved, especially where the Applicable Data Protection Laws are stricter than the principles set out in these Regulations.

2 Definitions

The following definitions (initial capitals) shall apply within these Regulations:

Applicable Data Protection Laws
The Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection (FADP), and, where applicable to a specific Processing of Personal Data, any other applicable data protection laws, each as amended from time to time.

Consent
Any freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the Data Subjects' wishes by which they, by a statement or by a clear affirmation, signify agreement to the Processing of Personal Data relating to them.

Data Security Incident
Any event of loss of confidentiality, integrity and availability with the potential of constituting a risk for FIFA, any other Entity or any Data Subject.

Data Subject
An identified or identifiable natural person about whom data is processed. An identifiable natural person is one who can be identified or singled out, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

Disclosure / to disclose
The transmission of Personal Data or provision of access to Personal Data, e.g. by making it available for inspection, transferring it or publishing it.

Entity Unit
"Entity" means FIFA, any Member Association, or any of the latter's members. "Unit" means any single hierarchical element of an Entity's internal organisation.

FADP
The Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection of 19 June 1992 (index no. 235.1), as amended from time to time.

FDPIC
The Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner.

FIFA
Fédération Internationale de Football Association. For the purposes of these Regulations, the term "FIFA" includes any FIFA Subsidiary Company.

FIFA Subsidiary Company
Any legal person that belongs to FIFA or is under FIFA's control, whether wholly or partially (with FIFA holding a majority).

Member Association
Any national football association that has been admitted into membership of FIFA by the FIFA Congress.

Personal Data
Any information relating to a Data Subject.

Process / Processing / to process
Any operation or set of operations which is performed on Personal Data or on sets of Personal Data, whether or not by automated means, such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, Disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.

Process Owner
Any person who is responsible for a Process in accordance with the hierarchical organisation of FIFA, the Member Associations or their members. If the Process Owner has not been and cannot be determined, the person responsible for the Entity Unit utilising the Process for its purpose or for facilitating its activities is considered to be the Process Owner.

Profiling
Any form of automated Processing of Personal Data consisting of the use of Personal Data to evaluate certain personal aspects relating to a natural person, in particular to analyse or predict aspects concerning that natural person's performance at work, economic situation, health, personal preferences, interests, reliability, behaviour, location or movement.

Regulations
These FIFA Data Protection Regulations.

Special Categories of Personal Data
Any Personal Data revealing ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the Processing of genetic data or biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health, or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation.

Third Party
Any natural or legal person, public body, agency or body other than an Entity or Data Subject, and persons who, under the direct authority of an Entity, are authorised to process Personal Data.

3 Scope

These Regulations apply to all activities of FIFA, without limitation.

These Regulations also apply to all Member Associations and all of their members. In this context, Member Associations are responsible for ensuring that they comply with these Regulations as well as for ensuring that their members comply with these Regulations. However, for Member Associations and their members, these Regulations are only applicable insofar as:

- they process Personal Data for, on behalf of, or with FIFA;
- they exchange or transfer Personal Data with FIFA, or with other Member Associations or their members, or with third parties on behalf of FIFA;
- they use infrastructure provided by FIFA to its Member Associations and their members for the purpose of Processing Personal Data.

These Regulations do not apply to Member Associations and their members in relation to any Personal Data that they cumulatively process:

- using their own infrastructure;
- for their own purposes; and
- in their own right.

4 Data Processing

1. Principles

FIFA processes Personal Data in compliance with the following principles. Personal Data must be:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the Data Subject;

Example: *The Processing of Personal Data can be considered lawful, fair and transparent when the name, surname, gender, date of birth and postal address are used to identify and send an event ticket to its purchaser, provided that the purchaser has been made aware of which Personal Data is being used and for what purpose.*

- collected for specific, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes. Further Processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, for scientific or historical research purposes, or for statistical purposes is considered to be compatible with the initial purposes;

Example: *If data for the purchase of an event ticket was collected for the sole purpose of issuing said ticket and the purchaser has not been made aware of the further usage of their Personal Data, that Personal Data may not be used for other purposes, i.e. resale to an official sponsor for marketing purposes.*

- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed;

Example: *Any Personal Data that is processed has to serve the purpose for which it has been collected. No additional Personal Data other than the data necessary to fulfil the intended purpose may be collected and further processed.*

- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date. Every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that any Personal Data that is inaccurate, considering the purposes for which it is processed, is erased or rectified without delay;

Example: *All Personal Data has to be accurate. Data Subjects can request the correction of inaccurate Personal Data. Where possible and appropriate, the*

- kept in a form that permits the identification of Data Subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the Personal Data is processed. Personal Data may be stored for longer periods insofar as the Personal Data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, for scientific or historical research purposes, or for statistical purposes, subject to the implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by the Applicable Data Protection Laws in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the Data Subject;

Example: *The Process Owner is responsible for determining, together with other Entity Units if applicable, the maximum storage duration of Personal Data, and for documenting this decision.*

- processed in a manner that ensures the appropriate security of the Personal Data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful Processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

Example: *Appropriate organisational measures may include setting up internal Processes to comply with the Applicable Data Protection Laws, such as contractually binding volunteers, employees and contractors to the lawful Processing of data, issuing internal regulations, and carrying out awareness-raising and training exercises.*

- Personal Data is only accessible to people who need it for their activity ("need-to-know" principle);

Example: *Restrict access to HR data to the personnel handling data for human resources (HR Unit).*

- Every Entity shall ensure that all infrastructure used for the Processing of Personal Data is adequately protected with state-of-the-art and commercially reasonable technical and organisational measures, taking into consideration the risks that Data Subjects would encounter as a result of any non-compliant Processing of Personal Data.

2. Special Categories of Personal Data

Special Categories of Personal Data, e.g. data revealing ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, data concerning health, or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation, shall be afforded special protection

All persons Processing Special Categories of Personal Data must be expressly advised of the importance of treating these Special Categories of Personal Data as strictly confidential.

Special Categories of Personal Data may only be transferred to Third Parties if there are legal reasons for doing so or with the express Consent of the Data Subject.

5 Data Subject's rights

The Data Subject has the following rights under the Applicable Data Protection Laws:

- the right to be informed about the collection and use of Personal Data;

Example: *Before any Personal Data is collected, the Data Subject must be informed about which Personal Data is being collected and for what purpose. The information needs to be easily or publically available, easy to access, and written in clear and simple language.*

- the right to access the Personal Data held about him. An access request must be fulfilled within 30 days. Data Subjects requesting access to their data must be able to identify themselves. The means of identification must be proportionate to the Personal Data to which the Data Subject is requesting access. Where feasible, technically appropriate and commercially reasonable, all Data Subjects should be able to access their data through a web interface that provides sufficient means of security and authentication;

Data Subjects have the right to ask which Personal Data the Entity in question is Processing and for what purposes. In order to be sure that the person placing the request really is the Data Subject he is claiming to be, means of authentication must be in place. Higher authentication measures are mandatory for access to sensitive data. Such measures may include a copy of an official identification document (government-issued ID, passport, driver's licence). In such a case, the transfer of such proof of identification also requires adequate protection. For access to low-sensitivity data from within a web application, the login credentials of the Data Subject are sufficient. In this case, it is recommended that the Data Subjects be granted access to their Personal

Data from within a web application (e.g. a forum, a web shop with client credentials, etc.) can help to ease the Process of granting access.

- the right to rectification if any Personal Data held about him is inaccurate or incomplete;

Data Subjects are allowed to change their names, addresses, etc. or any other Personal Data if the existing data is inaccurate for any reason.

- the right to be forgotten – i.e. the right to ask that any Personal Data an Entity holds about him be deleted;

The means for Processing Personal Data must include tools to either irrevocably delete or anonymise Personal Data. Pseudonymous data is still considered to be Personal Data.

- the right to restrict (i.e. prevent) the Processing of Personal Data in accordance with the Applicable Data Protection Laws;

Should a Data Subject seek to make use of legal actions against an Entity, they can request that the use of their Personal Data be restricted until the lawfulness of its Processing is confirmed or denied.

- the right to data portability (obtaining a copy of the Personal Data to re-use with another service or organisation);

Data Subjects have the right to export a copy of their Personal Data in a machine-readable format. Should a web application foresee access to Personal Data, it may be appropriate to implement an export function for the accessed data within the access dashboard.

- the right to lodge a complaint with the competent supervisory authority and before the competent courts, in accordance with the Applicable Data Protection Laws;

- the right to obtain redress and, where appropriate, compensation for a breach of the Applicable Data Protection Laws; and

- where the Processing of Personal Data includes automated decision-making and Profiling, the right to request a human-based reassessment under the Applicable Data Protection Laws only when automated decision-making

6 Transmission of Personal Data to Third Parties/Data Processing by Third Parties

Personal Data may be transferred to a Third Party provided that the Processing is carried out in accordance with these Regulations and provided that no legal or contractual obligation to secrecy prohibits this practice. The transmission of Personal Data to Third Parties shall be carried out in such a way that the Third Party processes the data in accordance with the sender's instructions.

7 Cross-border Disclosure

1. Principles

Cross-border (i.e. outside Switzerland) Disclosure of Personal Data (including the granting of remote access) is permitted where the legislation in the country in question guarantees an adequate level of data protection according to the list published by the FDPIC.

2. Lack of an adequate level of data protection abroad

Personal Data may be disclosed cross-border to countries lacking an adequate level of protection if, alternatively:

a) these Regulations are complied with;
b) sufficient guarantees are agreed with the recipient in the form of a contract or in another legally enforceable form;
c) the Data Subjects grant their Consent on an exceptional basis;
d) the Processing of Personal Data is closely connected to the conclusion or performance of a contract and the data consists of the contractual partner's Personal Data;
e) it is required for the substantiation of claims before courts;
f) the Disclosure takes place within the same legal person or company, provided that the applicable internal data protection guidelines provide an appropriate level of protection.

8 Entity-internal Processing guidelines

1. Responsibilities

Every Entity is responsible for putting in place the necessary technical and organisational measures to guarantee compliance with these Regulations and the Applicable Data Protection Laws. The Entity shall ensure the training of its subordinates and their compliance with these Regulations. The Entity shall document the nature, purpose and grounds of the Processing it carries out, the technical and organisational measures put in place in order to comply with these Regulations, and any other relevant information with respect to the particular Processing.

2. Process Owner

Every Entity shall implement internal guidelines to identify a Process Owner for every Processing of Personal Data.

3. Data inventory

Each Entity shall keep an inventory of Processing activities. This inventory shall contain the following details:

- Name and contact information of the person responsible for the Processing
- Description of the Processing
- Purpose of the Processing
- Description of the categories of Data Subjects
- Description of the categories of Personal Data
- Special Categories of Personal Data
- Categories of recipients
- Identification of third countries (i.e. jurisdictions/international organisations outside Switzerland)
- Categories of recipients in third countries
- Safeguards in case of recipients in third countries
- Name of sub-processor
- Name/version of sub-processor agreement
- Data retention periods
- Technical and organisational security measures

4. Checks by the Process Owner

The Process Owner shall regularly check the information in the data inventory.

9 Information security requirements

All Personal Data must be protected against the risk of loss of confidentiality, integrity and availability. The Entity shall implement all necessary state-of-the-art and commercially reasonable organisational and technical measures. The Entity shall implement and enforce internal guidelines with respect to information security.

10 Data Security Incidents

Every event of loss of confidentiality, integrity and availability with the potential of constituting a risk for FIFA, another Entity or a Data Subject is to be treated as a Data Security Incident. Every Data Security Incident falling under the scope of these Regulations must be notified to alert@fifa.org.

Every Entity must ensure the constitution of a dedicated team taking action to eliminate Data Security Incidents. All Entities and Data Owners need to define clear procedures allowing for an immediate notification of a Data Security Incident internally and ultimately to FIFA. If another Entity is required to report a Data Security Incident to a competent authority under the Applicable Data Protection Laws under which it falls, FIFA shall also be notified accordingly.

11 Data Protection Officer (DPO)

FIFA has appointed a DPO. Data Subjects wishing to make use of any of their rights for Processing falling under the scope of these Regulations may contact the DPO by sending an email to dataprotection@fifa.org.

The DPO independently organises, analyses and monitors compliance with data protection provisions and in particular with these Regulations.

12 Final provisions

1. Official languages

If there are any discrepancies in the interpretation of the English, French, German or Spanish texts of these Regulations, the English text shall be authoritative.

2. Sanctions

Any infringement of these Regulations may incur sanctions under the Applicable Data Protection Laws, the FIFA Statutes or any other FIFA regulations.

3. Entry into force

These Regulations were approved by the FIFA Council on 24 October 2019 and come into force immediately.

Shanghai, 24 October 2019

For the FIFA Council:

President:
Gianni Infantino

Secretary General:
Fatma Samoura



Regulations

Governing the Admission of Associations to FIFA

FIFA®

Article

1 Principle
2 Application for admission
3 Contents of application
4 General
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6 Support
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9 Final report
10 FIFA Executive Committee
11 Information
12 Enforcement

In accordance with article 10 of the FIFA Statutes and articles 1 and 2 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes, the FIFA Executive Committee has issued the following provisions:

1 Principle

Any association that is seeking admission to FIFA must put forward an application that contains detailed information on its organisation, its sporting infrastructure and its territory.

2 Application for admission

1. Applications may be submitted to the FIFA general secretariat by any means of communication deemed appropriate, including in electronic form. In any case, the application must also be made in writing, accompanied by documents and reports in original.

2. The FIFA general secretariat shall verify the completeness of the application. If the application is not complete, it shall be returned to the applicant with a deadline for submitting a revised application. The applicant must submit a full application within twelve months of the initial submission to FIFA. If the applicant fails to do so, the application will be rejected and the applicant may submit no further applications in the twelve months following the rejection of the application.

3. Any applications not submitted to the FIFA general secretariat shall be deemed invalid.

4. Upon receipt of an application, the FIFA general secretariat shall inform the confederation that is geographically responsible and the FIFA Associations Committee in writing.

3 Contents of application

1. The application for admission shall be made in quintuplicate (five copies) and must contain reports and documentation on the points listed below. Any applications that do not meet the provisions of this article shall be regarded as incomplete. All documents and reports must be originals.

a) Documents that show that the applicant represents a country in accordance with article 10 of the FIFA Statutes.

b) Documents that demonstrate that the applicant organises and supervises football in its country (art. 10 par. 1 of the FIFA Statutes).

c) Documents that reveal that the applicant's bodies are designated in independent elections (art. 17 of the FIFA Statutes). Copies of the minutes taken at the meetings of the applicant's law-making body in the two years leading up to the submission of the application shall also be provided.
A list of the names of persons elected to serve on the applicant's bodies and the persons who may legally represent the applicant in dealings with FIFA shall also be provided.

d) Documents that outline the internal organisation of the applicant (for example the administration's organisation, including the organisational chart, as well as the number of employees with a description of their duties, etc.).

e) Documents detailing the applicant's standing as a sports organisation under the law of the country (state constitution, extracts from relevant laws, state directives, state subsidies, membership of other sports organisations in the country, etc.).

f) Documents detailing the administrative infrastructure and internal organisation of the applicant (headquarters, distribution of property, postal address, number of functioning telephone and fax lines, e-mail

addresses and websites). The applicant must also ensure that post can be delivered on a daily basis and that there is at least one constant, working telephone/fax number as well as an e-mail address.

g) A report on the political, economic and social structures in the applicant's country.

h) A report on the accommodation facilities in possible venues for away teams, officials, supporters, media representatives and other guests from abroad. This report shall also contain details on the number of beds in hotels of the various categories.

i) A report on the transport network (number of national and international airports, rail system, bus network, etc.).

j) A report on the sporting infrastructure in the applicant's country (number of football pitches, type of pitches (natural or artificial turf, concrete, sand, etc.), number of football stadiums with a capacity greater than 3,000 (with or without floodlights)).

This report shall also provide details on the:

1. Number of football stadiums that could host international matches in accordance with FIFA regulations.

2. Assessment of the quality standards of such stadiums.

3. Number of football pitches that can host matches in the applicant's domestic league championship.

4. Number of football pitches that can host football training sessions.

k) A report on the number of registered, active players (men and women) in each category (professional, amateur, veteran, youth, etc.).

l) A report on the number of clubs registered with the applicant (professional or amateur clubs).

The report must also provide details on the:

1. Number of football clubs with professional players (men and women).
2. Number of football clubs with amateur players (men and women).
3. Number of football clubs with youth players (10-20 years of age) (boys and girls).

m) A report on the competitions organised by the applicant, providing details on the competitions for professional and amateur players in the various categories. Precise information shall be supplied on all competitions involving professional players, particularly regarding finances.

n) A report on the referees registered with the applicant. This report shall also contain information on the type of basic training and further education provided for referees.

o) A report on the coaches and instructors registered with the applicant. This report shall also contain information on the type of basic training and further education provided for coaches.

p) A report on the representative teams that could represent the applicant in official tournaments organised by FIFA and the applicant's confederation.

q) A declaration that the applicant's bodies will comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, provisions and decisions of FIFA bodies at all times.

r) A declaration pledging to respect the Laws of the Game at all times.

s) Confirmation that all disputes regarding the application procedure shall be decided by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) headquartered in Lausanne (Switzerland).

t) Confirmation by the confederation that the applicant is a member of the confederation.

u) Any other information and documents relevant to evaluate the application.

2. Each applicant shall also submit a copy of its valid statutes and regulations.

4 General

The FIFA Associations Committee and the confederation that is geographically responsible shall process all applications for admission. The FIFA Associations Committee shall also work in close cooperation with the confederation that is geographically responsible while the application is being processed. These two bodies shall also discuss the steps, visits and checks that are to be conducted on the applicant while the application is being processed.

5 FIFA Associations Committee

The FIFA Associations Committee shall work in close cooperation with the FIFA general secretariat to verify the completeness of the application. Complete applications shall be forwarded to the confederation that is geographically responsible for the applicant.

6 Support

The FIFA Associations Committee shall provide the applicant with any support it may require during the application procedure.

7 Inspections

The FIFA Associations Committee and the confederation may visit the applicant at any time to conduct inspections. In such circumstances, the applicant shall provide the necessary support.

8 Confederations

The confederation shall submit a report to FIFA with detailed information on the workings of the applicant, including confirmation that the applicant is currently a member of the confederation in accordance with the confederation's applicable statutes and regulations.

9 Final report

The confederation's final report shall be submitted to the FIFA Associations Committee for discussion and recommendation. The FIFA Associations Committee shall then submit its findings to the FIFA Executive Committee.

10 FIFA Executive Committee

The FIFA Executive Committee shall submit the corresponding application for admission, together with a recommendation that it be accepted or rejected, to the next FIFA Congress.

11 Information

FIFA and the confederation may request additional information and documents from the applicant at any point during the application procedure.

12 Enforcement

These regulations were adopted by the FIFA Executive Committee on 21 March 2013 and come into force with immediate effect. The FIFA Executive Committee may amend them at any time.

For the FIFA Executive Committee

President:
Joseph S. Blatter

Secretary General:
Jérôme Valcke

FIFA

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CIRCULARS

LEGAL HANDBOOK

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TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1973

Zurich, 15 September 2026

Key compliance obligations related to the FIFA Clearing House and the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

Dear Sir or Madam,

The FIFA Clearing House plays a key role in the distribution of training rewards and promotes financial transparency and integrity in the football transfer system. Since the FIFA Clearing House entered into force in November 2022, more than USD 1 billion has been allocated (i.e. designated to be paid) to training clubs, of which USD 700 million has already been successfully distributed to almost 3,000 clubs worldwide.

In order to ensure the continued effective application of the FIFA Clearing House regulatory framework and the consistent and efficient distribution of these benefits, we would like to remind Member Associations and their affiliated clubs of some of their key obligations in relation to the FIFA Clearing House process.

1. **Electronic player registration and domestic transfer systems integrated with FIFA Connect**

   In accordance with article 4 of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations (FCHR) and articles 1 and 5, as well as Annexe 3, of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP), Member Associations and clubs must use the Transfer Matching System (TMS) and the relevant electronic systems to communicate registration and transfer information automatically to FIFA.

   In this regard, each Member Association must use:

   a) an **electronic player registration system**, integrated with the FIFA Connect ID Service and FIFA Connect Interface, to register players; and

   b) an **electronic domestic transfer system**, integrated with the FIFA Connect Interface, to process national transfers of professional and amateur players (both male and female) within the scope of eleven-a-side football.

Member Associations are reminded that compliance with the use of these systems and the related integration requirements is of critical importance to ensure that registration and transfer information is made available electronically to FIFA at all times.

2. Accurate and up-to-date player registration and club data

The mandatory implementation by all Member Associations of an electronic player registration system integrated with the FIFA Connect ID Service is accompanied by an ongoing obligation to maintain accurate and up-to-date **player registration information** at all times (cf. art. 4 par. 4 of the FCHR). The failure to comply with this obligation may be sanctioned in accordance with article 17 paragraph 3 of the FCHR, including with a fine and an order to pay restitution to the affected training club(s), as applicable.

Furthermore, according to article 4 paragraph 5 of the FCHR, each Member Association must maintain accurate and up-to-date data regarding **its affiliated clubs** (whether current or former) in its electronic player registration system and the FIFA Connect ID Service at all times, including the clubs' training category.

Within the framework of the FIFA Clearing House processes and pursuant to article 12 paragraph 2 of the FCHR, Member Associations are also required, where necessary, to provide or confirm **the contact details of their affiliated clubs**, including, without limitation, a valid and operational email address of the club, within **15 days** of the request by the FIFA general secretariat.

Member Associations are reminded to ensure that this information is provided accurately and without undue delay whenever requested by the FIFA general secretariat. The failure to comply with this obligation may be sanctioned in accordance with article 17 of the FCHR.

Training categorisation of clubs

In accordance with article 4 paragraph 1 of Annexe 4 to the RSTP, Member Associations are required to divide their clubs into a maximum of four categories in accordance with the clubs' financial investment in training players.

Training costs, which are established on a confederation basis for each category of club, as well as the categorisation of clubs for each Member Association, are available on FIFA.com, pursuant to article 4 paragraph 2 of Annexe 4 to the RSTP.

Member Associations must ensure that the training category of each affiliated club is always kept up to date in their electronic player registration system and in TMS, as required by article 4 paragraph 5 of the FCHR and annexes 3 and 4 to the RSTP. If the synchronisation of training categories via the FIFA Connect Interface has not been implemented,

Member Associations must enter and maintain the relevant training categories directly in TMS.

The training category assigned to a club must be valid for the entirety of the relevant season. Member Associations are not permitted to amend the category of a club during a season.

If a Member Association fails to categorise its affiliated clubs in accordance with these requirements, it may be subject to the administrative sanction procedure pursuant to article 17 of Annexe 3 to the RSTP.

Please note that FIFA reserves the right to adjust a club's training category to the nearest one if the assigned category for a given club is not available to their relevant Member Association.

3. Uploading of proof of payment

In accordance with article 11 of the FCHR and as provided for in article 12 of Annexe 3 to the RSTP, for an **international transfer** involving transfer compensation, the new club must upload proof of (each) payment in TMS within **30 days** of the date of the payment.

Similarly, for a **national transfer** involving the payment of transfer compensation, the new club (or the Member Association for a national transfer involving transfer compensation that is manually declared in TMS) is required to upload proof of each payment in the electronic domestic transfer system. Each proof of payment must also be uploaded within the same deadline of **30 days** of the date of payment (cf. art. 7 par. 3 of the FCHR and art. 11 pars 2 and 3 of the FCHR).

The continued and timely upload of proof of payment is a **key regulatory obligation** within the FIFA Clearing House framework and is essential to ensure the correct processing and distribution of training rewards.

Member Associations and their affiliated clubs are reminded to strictly comply with the applicable 30-day deadline to upload the proof of payment in the respective systems, and to ensure that any amendments to payment terms are declared as soon as they are agreed upon. The failure to comply with the 30-day deadline will be closely monitored by the FIFA general secretariat and may be sanctioned, in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of Annexe 3 to the RSTP and article 17 paragraph 5 of the FCHR. Cases of non-compliance may be referred to FIFA's independent Disciplinary Committee for its evaluation and decision. The committee may, where appropriate, impose a higher fine and/or more severe sanctions in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code, including a ban on registering new players.

4. Correct registration of players at domestic level

FIFA has observed that, in certain cases, domestic loans or domestic permanent transfers have been processed in respect of players registered as amateurs, including situations in which transfer compensation or player remuneration is involved.

In this regard, it must be noted that article 2 of the RSTP recognises only two specific categories of players: amateurs and professionals. A professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more for their footballing activity than the expenses that they incur. All other players are considered to be amateurs. This provision is binding at national level (cf. art. 1 of the RSTP), and Member Associations cannot modify these two categories or create different ones. In this respect, in assessing a player's status, any contract must be measured solely against the aforementioned criteria.

If the criteria laid out in article 2 of the RSTP are met, the player must be registered as a professional by the relevant Member Association. Furthermore, any transfer compensation must also be properly declared in TMS or the electronic domestic transfer system, together with the timely upload of the relevant proof of payment, to safeguard the accurate distribution of training rewards.

FIFA also reminds Member Associations that article 10 of the RSTP concerning loans applies exclusively to professional players and that this provision is binding at national level. As stated on page 94 of the Commentary on the RSTP: "The title of article 10 explicitly refers to professionals only. There is a good reason for this (...). An amateur player is, by definition, not bound to a club by a contract. Consequently, there is no legal basis for an amateur club to 'authorise' them to be registered with another club for a certain period with an obligation to return." Accordingly, **domestic loans should, as a matter of principle, concern only players registered as professionals**.

Member Associations are kindly reminded to verify, where necessary, the status of players involved in domestic transfers and loans, and to ensure that the data submitted in their domestic registration and transfer systems is accurate and consistent with the requirements set out under the FCHR and the RSTP.

5. General obligation to cooperate

Finally, Member Associations and clubs are kindly reminded of their obligation to cooperate with FIFA in relation to requests for information and documentation in connection with the FIFA Clearing House and that the FIFA general secretariat may refer cases of non-compliance to FIFA's independent Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code (cf. art. 17 of the FCHR).

FIFA acknowledges and recognises the continued efforts undertaken by Member Associations and their affiliated clubs to support the implementation of the FIFA Clearing House regulatory framework and ensure the proper distribution of training rewards to clubs worldwide. Thanks to these efforts, the FIFA Clearing House has been a resounding success, as reflected by the amounts of training rewards allocated and paid out to training clubs.

We thank you for taking note of the above and for informing your affiliated clubs accordingly. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jan Kleiner, Director of Football Regulatory, César Chaparro, Head of Player Registration & Transfer Data, or Héctor Navarro, Head of Regulatory Governance & Compliance, at regulatory@fifa.org.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Mattias Grafström
Secretary General

cc:
- FIFA Council
- Confederations
- European Football Clubs
- FIFPRO
- World Leagues Association
- Legal Committee
- Women's Football Stakeholders Committee
- Men's Football Stakeholders Committee

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1970

Zurich, 1 September 2026

Amendments to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal and the FIFA Governance Regulations

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you of various amendments to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP), the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC), the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal (Procedural Rules) and the FIFA Governance Regulations (FGR), which were approved by the Bureau of the Council (the Bureau).

Background

On 4 October 2024, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) rendered its judgment in the case involving the football player Lassana Diarra. In this judgment, the CJEU declared several provisions in FIFA's regulatory framework to be contrary to European law.

Immediately upon the issuance of this judgment, FIFA initiated a process to revise its regulations.

Considering the need for immediate stability and regulatory clarity, the Bureau approved an interim regulatory framework on 22 December 2024, which made changes on a temporary basis to various provisions, in particular to those of the RSTP and the Procedural Rules. This decision of the Bureau, communicated via circular no. 1917 on 23 December 2024, set out the interim regulatory framework which has been in effect since 1 January 2025.

Since then, the FIFA administration has engaged in extensive consultation and constructive discussions with European Football Clubs (EFC), FIFPRO and the World Leagues Association (WLA), as well as with the confederations on several elements of the transfer system and its regulatory framework. The final and long-term amendments that were approved by the Bureau on 10 June 2026 establish an objective, transparent, non-discriminatory and proportionate regulatory framework, balancing the interests of all involved stakeholders, based on an agreement reached between all involved stakeholders.

The following paragraphs briefly set out these amendments.

FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

- **Definitions**

Definition number 7 of the RSTP introduces a new mechanism to determine the "protected period", i.e. the time frame during which a breach of contract is subject to a sporting sanction against a club or player. It also reiterates the established rule that the protected period restarts when a contract is renewed and the duration of the previous contract is thereby extended.

Additionally, a new definition number 44 is included: the concept of the "yearly fixed remuneration" of a player, which is relevant in the context of the new article 21bis (see below for further information).

- **Article 1: Scope**

The amendments to article 1 paragraph 2 of the RSTP formally recognise and institutionalise the newly created social dialogue process between FIFA and the social partners involved, notably FIFPRO (representing the players as employees) and EFC and WLA (representing employers). Under this new process, any future amendment to the RSTP, with the exception of Annexe 1 (concerning the International Match Calendar and the release of players to national teams), may only be made if a consensus is reached between employees, employers and FIFA.

Article 1 paragraph 3 of the RSTP determines that this new social dialogue process shall take place via a Global Social Dialogue Platform for Professional Football (the Global Social Dialogue Platform), which will be formally created through a separate proposed amendment to the FIFA Governance Regulations (see below for further information).

Article 1 paragraphs 4 and 5 of the RSTP contain technical amendments, also incorporating these new provisions into the existing obligation of Member Associations to adopt the same rules at domestic level.

- **Article 14: Terminating a contract with just cause**

Article 14 paragraph 3 introduces specific forms of conduct that are expressly prohibited for clubs. This list codifies existing case law of the Football Tribunal.

- **Article 17: Consequences of a breach of contract**

The amendments to article 17 of the RSTP establish a clear, objective and more predictable framework for determining the consequences of a breach of contract and consist of the following elements:

- Rules concerning liquidated damages clauses (art. 17 par. 1 of the RSTP)
- Rules to calculate the financial compensation in case of a breach of contract, including the joint and several liability of a new club (art. 17 pars 2-9 of the RSTP)
- Rules concerning sporting sanctions, with a specifically revised mechanism for sanctioning clubs (art. 17 par. 10 of the RSTP)
- A specific rule concerning a presumption of inducement (art. 17 par. 11 of the RSTP)
- Rules concerning sporting sanctions against players, with no substantial modifications (art. 17 par. 12 of the RSTP)

- **Article 18: Special provisions relating to contracts between professionals and clubs**

A new rule has been introduced, according to which clubs may – under clearly defined criteria – enter into contracts of a duration of up to five years with players under the age of eighteen (as opposed to the general limitation of three years). These contracts may be offered only if the player has been registered for a specific period with that club prior to signing the contract and they must meet specific conditions regarding remuneration. A club may only enter into a limited number of such contracts per season.

- **Article 18quater: Special provisions relating to pregnancy, adoption and family leave**

The amendments to article 18quater align this provision with the changes to article 17 of the RSTP and the consequences of breach of contract.

- **Article 21bis: Player participation in transfer fees**

Under the new article 21bis, players may participate in transfer fees paid in respect of them in the context of an international transfer.

As a general principle, clubs and players are free to agree that players may receive a share of the transfer compensation paid in respect of them.

However, players earning yearly fixed remuneration below EUR 150,000 shall, as a mandatory requirement, receive a 5% share of the relevant fixed transfer compensation. The player may

partially waive their entitlement to this, but their share may never fall below the higher of: a) the player's fixed remuneration for the last year of their contract with the releasing club; or b) 2.5% of the total fixed transfer compensation.

For the sake of clarity, no entitlement will arise if prohibited by national law, by applicable national regulations in force at the time when these regulations would be adopted, or where a national law or valid collective bargaining agreement at domestic level establishes a similar concept.

- **Article 22: Competence of FIFA**

Article 22 paragraph 1 f) has been introduced to clarify that FIFA will have jurisdiction over disputes relating to a player's participation in a transfer fee under article 21bis provided that the transfer to which the dispute relates involves clubs belonging to different associations.

- **Article 23: Football Tribunal**

A new paragraph 5 has been introduced to article 23, establishing that, in the absence of an agreement between the contractual parties or any exceptional circumstances deemed by the Football Tribunal to justify a lower rate, standard interest at a rate of 8% per annum for late payments shall be awarded by the Football Tribunal in cases of overdue payables or outstanding remuneration. The relevant interest will still be subject to a valid request from the claimant and will be without prejudice to any contractually agreed interest rate.

- **Annexe 2: Rules for the employment of coaches**

The amendments to this annexe largely align the compensation mechanisms so that disputes between coaches and clubs/associations are also covered, with the remaining specificities dealing with the particularities of such disputes.

- **Annexe 3: International transfer of players and transfer matching system**

Amendments to article 11 paragraphs 3, 6 and 8, as well as to article 14, have been made to further streamline the procedure concerning the delivery of International Transfer Certificates (ITCs), ensuring that players can be registered within clear and short timelines, while safeguarding existing contractual rights.

- **Annexe 7: Temporary rules addressing the exceptional situation deriving from the war in Ukraine**

In view of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the stakeholders have agreed to extend the validity of Annexe 7 for a further year, until 30 June 2027. The amendments only concern this extension in duration, and not the substance of Annexe 7.

FIFA Disciplinary Code

The amendments to article 21 paragraphs 6 and 7 concern the enforcement of decisions issued by a national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC) that has been recognised in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles of FIFA.

Under these amendments, if a Member Association fails to enforce such a decision within 60 days, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee will automatically be competent to enforce this decision.

Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal

- **Article 3: Applicable rules and regulations**

The amendment to the Procedural Rules is intended to expressly state the applicable rules and regulations for procedures before the Football Tribunal. Pursuant to this amendment, the Football Tribunal shall apply FIFA regulations and, subsidiarily, Swiss law.

FIFA Governance Regulations

- **Article 59bis: Global Social Dialogue Platform for Professional Football**

The new article formally establishes the aforementioned and newly created Global Social Dialogue Platform.

The amendments concern the constitution of the Global Social Dialogue Platform between FIFA, FIFPRO, WLA and EFC and the latter's roles as social partners involved in this platform. They also define FIFA's role and involvement in the decision-making process.

Under this new process, as a general principle, decisions, recommendations and agreements must be adopted by consensus, understood as the unanimous agreement of the social partners and FIFA. Where such consensus is reached, FIFA shall take the necessary steps to give effect to the agreed outcomes within its regulatory framework. FIFA may only decline to implement an agreed outcome where it can demonstrate that doing so would either be manifestly incompatible with its statutory obligations, would materially breach its mandatory legal obligations, would create unreasonable financial or operational burdens on FIFA, or would, in FIFA's reasonable assessment, expose FIFA to legal risks. In such cases, FIFA shall provide a duly reasoned justification to the social partners. In the absence of such justification, FIFA shall proceed with the ratification of the agreed outcome(s). In the absence of consensus, the existing regulatory framework shall remain in place.

The new article 59bis also establishes dedicated workstreams for the Social Dialogue Platform, including but not limited to: (a) the transfer system and regulatory matters (RSTP); (b) domestic

transfer systems and social dialogue support; and (c) player welfare and occupational health and safety standards. The addition of any new workstream requires the consent of FIFA.

Finally, FIFA and the social partners shall jointly adopt more detailed rules of procedure governing the Global Social Dialogue Platform.

Entry into force

The new versions of the RSTP, the FDC and the Procedural Rules will enter into force on 1 January 2027. The new provisions of the RSTP will apply only to cases where the facts giving rise to the dispute arose after the new version of the regulations enters into force. However, it is also clarified that article 17 paragraph 1 and article 21bis shall only apply to contracts concluded after the new RSTP enter into force.

This timeline allows all stakeholders to familiarise themselves with the new regulatory framework and enables FIFA to educate, support and guide its stakeholders on the content of these new rules.

The new version of the FIFA Governance Regulations entered into force as of 1 July 2026, to ensure that the Global Social Dialogue Platform can start to operate as soon as possible.

The revised editions of the RSTP, the FDC, the Procedural Rules and the FGR are available at legal.fifa.com.

We thank you for taking note of the above and for informing your affiliated clubs accordingly. Please do not hesitate to contact Jan Kleiner, Director of Football Regulatory, at regulatory@fifa.org if you have any questions in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Mattias Grafström
Secretary General

Encl.: - FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (January 2027 edition)
- FIFA Disciplinary Code (January 2027 edition)
- Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal (January 2027 edition)
- FIFA Governance Regulations (July 2026 edition)

cc: - FIFA Council
- Confederations
- European Football Clubs
- FIFPRO
- World Leagues Association
- Men's Football Stakeholders Committee
- Women's Football Stakeholders Committee
- Legal Committee

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

was adopted by the FIFA Council at its meeting in Vancouver,

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commutation of sanctions where an individual admits to a racist or discriminatory act.
now provides that if a player or official confesses to committing such an act,
of the sanction may, at the discretion of the judicial body, be commuted
communication and training initiatives to be approved by FIFA. This development will
play an important role in creating an incentive for individuals to

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of play in dissent against a refereeing decision, article 16 has been amended to determine
a forfeiture in those situations in addition to any other disciplinary measure.

_____: To bring the FDC in line with the principles of the W
Code (2027 edition), changes have been made to articles 36, 56, 57, 60, 61 and 70

always be appointed in cases concerning potential breaches of the FIFA Anti
related cases must always be referred directly to the Appeal

Miami, Florida (United States), the time zone in Miami and federal holidays in the United States will be taken into account with respect to time limits

in articles 6, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 38, 60, 61 and 64 and in Annexe 1

FDC to provide more legal certainty for stakeholders. Furthermore, as a criterion for assessing sporting succession to bring the

Finally, other amendments have been made to the FDC

Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact



TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal (Procedural
, which were approved by the FIFA Council at its meeting on 17

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paid out to almost 3,000 training clubs through FCH

that a substantial proportion of training rewards concern very

been registered with the training club for a very short period of time.

100 account for 13.3% of the total number of payments but only

- _____ , in the context of the introduction of the interim
- _____ composed of different chambers, each with a chairperson and one (or more) deputy
- _____
- _____
- _____ onfirmation that requests regarding the release of players to team duty must be submitted to the Players' Status Chamber via the
- _____ procedure, channel and deadlines for requests related to

_____

We thank you for taking note of the above and for informing your affiliated clubs accordingly. Please do not hesitate to contact Jan Kleiner, Director of Football Regulatory, at _____



FIFA Clearing House Regulations (January 2026 edition)
Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal (January 2026 edition)

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1917

Zurich, 23 December 2024

Interim regulatory framework: amendments to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that, on 22 December 2024, the Bureau of the FIFA Council approved an interim regulatory framework that comprises various amendments to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (**RSTP**) and the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal (**Procedural Rules**).

Background

Following the Court of Justice of the European Union judgment in case C-650/22 involving the football player Lassana Diarra, FIFA opened a global dialogue concerning possible changes to the RSTP. FIFA has since received substantial feedback from football stakeholders from across the world.

FIFA will continue this inclusive process to develop, jointly with its stakeholders, a new, long-term, robust and globally uniform regulatory framework for professional football through an open, objective, transparent and non-discriminatory process.

However, discussions with key stakeholders have also shown that there is a pressing need for stability and regulatory clarity on an interim basis, while these broader discussions continue. In particular, in January 2025, many FIFA member associations will open their registration periods (so-called **transfer windows**). This entails a degree of urgency for stakeholders to have clarity about the applicable regulatory framework in these upcoming registration periods in relation to both contractual stability and the execution of international transfers of players.

For this reason, FIFA engaged separately with its key stakeholders to develop an interim regulatory framework to be put in place until the broader discussions on the long-term content of the RSTP have concluded.

With this interim regulatory framework, FIFA will be able to ensure that a globally uniform set of rules continues to apply and that all clubs worldwide are subject to consistent regulatory standards in relation to squad composition, the stability of contracts, and international transfers of players.

The interim regulatory framework – overview

The interim regulatory framework affects the following provisions of the RSTP: articles 14 and 17, Annexe 3 (in relation to the International Transfer Certificate (**ITC**) procedure), and indirectly, Annexe 2 (in relation to coaches), as well as article 13 of the Procedural Rules. The key details are outlined below.

- Introduction of a definition of "just cause" (article 14 paragraph 1 of the RSTP)

  The introduction of a definition of "just cause" (the requirement for terminating a contract) will provide more clarity and predictability and codify the long-standing case law of the Football Tribunal when determining whether such just cause exists in a given case.

- Calculation of compensation payable in case of a breach of contract by a player or coach (article 17 paragraph 1 of the RSTP and article 6 paragraph 2 of Annexe 2 to the RSTP)

  Compensation will be calculated in a more objective and transparent manner, taking into account the damage suffered, according to the "positive interest" principle, the individual facts and circumstances of each case, and the law of the country concerned.

- Burden of proof regarding joint and several liability for compensation for breach of contract (article 17 paragraph 2 of the RSTP)

  The joint and several liability of a player's new club and the ensuing requirement to pay compensation for breach of contract will apply only if it can be established that this club induced the player to breach their contract. By contrast, under the previous version of the RSTP, joint and several liability applied automatically.

- Burden of proof regarding the inducement to breach a contract (and the related sporting sanction against the new club) (article 17 paragraph 4 of the RSTP)

  A sporting sanction against a player's new club for inducement to breach of contract will be imposed only if the claiming club can prove that the new club induced the player to breach

the contract. By contrast, under the previous version of the RSTP, there was a presumption that a new club induced a player to commit a breach of contract.

- Burden of proof and duty to collaborate (article 13 paragraph 6 of the Procedural Rules)

  An express clarification has been added stating that parties have a duty to collaborate in the establishment of the facts and to comply with evidentiary requests, which can also be made by a party to the relevant proceedings. The Football Tribunal will also be entitled to draw an adverse inference from a party's reaction to an evidentiary request.

- Procedure regarding the issuance of an ITC (several paragraphs of article 11 of Annexe 3 to the RSTP)

  A simplified ITC procedure will apply to preclude member associations from rejecting the issuance of an ITC. Irrespective of any contractual dispute, and duly considering the principle of sporting integrity and the applicable registration periods, a player will always be able to move to a new association and continue their career with a new club.

  The ITC procedure will work as follows:

  - Should the new association of a player make a request for the delivery of an ITC (**ITC Request**), the former association will need to deliver the ITC to the new association within 72 hours.

  - Should the former association fail to respond to the ITC Request within 72 hours, the new association will be able to register the player with the new club and enter the relevant player registration information in TMS.

  - In exceptional circumstances, the player, the former association or the new association will be able to request FIFA's intervention. However, this will be reserved for very specific scenarios and will never make it possible to block the issuance of a player's ITC due, for example, to an ongoing contractual dispute.

  - In all cases, the issuance of an ITC will be without prejudice to any contractual dispute between the player, their former club and/or their new club.

Entry into force of the interim regulatory framework

The interim regulatory framework containing all of the aforementioned amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2025**, as reflected in article 29 of the RSTP and article 34 of the Procedural Rules.

It will apply to cases pending before the Football Tribunal at the time when it comes into force and to any new case brought before the Football Tribunal as of 1 January 2025.

The revised editions of the RSTP and Procedural Rules, as well as the Explanatory Notes on the interim regulatory framework are available on legal.fifa.com.

We thank you for taking note of the above and for informing your affiliated clubs accordingly. Please do not hesitate to contact Jan Kleiner, Director of Football Regulatory, at regulatory@fifa.org if you have any questions in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Mattias Grafström
Secretary General

cc: - FIFA Council
- Confederations
- European Club Association
- FIFPRO
- World Leagues Association

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1876

Zurich, 18 January 2024

National Dispute Resolution Chamber: new Recognition Principles and Standard Regulations

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that at its meeting on 17 December 2023, the FIFA Council approved the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, incorporating the new National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations. In this context, the following paragraphs set out the amendments to the FIFA regulatory framework for your information.

Regulatory framework to operate national dispute resolution chambers

a. General overview

The Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) have long recognised that instead of submitting employment-related disputes to FIFA or seeking redress before a civil court, parties may opt to submit such disputes to a national dispute resolution system, provided that the system meets minimum and fundamental procedural requirements. A national dispute resolution system for employment-related disputes is colloquially known as a "national dispute resolution chamber" or an "NDRC".

In this context, FIFA circular no. 1010 of 20 December 2005 defined these minimal procedural requirements, and in 2007, FIFA enacted the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations to serve as guidelines for member associations when establishing a national dispute resolution system.

This regulatory framework remained unchanged for almost two decades. It therefore become increasingly evident that it had become outdated and that it no longer served the current needs of all football stakeholders.

Modernising the football regulatory framework has been one of FIFA's key pillars since the launch of FIFA 2.0 and improving the FIFA regulations remains a key objective, being also part of the Strategic Objectives for the Global Game: 2023-2027. For this reason, over the past months, the regulatory framework for NDRCs has been modernised and revised in cooperation with all football stakeholders.

The key objectives of this revised framework, which derogates the 2005 and 2007 FIFA provisions in this field, are to provide clarity and the necessary legal certainty with regard to the jurisdiction, structure, applicable requirements and a possible formal, permanent recognition by FIFA of existing NDRCs.

The new relevant regulatory framework consists of the following:

1. National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, which establish:

    - the required standards for a national dispute resolution system to be recognised by FIFA;
    - the recognition procedure of an NDRC at FIFA level;
    - the requirements FIFA applies to accept jurisdiction of an NDRC;
    - the process for the renewal of recognition of an NDRC;
    - the process for the revocation of recognition of an NDRC;
    - the publication of a list of the NDRCs that have obtained valid recognition, together with the period of recognition; and
    - disciplinary tools to ensure compliance with the proposed regulatory framework.

2. Revised National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations, which are included as an Annexe to the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles and which:

    - constitute a generic sample of applicable provisions, which meet the procedural requirements as per the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles;

- are designed to assist member associations with the establishment of procedural rules to govern the organisation, composition and functions of an NDRC;
- clarify that any procedural regulations of an NDRC must comply with the standards set out in the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations, unless a deviation has been validly agreed within a collective bargaining agreement; and
- clarify in which provisions the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations give a member association scope to define the exact regulatory or procedural framework of an NDRC with flexibility.

b. Entry into force of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles

Articles 1 to 3 and 6 to 10 of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, which relate to the NDRC recognition process, will enter into force on **1 February 2024**.

In order to provide a transition period until the new requirements and a possible recognition of an NDRC fully apply, the remaining provisions of the new regulatory framework will enter into force on **1 January 2025**.

Member associations, which currently operate an NDRC, have until 1 June 2024 to submit a formal request for recognition of their NDRC to FIFA, should they wish that their NDRC continue operating as a formally recognised NDRC under the new regulatory framework.

Amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

Due to the new regulatory framework for NDRCs, certain amendments and additions to the RSTP have to be introduced.

They are of a technical nature only and relate to the requirements under which FIFA may cede jurisdiction in light of an existing and recognised NDRC.

In particular, the relevant amendments concern article 22 paragraph 1 b) and c); article 26 paragraph 1 c) (new); article 26 paragraph 4; and article 29.

The amendments to the RSTP will come into force **on 1 February 2024**.

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The National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles and its Annexe (National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations), the revised edition of the RSTP, as well as the Explanatory Notes on the New Regulatory Framework for National Dispute Resolution Chambers are available on legal.fifa.com.

Please do not hesitate to contact Jan Kleiner, Director Football Regulatory, at legal@fifa.org if you have any questions in this regard.

We thank you for taking note of the above and for informing your affiliated clubs accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Mattias Grafström
Secretary General ad interim

cc: - FIFA Council
- Confederations
- FIFPRO
- ECA
- World Leagues Forum

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1862

Zurich, 6 October 2023

FIFA TMS, FIFA Clearing House and Administrative Sanction Procedure

Dear Sir or Madam,

On 22 October 2022 the FIFA Council approved several amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (**RSTP**). As outlined in the Circular no. 1816, these amendments included a redraft of Annexe 3 of the RSTP, which comprised, among others, the codification of the Administrative Sanction Procedure (**ASP**). As outlined below in more detail, the ASP has played a crucial role in ensuring the proper functioning of the Transfer Matching System (**TMS**).

Subsequently, on 8 November 2022 the FIFA Council announced that the FIFA Clearing House would commence operating on 16 November 2022 and approved the FIFA Clearing House Regulations (FCHR), by means of the Circular no. 1817.

With the new processes related to the FIFA Clearing House coming into force, the ASP has started playing a significant role in guaranteeing that associations and clubs comply with their obligations related thereto. In particular, the ASP ensures the correct declaration of fees paid in relation to international and domestic transfers, which is a crucial step for TMS to identify training reward triggers related to the solidarity mechanism.

This circular describes the recent evolution of the ASP and its application to the processes related to the FIFA Clearing House.

Background

In 2011, following the introduction of TMS, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee identified that certain obligations inherent to the use of the system, and contained in Annexe 3 of the RSTP, were of technical or administrative nature. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee found that said obligations, if not fulfilled, constituted an evident infringement to the provisions of Annexe 3 of the RSTP, which have an immediate negative impact on the relevant transfer.

In this context, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee delegated to FIFA general secretariat (at the time, the FIFA TMS GmbH) its competence to sanction 10 categories of infringements by means of a specific procedure, the ASP. The sanction that could be imposed consisted of a warning, a reprimand and/or a fine of up to CHF 14,000. Like this, FIFA could establish a streamlined and more effective procedure to deal with violations of Annexe 3 of the RSTP (see Circular no. 1259).

The ASP gave FIFA the possibility to treat these infringements in an expedited manner, granting clubs the possibility to rectify their breach – where applicable – and hence protect the proper functioning of TMS.

Subsequently, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee decided to expand the application of the ASP from 10 to 14 different categories of breaches of the Annexe 3 (see Circular no. 1478).

Finally, ASP cases were further streamlined, by granting the FIFA general secretariat the power to directly submit ASP cases to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee without the prior intervention of the secretariat to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (see Circular no. 1609).

The new Annexe 3

As anticipated above, the redraft of Annexe 3 included a codification of the ASP under art. 17 of said annexe. When an infringement of a technical or administrative nature is detected, the following procedure takes place:

a) The FIFA general secretariat will contact the association or club to identify the infringement, request a statement or any other relevant information within a defined deadline and, if applicable, request that the infringing behaviour be corrected. In this first correspondence, the association or club will be informed that, if the infringing behaviour is not corrected and/or no satisfactory position is submitted, an administrative sanction letter (**ASL**) will be issued, specifying the type of sanction that will be imposed.;

b) Upon receipt of the statement or relevant information or upon expiry of the time limit to do so, the FIFA general secretariat may issue an ASL;

c) The party may accept the sanction or reject it, and, in this case, request the opening of disciplinary proceedings before the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. If the party accepts the sanction, the latter will be enforceable from the date of acceptance;

d) If the party accepts the sanction, complies with it (where applicable) and corrects the infringing behaviour within the time limits to do so, the matter will be closed;

e) If the party fails to respond to the ASL, responds inconsistently or incompletely and/or does not correct the infringing behaviour and/or does not comply with the sanction, the matter will be referred to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

With the entry into force of the new edition of Annexe 3, the FIFA general secretariat is now granted the power to impose fines up to CHF 30,000.

Finally, and in view of the continuous evolution of TMS, ASP cases are not limited to a specific number of categories of breaches but can be opened for any type of violations of a purely technical and administrative nature related to TMS and players' transfers.

The relation with the FIFA Clearing House

As mentioned above, in the last years TMS witnessed a continuous expansion of its scope of application. With the FIFA Clearing House beginning its operations, together with the entry into force of the FCHR, TMS started to play a pivotal role in the functioning of newly established processes.

In fact, TMS is the tool where the Electronic Player Passports (**EPP**) process takes place, Allocation Statements (**AS**) are issued and where training rewards triggers are identified.

To guarantee the correct functioning of the FIFA Clearing House and the processes related to it, associations and clubs must comply with their obligations as laid down in the FCHR. Similarly to Annexe 3 and TMS, failure to comply with the FCHR has an immediate negative impact on the correct functioning of the FIFA Clearing House, since it undermines the allocation and distribution of the training rewards.

In particular, it is essential that the proof of payment of the transfer fees agreed between clubs (both for international as well as domestic transfers) is uploaded under the relevant TMS instruction within thirty (30) days of the date of the payment and under the correct TMS section

"payments" to ensure that training rewards triggers are properly identified by TMS (cf. arts. 6 and 7 of the FCHR).

In view of the immediate negative impact on the proper functioning of the FIFA Clearing House as well as on training clubs, cases in which a club fails to upload the relevant proof of payment in the context of a domestic transfer will also be investigated by the FIFA general secretariat through an ASP, in line with art. 17 par. 5 of the FCHR.

Finally, to guarantee the proper enforcement of the FCHR, an ASP can also be opened if an association or club fails to comply with other administrative obligations related to the FIFA Clearing House for which the FCHR do not establish the direct competence of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

We thank you for taking note of the above and for informing your affiliated clubs accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Mattias Grafström
Secretary General ad interim

cc: - FIFA Council
- Confederations
- FIFPRO
- ECA
- World Leagues Forum

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1843

Zurich, 28 April 2023

Registration bans – Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players / FIFA Disciplinary Code

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you are aware, and in accordance with article 55 of the FIFA Statutes, a ban on registering new players, either nationally or internationally (a so-called **registration ban**), is one of the disciplinary measures that may be imposed by FIFA's judicial bodies or by the Football Tribunal.

Given the increasing number of registration bans imposed in recent years, combined with the high volume of related requests received by the FIFA administration, the purpose of this circular is to provide general information on this disciplinary measure as well as clarification on its scope.

a. Jurisdiction to impose a registration ban

(i) Football Tribunal

A registration ban is one of the potential sanctions that the Football Tribunal may impose on clubs, in accordance with the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (**RSTP**), and, when appropriate, in line with the FIFA Clearing House Regulations (**FCHR**).

More specifically, it may be imposed in relation to overdue payables (article 12bis of the RSTP), the termination of a contract without just cause (article 17 of the RSTP), the unilateral termination of a contract on the grounds of a player being or becoming pregnant (article 18quater paragraph 3 of the RSTP), or the failure to pay relevant amounts in due time (article 24 of the RSTP and article 8 paragraph 2 of Annexe 2 to the RSTP).

(ii) Disciplinary Committee

In accordance with article 6 paragraph 3 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (**FDC**), the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose a "ban on registering new players" on legal persons only, specifically on clubs.

The vast majority of decisions in which this measure is imposed emanates from article 21 of the FDC (related to the failure to respect decisions), said provision specifically stating that "in the case of clubs, (...) a ban on registering new players will be issued (...)".

This being said, it is to be noted that this measure is not limited to potential breaches of said article and it may be imposed on a club as a result of any breach of FIFA's regulations. More generally, registration bans are the sanction that is most often imposed for infringements relating to international transfers involving minors.

b. Scope

(i) A ban on registering new players

A club subject to a registration ban shall be banned from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, whether as amateurs or as professionals, for the full duration of this measure.

In other words, the club shall only be able to register new players (i) upon the ban having been served for its entire duration (in case of a registration ban imposed for a specified period of time[1], in which case the club will only be able to register new players as of the next registration period following the complete serving of the relevant sanction), and/or (ii) upon the ban being lifted by the FIFA administration (in case of a registration ban imposed until a specific action is completed[2]).

Consistently with the above, and for the duration of the registration ban, the club may not make use of the exceptions stipulated in article 6 paragraph 3 of the RSTP in order to register players at an earlier stage.

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[1] See, for instance, article 17 paragraph 4 of the RSTP ("The club shall be banned from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, **for two entire and consecutive registration periods**." – emphasis added).

[2] See, for instance, article 21 paragraph 1 d) of the FDC ("(...) a ban on registering new players will be issued **until the complete amount due is paid or the non-financial decision is complied with**." – emphasis added), article 17 paragraph 6 of the FCHR ("(...) The registration ban shall be lifted **once the amount has been paid in full**." – emphasis added) or article 17 paragraph 8 of the FCHR (in case of a Second Compliance Assessment failure "(...) The registration ban shall be lifted **only after the FIFA Clearing House confirms that the club has passed a subsequent Compliance Assessment**." – emphasis added).

(ii) Territorial application of the ban

As previously mentioned, a registration ban shall apply both at national and international levels. In other words, it shall affect any registration deriving from either a domestic or an international transfer.

A ban at international level will be implemented directly by FIFA in the Transfer Matching System (**TMS**) for all clubs existing in the system. However, it is the responsibility of the association concerned to ensure that the ban is also correctly implemented at national level within its own registration platform and at international level for those clubs that are not in TMS. The association concerned would thus be required to provide the FIFA administration with proof that the measure has been duly implemented. In other words, and for the sake of clarity, member associations are ultimately responsible for ensuring that no players are registered for a club for the entire duration of the ban, regardless of whether the registration derives from a domestic or an international transfer. Any failure by an association to comply with these obligations would be subject to potential sanctions imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (cf. section c. *infra*).

For the sake of completeness, any international transfer processed by a club serving a registration ban will trigger a validation exception in TMS (cf. article 14 paragraph 1 of Annexe 3 to the RSTP).

(iii) Enforcement of the ban

A registration ban is automatically enforced and takes effect immediately as from the date of the communication. Such a ban applies to all registrations that have not been concluded by the time of the communication.

(iv) Players concerned: gender, discipline and status

As a general rule, and unless otherwise specified within the relevant decision imposing the sanction, a registration ban shall apply to the corresponding gender (i.e. male or female) and discipline (i.e. 11-a-side football, futsal or beach soccer) of the party and/or parties which gave rise to such decision, regardless of their status (amateur or professional).

By way of an example, a club subject to a registration ban imposed under article 21 of the FDC as a result of its failure to pay a male player (even though instructed to do so by a body, a

committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA or CAS) will be prevented from registering 11-a-side male players, either as amateurs or as professionals. In other words, the ban would, in such a scenario, not apply (i) to female players or (ii) to futsal or beach soccer.

(v) Youth teams

In order not to hinder the development of young football players, and unless otherwise specified within the relevant decision imposing the sanction, as from the date of issuance of this circular, a club subject to a registration ban may register players for its youth teams, such possibility being, however, limited to players until the age of 15. Players newly registered with a youth team during a registration ban cannot play for the club's first team or any other professional team of the club until the registration ban has elapsed. If this occurs, the player(s) concerned shall be declared ineligible, and any match in which the player(s) featured must be declared forfeited.

(vi) Signature of contracts

A registration ban imposed on a club does not prevent it from signing contracts with (new) players. Only the registration in accordance with article 5 of the RSTP, and consequently the participation in official and/or friendly matches of those players, would be affected by the sanction.

(vii) Regulatory exceptions

Notwithstanding the above and consistently with article 25 paragraph 3 of the RSTP, the following actions do not contravene a registration ban:

a) the return from loan of a professional, solely where the loan agreement expires naturally;

b) the extension of the loan of a professional, beyond the natural expiry of the loan agreement;

c) the definitive engagement of a professional who was temporarily registered for the club directly prior to the registration ban being imposed;

d) the registration of a professional who was already registered with the club as an amateur directly prior to the registration ban being imposed.

For the sake of clarity, the same principles shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any registration ban imposed by the Disciplinary Committee on the basis of the FDC.

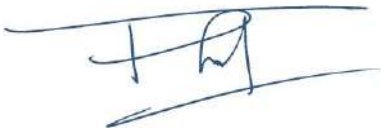
c. Failure to respect or to implement a registration ban

Finally, we would like to clarify that any club and/or association failing to respect and/or implement a registration ban may be subject to further sanctions imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee under article 21 of the FDC.

If you have any questions on this subject, please write to legal@fifa.org.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

cc: - FIFA Council
- Confederations
- FIFA judicial bodies
- FIFA Football Tribunal
- ECA
- FIFPRO
- World Leagues Forum

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1842

Zurich, 6 April 2023

Mandatory use of the FIFA Legal Portal as of 1 May 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

As part of its ongoing commitment to modernising football's regulatory framework, on 1 May 2022, FIFA launched the FIFA Legal Portal (**the Portal** – legalportal.fifa.com), an online platform through which proceedings before the FIFA Football Tribunal and the FIFA judicial bodies can be conducted.

As outlined in circular no. 1795, the Portal is aimed at enabling FIFA member associations and football stakeholders, including their legal representatives, to manage proceedings before the relevant FIFA decision-making or judicial body, by ensuring simple, secure and transparent communication between FIFA and the parties involved, as well as a better understanding of proceedings and heightened traceability.

a. Mandatory use of the Portal

The Portal is intended to replace the current email communication system and has been in place since the start of the transition phase on 1 May 2022. The preliminary test phase and transition period set out in the aforementioned circular ended, in principle, on 31 December 2022.

Several amendments to the FIFA regulatory framework were approved by the FIFA Council at its meeting on 14 March 2023 to reflect that, **as of 1 May 2023**, all proceedings before the FIFA Football Tribunal outside the FIFA Transfer Matching System (TMS) and the FIFA judicial bodies shall be initiated and conducted exclusively through the Portal. In this context, various provisions of the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal (the **Procedural Rules**)[1], the

[1] The relevant amendments to the Procedural Rules concern article 10; article 18 paragraph 1; article 21 paragraph 1; article 22 paragraph 1; article 29 paragraph 2 and article 34 paragraph 1.

FIFA Disciplinary Code (**FDC**)[2] and the FIFA Code of Ethics (**FCE**)[3] have been amended in order to reflect the mandatory use of the Portal as of 1 May 2023. In other words, the mandatory use of the Portal will apply to both new and ongoing proceedings.

Thus, as from 1 May 2023, (i) anyone intending to lodge a new claim before the aforementioned bodies will have to do so via the Portal, and (ii) submissions and other correspondence sent by any other means (such as email or post) will no longer be admissible in the said proceedings. For the sake of clarity, please note that the above also applies to ongoing proceedings.

While the Portal must be used for any proceedings before the relevant FIFA decision-making or judicial body, including the notification of decisions, the procedural aspects of those proceedings will still be governed by the applicable FIFA regulations.[4]

Notwithstanding the above, and for the sake of clarity, transfers or first registration of minors, limited minor exemptions, requests for intervention regarding the registration of players, claims related to training rewards (training compensation and solidarity contribution) and proceedings concerning electronic player passports will continue to be handled through TMS.

b. Access to the Portal

As of 1 May 2023, any person wishing to access the Portal is required to create an account, which will involve providing various pieces of information. Once created, the account needs to be approved by FIFA. To speed up this approval, FIFA strongly encourages clubs and member associations to use the same email address as that listed under the "Contact" tab in TMS, so that it matches the information in the relevant pre-existing database. We would like to remind you that the information entered in TMS and the Portal is binding on the relevant party.

In line with the above, if one of the parties to the proceedings does not have an account on the Portal, the FIFA administration will inform the party concerned by email, or via the relevant member association and/or club, of the said proceedings and invite it to create its own account on the Portal within three days following the email. Said party will also be warned that any failure to do so will be to its detriment as the proceedings will exclusively be conducted via the Portal.

[2] The relevant amendments to the FDC concern article 18 paragraph 1; article 48 paragraphs 2 and 4; article 51 paragraph 2; article 54 paragraph 3; article 60 paragraphs 3 and 4 and article 70 paragraph 3.
[3] The relevant amendments to the FCE concern article 43 paragraph 1 and article 53 paragraph 2.
[4] In particular, the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, the Procedural Rules, the FDC and the FCE.

c. Reminder – general principles on the use of the Portal

Users of the Portal are required to act in good faith and to ensure that all information they enter in the Portal is correct. In particular, it is essential that each user keeps their account and personal details up to date at all times.

In addition, there is a limit of one account per user (including clubs and member associations), and users must keep their login details and all information and documents obtained through the Portal confidential.

Finally, users are reminded that upon receipt of an automatically generated email from the Portal, they should check their account without delay. Notwithstanding these notifications, users involved in proceedings before the FIFA Football Tribunal and/or the FIFA judicial bodies are required to check their respective accounts once per day. Users who fail to do so will have to bear the procedural and legal consequences.

d. Sanctions

A user who enters false and/or erroneous information in the Portal, fails to keep their account up to date or misuses the portal may be sanctioned by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

In addition, users are required to immediately report any issues, suspicions or potential misuse of the Portal to the Portal Helpdesk.

e. Conclusion

FIFA is continuing to modernise its systems in order to facilitate and streamline proceedings before its decision-making and judicial bodies by filing and managing claims, while at the same time ensuring transparency and traceability for all football stakeholders.

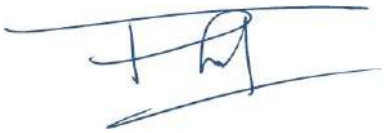
Accordingly, FIFA would like to thank those users who have already registered on the Portal and provided valuable feedback, and encourages those who have not yet done so to register.

Further information on the Portal (including a user manual) can be found on legalportal.fifa.com or in circular no. 1795.

If you have any questions on this subject, please write to legal@fifa.org.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

cc:
- FIFA Council
- Confederations
- FIFA judicial bodies
- FIFA Football Tribunal
- ECA
- FIFPRO
- World Leagues Forum

FIFA

3

FIFA EXPLANATORY NOTES, LEGAL GUIDES AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

LEGAL HANDBOOK

FIFA explanatory notes, legal guides and other relevant documents:

Guide to Submitting a Request for Eligibility or a Change of Association [2026 ed] 1228

Commentary on the Rules Governing Eligibility to Play for Representative Teams [2026 ed] 1249

Regulatory Guidelines Armed Conflicts [2026 ed] 1317

FIFA Parents' Education on Football Agents [2026 ed] 1326

Guide to submitting a Minor Application [2026 ed] 1410

Explanatory notes on the interim regulatory framework following the Diarra Judgement [2025 ed] 1450

Explanatory notes on the FIFA Clearing House Regulations [2024 ed] 1465

International player transfer guide [2024 ed] 1482

Regulatory framework for the protection of female players and coaches [2024 ed] 1523

Explanatory Note on New Provisions in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players Regarding Female Players [2024 ed] 1534

Explanatory Note on Annexe 7 to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players [2024 ed] ... 1545

National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles [2024 ed] 1555

Explanatory Notes on the New Regulatory Framework for National Dispute Resolution Chambers [2024 ed] 1585

Guide to submitting claims before the Football Tribunal [2023 ed] 1601

Explanatory Notes on the New Provisions in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players Regarding Registration Periods (Transfer Windows) [2023 ed] 1631

Explanatory notes on the FIFA Football Agent Regulations [2023 ed] 1647

Explanatory Notes on the New Loan Provisions in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players [2022 ed] 1657

Explanatory notes on the FIFA Clearing House Regulations [2022 ed] 1666

Guide to Submitting a Request for Eligibility or a Change of Association

SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION



FIFA®

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Documents required

General documents required for all types of requests

1. Eligibility confirmation request

   The player is eligible to represent more than one MA on account of their nationality
   (cf. art. 7 of the RGAS)

   The player assumed a new nationality and has not been fielded in a match in an official competition
   (cf. art. 8 of the RGAS)

2. Change-of-association submissions

   The player is stateless
   (cf. art. 9 of the RGAS)

   The player assumed a new nationality and has been fielded in a match in an official competition
   (cf. art. 10 par. 2 of the RGAS)

   The player was granted a change of association but was not fielded after the decision
   (cf. art. 10 par. 5 of the RGAS)

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Introduction



Introduction

According to the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes (**RGAS**), a request for eligibility or a change of association must be submitted to the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal (**PSC**):

- for players who have acquired a new nationality and moved to the relevant territory between the age of ten and 18 (cf. art. 8 par. 2 of the RGAS);
- for stateless individuals (cf. art. 9 par. 2 of the RGAS);
- for players who wish to change association after having already participated in a match in an official competition at any level in any kind of football for a representative team of another association (cf. art. 10 par. 2 of the RGAS); and
- for players who were previously granted a change of association and wish to change back to their former association (cf. art. 10 par. 6 of the RGAS).

Against this background, this guide outlines:

i) the administrative process applicable to these requests; and

ii) the relevant documents to be submitted, subject to the type of application.

While the FIFA general secretariat is responsible for managing the case file, only the PSC is competent to render a decision based on the specific circumstances of each application. Therefore, this guide is meant merely to support the administrative process of the requests.

Additionally, the FIFA general secretariat may, upon request or where required under the applicable competition regulations, provide Member Associations (MAs) with a prima facie assessment of a player's eligibility to represent one of their representative teams. This service is intended to assist Member Associations in circumstances where they are not permitted to assess a player's eligibility, or where uncertainty exists regarding the application or interpretation of the RGAS, the commentary or this guide. Such assessments are without prejudice to any decision that may be rendered by the PSC and do not relieve the association concerned of its responsibility to verify and establish that the player fulfils all applicable eligibility requirements under the RGAS before calling up or fielding the player.

Process



Process

1 Submission of a request by the new association



2 Review by the FIFA general secretariat

FIFA

3 Decision by the Players' Status Chamber



4 Terms of the decision of the Players' Status Chamber



5 Grounds of the decision of the Players' Status Chamber



Process

1. Submission of a request by the new association

After having gathered all the mandatory documents from the player, the new association will be responsible for submitting, on behalf of the player, the request to the PSC (cf. art. 8 par. 2 or art. 9 par. 2 of the RGAS for eligibility requests and art. 10 pars 4 or 6 of the RGAS for change-of-association requests).

The request must be submitted exclusively via the FIFA Legal Portal (cf. art. 29 par. 2 b) of the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal; Procedural Rules).

The request must be submitted via the Legal Portal no later than 15 calendar days before the first day of the international window during which the representative team's activities for which the player is required are scheduled to take place. Requests submitted after this deadline will be considered by the PSC only following the conclusion of the relevant international window. (cf. art. 31 par. 2 of the Procedural Rules).

Please note that any request sent by email or any other form of communication will not be considered (cf. FIFA circular no. 1842 of 6 April 2023).

Any and all requests must include:

i) the relevant provision used as the basis for the request; and

ii) all the necessary documents to support the request and/or corroborate that the circumstances of the exception invoked are met.

For the sake of completeness, it should be noted that a player who has filed a request for a change of association is not eligible to participate for any representative team until the request has been decided upon (cf. art. 10 par. 7 of the RGAS).

In addition to the change-of-association submissions referred to above, an association may, where permitted under the applicable regulations or where uncertainty exists regarding a player's eligibility, seek a prima facie eligibility assessment from the FIFA general secretariat. Such requests must also be submitted via the FIFA Legal Portal and shall be accompanied by all relevant information and supporting documentation necessary to enable the FIFA general secretariat to assess the player's eligibility under the RGAS.

2. Review by the FIFA general secretariat

Upon receipt, the FIFA general secretariat will be responsible for reviewing the information and the documentation submitted.

During the review, the FIFA general secretariat may request additional information and/or documentation in order to supplement the initial request. The association must then submit its response, along with the requested information and/or documentation, via the FIFA Legal Portal at its earliest convenience.

In the context of requests for a prima facie eligibility assessment, the FIFA general secretariat shall examine whether, based on the information and documentation provided, the player satisfies the relevant eligibility requirements established in the RGAS. Following the completion of its review, the FIFA general secretariat may issue an eligibility confirmation letter stating whether the player appears to fulfil the applicable eligibility requirements.

An eligibility confirmation letter is based exclusively on the facts, information and documentation submitted by the association concerned and does not constitute a decision of the PSC. It is without prejudice to any subsequent review by FIFA's competent bodies and may be reconsidered should new information, documentation or circumstances come to light.

In respect of requests falling within the competence of the PSC under the RGAS, or where the FIFA general secretariat is unable to confirm the player's eligibility and the applicant expressly requests that the matter be referred for determination, the information and documentation shall be submitted to the member(s) of the PSC for decision.

3. Decision by the Players' Status Chamber

The member(s) of the PSC shall render a decision as promptly as possible.

For the avoidance of doubt, requests for a prima facie eligibility assessment that result in the issuance of an eligibility confirmation letter are not decided by the PSC. However, where the FIFA general secretariat is unable to confirm a player's eligibility and the applicant expressly requests that the matter be referred pursuant to article 29 paragraph 3 c) of the Procedural Rules, the PSC shall render a decision on the matter.

4. Terms of the decision of the Players' Status Chamber

The FIFA general secretariat will communicate the decision of the PSC to the association(s) concerned via the FIFA Legal Portal.

The terms of the decision will state whether the request is "accepted", "rejected" or "not admissible".

If the request is accepted, the player will be permitted to play for a representative team of their new association with immediate effect. Additionally, FIFA will publicly display detailed insights into players who have been granted approval by the PSC to change association through the FIFA Change of Association Platform. For the sake of completeness, it should be noted that the platform serves only as a resource for the global football community, meaning that permission for the player to play for a representative team of their new association is not dependent on its publication on said platform.

It should, however, be noted that, in case of a change of association, the player is not permitted to play for a representative team of their new association in any competition in which they have already played for a representative team of their previous association (cf. art. 10 par. 3 of the RGAS).

The above also applies to cases in which the FIFA general secretariat was unable to confirm a player's eligibility and the matter was subsequently referred to the PSC at the applicant's express request.

5. Grounds of the decision of the Players' Status Chamber

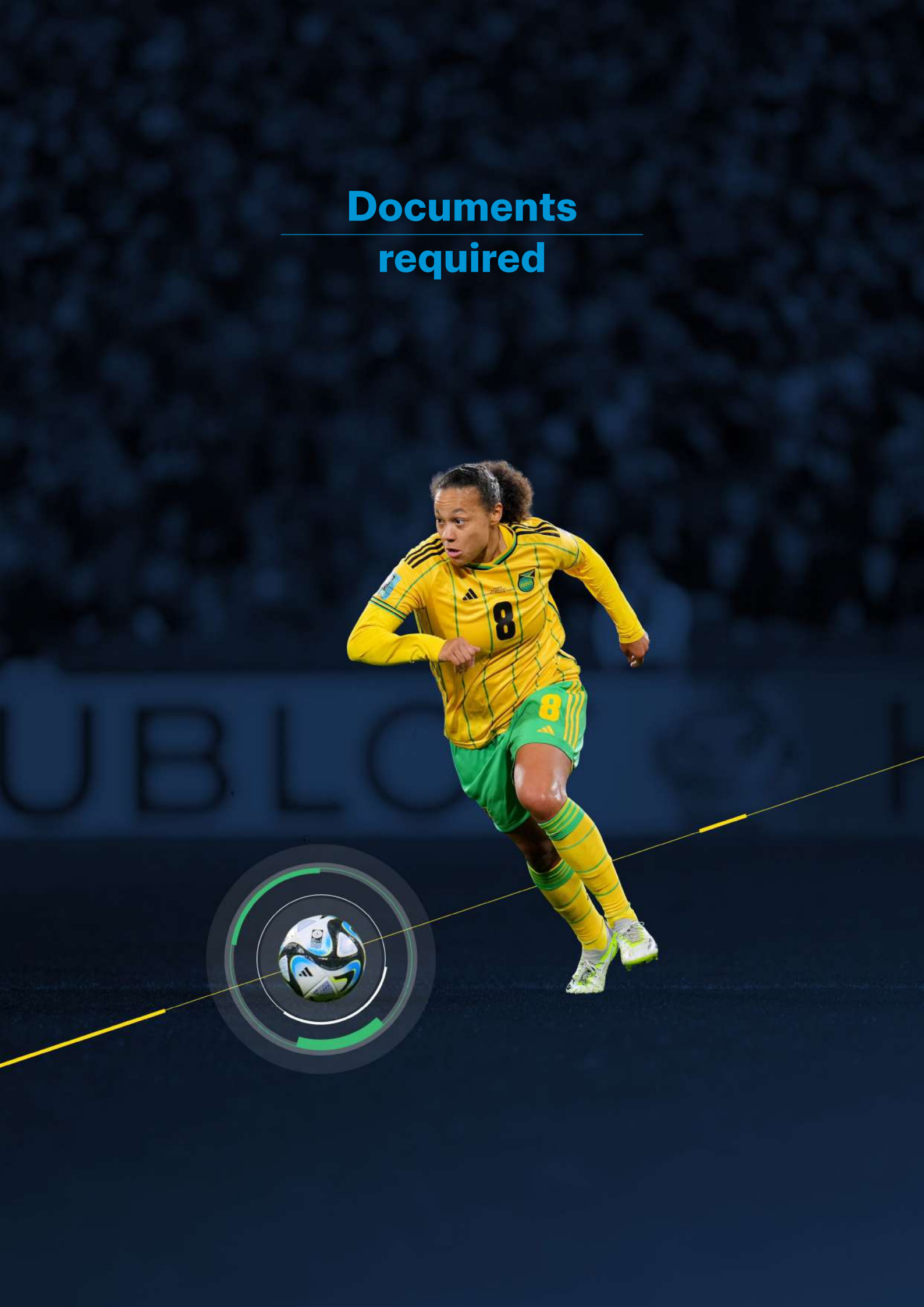
The association(s) concerned has/have ten days from the date on which they are notified of the terms of the decision to request the grounds of the decision. Failure to do so will result in the decision becoming final and binding.

Where a player's eligibility is ultimately determined by the PSC following a referral pursuant to article 29 paragraph 3 c) of the Procedural Rules, the provisions relating to the grounds of the decision shall apply accordingly.

If an association requests the grounds of the decision, the motivated decision will be communicated to the association(s) in full, written form via the FIFA Legal Portal.

According to article 50 paragraph 1 of the FIFA Statutes, the decision of the PSC may be appealed before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (**CAS**) within 21 days of receipt of the decision in question.

Documents required



Documents required

General documents required for all types of requests



Formal request from the new association, duly indicating the legal basis invoked in support of its request.



Recent, signed statement from the player (co-signed by their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the player is a minor) confirming their will to be eligible to play for the new association.

Additionally, in case of a change of association, the player should also confirm their understanding and acknowledgement that:

1) such a change of association can only be requested once during their football career (cf. art. 10 par. 1 of the RGAS); and
2) if the change of association is granted, it is definitive and irreversible.



Official statement issued by the player's current association and any other association whose representative teams the player may be eligible to represent by virtue of their nationality or nationalities. The statement must be duly stamped and signed by an authorised officer and must expressly confirm whether the player has ever played for any of the association's representative teams.

If the player has played for any of the association's representative teams, the statement should list all of the matches (at any level and in any kind of football) in which the player took part, indicating for each match:

i) the date;
ii) the age category and/or level of the representative team (e.g. youth team or "A" international level);
iii) the type (i.e. official or unofficial) and the name of the competition; and
iv) the kind of football (i.e. 11-a-side, futsal or beach soccer).

The new association is responsible for obtaining the official statement. After three unsuccessful attempts, it may ask the FIFA general secretariat for assistance in contacting the relevant association(s).

In cases involving refugee players, the FIFA general secretariat and the PSC recognise that obtaining the official statement may risk disclosing the player's whereabouts. In such cases, upon request, the FIFA general secretariat will contact the relevant association(s) directly and seek to obtain the official statement without disclosing the player's whereabouts.

Documents required

1. Eligibility confirmation request

In addition to the eligibility and change-of-association requests provided for under the RGAS, associations may request a prima facie assessment of a player's eligibility to represent one of their representative teams.

Such requests are reviewed by the FIFA general secretariat, which may issue an eligibility confirmation letter stating, on the basis of the information and documentation submitted, whether the player appears to fulfil the applicable eligibility requirements under the RGAS.

The purpose of an eligibility confirmation letter is to assist Member Associations in circumstances where:

- the applicable competition regulations require prior confirmation from FIFA before a player may be fielded;
- the new association is uncertain about the nature of the player's past participation for the representative teams of the association(s) for which the player would currently be eligible to play on the basis of their nationality;
- the player or the new association is uncertain about the application or interpretation of the RGAS; or
- the FIFA general secretariat or a confederation has expressly requested the letter.

For the avoidance of doubt, an eligibility confirmation letter is issued exclusively by the FIFA general secretariat and constitutes a prima facie assessment based on the information and documentation provided by the association concerned (i.e. the eligibility confirmation letter does not constitute a decision of the PSC in the sense of art. 29 of the Procedural Rules, and as such is without prejudice to any subsequent review or decision by FIFA's competent bodies).

The eligibility confirmation letter does not relieve the association concerned of its responsibility to verify and ensure the player's eligibility before calling up or fielding the player in a representative-team match.

To enable the FIFA general secretariat to assess a player's eligibility, the association concerned must submit all relevant information and supporting documentation via the FIFA Legal Portal. Depending on the basis on which the player claims eligibility, additional documents may be required.

The following pages set out the minimum documentation that should be submitted to support a request for an eligibility confirmation letter. FIFA reserves the right to request any additional information or documentation deemed necessary to assess the player's eligibility under the RGAS.

Documents required

The player is eligible to represent more than one MA on account of their nationality

(cf. art. 7 of the RGAS)

Circumstances	Documents to be submitted							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
The player was born on the territory of the MA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
The player's biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the MA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
The player's grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the MA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
The player moved to the territory of the MA and has lived there for at least five years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓

1 Formal request from the new association, duly indicating the legal basis invoked in support of its request.

2 Recent, signed statement from the player (co-signed by their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the player is a minor) confirming their will to be eligible to play for the representative teams of the new association.

3 Copy of the player's valid international passport (issued by the authorities of the country of the new association), duly indicating the player's nationality, place of birth and the period of validity of the passport.

4 Official birth certificate, civil-registry extract, naturalisation decree or order, certificate of citizenship or nationality, or equivalent state-issued document expressly confirming the exact date on which the player acquired the nationality of the country of the new association.

5 Official statement issued by the player's current association, duly stamped and signed by the relevant authorised officer, explicitly confirming whether the player has ever played for any of its representative teams. If the player has played for any of those teams, the statement should list all of the matches (at any level and in any kind of football) in which the player took part, indicating for each match: i) the date; ii) the age category and/or level of the representative team (e.g. youth team or "A" international level); iii) the type (i.e. official or unofficial) and the name of the competition; and iv) the kind of football (i.e. 11-a-side, futsal or beach soccer).

6 Copy of the player's biological mother's or biological father's valid international passport or birth certificate, duly indicating the relevant biological parent's place of birth, and official documentation corroborating the player's filiation with their biological mother or biological father (e.g. the player's birth certificate).

7 Copy of the player's grandmother's or grandfather's valid international passport or birth certificate, duly indicating the relevant grandparent's place of birth, and official documentation corroborating the player's filiation with their grandmother or grandfather (e.g. the player's birth certificate and their relevant parent's birth certificate).

8 Official documentation* issued by the competent authority or institution indicating for how long and/or since when the player has lived on the territory of the relevant association (e.g. travel records with entry and departure dates, passport stamps, visas, flight tickets, residence certificates, school records, etc.).

* The documentation must clearly i) indicate the date on which the move occurred, and ii) demonstrate that the player has lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least three or five years, depending on the circumstances of the player in question.

** The list is not exhaustive and is merely a guideline for the types of reasons that have been invoked in requests submitted to the PSC in the past.

Documents required

The player assumed a new nationality and has not been fielded in a match in an official competition

(cf. art. 8 of the RGAS)

Circumstances		Documents to be submitted								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
The player was born on the territory of the MA		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
The player's biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the MA		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
The player's grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the MA		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
The player moved to the territory of the MA	The player began living on the territory before the age of 10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
	The player began living on the territory between the age of 10 and 18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
	The player began living on the territory from the age of 18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	

1 Formal request from the new association, duly indicating the legal basis invoked in support of its request.

2 Recent, signed statement from the player (co-signed by their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the player is a minor) confirming their will to be eligible to play for the representative teams of the new association.

3 Copy of the player's valid international passport (issued by the authorities of the country of the new association), duly indicating the player's nationality, place of birth and the period of validity of the passport.

4 Official birth certificate, civil-registry extract, naturalisation decree or order, certificate of citizenship or nationality, or equivalent state-issued document expressly confirming the exact date on which the player acquired the nationality of the country of the new association.

5 Official statement issued by the player's current association, duly stamped and signed by the relevant authorised officer, explicitly confirming whether the player has ever played for any of its representative teams. If the player has played for any of those teams, the statement should list all of the matches (at any level and in any kind of football) in which the player took part, indicating for each match: i) the date; ii) the age category and/or level of the representative team (e.g. youth team or "A" international level); iii) the type (i.e. official or unofficial) and the name of the competition; and iv) the kind of football (i.e. 11-a-side, futsal or beach soccer).

6 Copy of the player's biological mother's or biological father's valid international passport or birth certificate, duly indicating the relevant biological parent's place of birth, and official documentation corroborating the player's filiation with their biological mother or biological father (e.g. the player's birth certificate).

7 Copy of the player's grandmother's or grandfather's valid international passport or birth certificate, duly indicating the relevant grandparent's place of birth, and official documentation corroborating the player's filiation with their grandmother or grandfather (e.g. the player's birth certificate and their relevant parent's birth certificate).

8 Official documentation* issued by the competent authority or institution indicating for how long and/or since when the player has lived on the territory of the relevant association (e.g. travel records with entry and departure dates, passport stamps, visas, flight tickets, residence certificates, school records, etc.).

9 Statement from the player and/or their parent(s) explaining the reason(s) for the move, supported by documentary evidence, such as**:
- employment contracts or employment certificates (if the move occurred for professional reasons);
- school certificates indicating the date of the player's enrolment (if the move occurred for educational reasons);
- proof of residence of relatives (if applicable) living in the country to which the player's parents moved (if the move occurred for family reunion or if the player's parents returned to their country of origin);
- official documentation indicating their status as a refugee or protected person in the new country or a relevant decision granting such status (if the move occurred for humanitarian reasons).

* The documentation must clearly i) indicate the date on which the move occurred, and ii) demonstrate that the player has lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least three or five years, depending on the circumstances of the player in question.

** The list is not exhaustive and is merely a guideline for the types of reasons that have been invoked in requests submitted to the PSC in the past.

2. Change-of-association submissions

Pursuant to article 10 of the RGAS, a player who has already participated in a match in an official competition at any level in any kind of football for a representative team of one association and wishes to represent another association for which they are eligible on the basis of their nationality must submit a request for a change of association.

Such requests fall within the exclusive competence of the PSC and must be submitted through the new association, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the RGAS and the Procedural Rules.

The purpose of a change-of-association request is to enable the PSC to determine whether the player fulfils all the conditions required under article 10 of the RGAS to represent a new association.

For the avoidance of doubt, a player who has filed a request for a change of association is not eligible to participate for any representative team until the request has been decided upon.

While the FIFA general secretariat is responsible for reviewing the request and managing the case file, only the PSC is competent to render a decision on whether a player may change association. Any review conducted by the FIFA general secretariat is without prejudice to the decision ultimately rendered by the PSC.

To enable the PSC to assess the request, the association concerned must submit all relevant information and supporting documentation via the FIFA Legal Portal. Depending on the circumstances of the case and the legal basis invoked, additional documents may be required.

The following pages set out the minimum documentation that should be submitted to support a request for a change of association. FIFA reserves the right to request any additional information or documentation deemed necessary to assess whether the conditions set out in article 10 of the RGAS are fulfilled.

Documents required

The player is stateless

(cf. art. 9 of the RGAS)

Circumstances	Documents to be submitted					
	1	2	8	9	10	11
The player: i) does not hold any nationality; and ii) due to the national law of the country of their domicile, will never be granted the nationality of that country	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

1 Formal request from the new association, duly indicating the legal basis invoked in support of its request.

2 Recent, signed statement from the player (co-signed by their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the player is a minor) confirming their will to be eligible to play for the representative teams of the new association.

8 Official documentation* issued by the competent authority or institution indicating for how long and/or since when the player has lived on the territory of the relevant association (e.g. travel records with entry and departure dates, passport stamps, visas, flight tickets, residence certificates, school records, etc.).

9 Statement from the player and/or their parent(s) explaining the reason(s) for the move, supported by documentary evidence, such as**:

- employment contracts or employment certificates (if the move occurred for professional reasons);
- school certificates indicating the date of the player's enrolment (if the move occurred for educational reasons);
- proof of residence of relatives (if applicable) living in the country to which the player's parents moved (if the move occurred for family reunion or if the player's parents returned to their country of origin);
- official documentation indicating their status as a refugee or protected person in the new country or a relevant decision granting such status

≠(if the move occurred for humanitarian reasons).

10 Copy of the player's proof of identity, residence permit or legitimation card. Proof of the stateless status of the player.

11 Copy of the relevant law and/or official confirmation issued by the competent government authority, clearly demonstrating that due to the national law of the country of their domicile, the player will never be granted the nationality of that country.

* The documentation must clearly i) indicate the date on which the move occurred, and ii) demonstrate that the player has lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least three or five years, depending on the circumstances of the player in question.

** The list is not exhaustive and is merely a guideline for the types of reasons that have been invoked in requests submitted to the PSC in the past.

Documents required

The player assumed a new nationality and has been fielded in a match in an official competition

(cf. art. 10 par. 2 of the RGAS)

Circumstances				Documents to be submitted										
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	12	13
The player was fielded in a match in an official competition (excluding "A" international level)	The player held the nationality of the country of the new MA prior to being fielded in their first match in an official competition by a representative team of their current MA			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
	The player: i) did not hold the nationality of the country of the new MA prior to being fielded in their first match in an official competition by a representative team of their current MA; and ii) was under 21 years of age at the time of being fielded in their last match in an official competition by a representative team of their current MA	The player was born on the territory of the MA		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
		The player's biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the MA		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
		The player's grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the MA		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
		The player moved to the territory of the MA	The player began living on the territory before the age of 10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
			The player began living on the territory between the age of 10 and 18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
			The player began living on the territory from the age of 18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
The player was fielded in a match in an official competition at "A" international level	The player held the nationality of the country of the new MA prior to being fielded in their first match in an official competition by a representative team of their current MA	The player was under 21 years of age at the time of being fielded in their last match in an official competition by a representative team of their current MA	The player was fielded in no more than three "A" international matches, was last fielded over three years ago and never participated in a FIFA World Cup™ or confederation final tournament	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
	The player permanently lost their nationality without their consent or against their will due to a decision by a government authority			✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	
	The player: i) wishes to represent an MA that was admitted to FIFA membership after the player was fielded in a match in an official competition by a representative team of their current MA; and ii) was not fielded in a match in an official competition by a representative team of their current MA after the new MA was admitted to FIFA membership	The player: i) held the nationality of the country of the new MA prior to being fielded in their first match in an official competition by a representative team of their current MA; or ii) obtained the nationality of the country of the new MA as soon as reasonably practicable after the country was recognised by the majority of members of the United Nations	The player was born on the territory of the MA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓
			The player's biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the MA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
			The player's grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the MA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
		The player moved to the territory of the MA	The player began living on the territory before the age of 10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
			The player began living on the territory between the age of 10 and 18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
			The player began living on the territory from the age of 18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓

1 Formal request from the new association, duly indicating the legal basis invoked in support of its request.

2 Recent, signed statement from the player (co-signed by their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the player is a minor) confirming their will to be eligible to play for the representative teams of the new association.

3 Copy of the player's valid international passport (issued by the authorities of the country of the new association), duly indicating the player's nationality, place of birth and the period of validity of the passport.

4 Official birth certificate, civil-registry extract, naturalisation decree or order, certificate of citizenship or nationality, or equivalent state-issued document expressly confirming the exact date on which the player acquired the nationality of the country of the new association.

5 Official statement issued by the player's current association, duly stamped and signed by the relevant authorised officer, explicitly confirming whether the player has ever played for any of its representative teams. If the player has played for any of those teams, the statement should list all of the matches (at any level and in any kind of football) in which the player took part, indicating for each match: i) the date; ii) the age category and/or level of the representative team (e.g. youth team or "A" international level); iii) the type (i.e. official or unofficial) and the name of the competition; and iv) the kind of football (i.e. 11-a-side, futsal or beach soccer).

6 Copy of the player's biological mother's or biological father's valid international passport or birth certificate, duly indicating the relevant biological parent's place of birth, and official documentation corroborating the player's filiation with their biological mother or biological father (e.g. the player's birth certificate).

7 Copy of the player's grandmother's or grandfather's valid international passport or birth certificate, duly indicating the relevant grandparent's place of birth, and official documentation corroborating the player's filiation with their grandmother or grandfather (e.g. the player's birth certificate and their relevant parent's birth certificate).

8 Official documentation* issued by the competent authority or institution indicating for how long and/or since when the player has lived on the territory of the relevant association (e.g. travel records with entry and departure dates, passport stamps, visas, flight tickets, residence certificates, school records, etc.).

9 Statement from the player and/or their parent(s) explaining the reason(s) for the move, supported by documentary evidence, such as**:
- employment contracts or employment certificates (if the move occurred for professional reasons);
- school certificates indicating the date of the player's enrolment (if the move occurred for educational reasons);
- proof of residence of relatives (if applicable) living in the country to which the player's parents moved (if the move occurred for family reunion or if the player's parents returned to their country of origin);
- official documentation indicating their status as a refugee or protected person in the new country or a relevant decision granting such status (if the move occurred for humanitarian reasons).

12 Copy of the relevant decision or statement issued by the competent government authority, clearly demonstrating that the player permanently lost their nationality without their consent or against their will.

13 Proof of FIFA membership or application process, such as an official statement from FIFA and/or a media release.

* The documentation must clearly i) indicate the date on which the move occurred, and ii) demonstrate that the player has lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least three or five years, depending on the circumstances of the player in question.

** The list is not exhaustive and is merely a guideline for the types of reasons that have been invoked in requests submitted to the PSC in the past.

Documents required

The player was granted a change of association but was not fielded after the decision

(cf. art. 10 par. 5 of the RGAS)

Circumstances	Documents to be submitted					
	1	2	3	5	14	15
The player was granted a change of association by the PSC						
The player was not fielded in a match in an official or unofficial competition in any kind of football after the favourable change-of-association decision	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The player continues to hold the nationality of the country of the MA that they now wish to represent again						

1 Formal request from the new association, duly indicating the legal basis invoked in support of its request.

2 Recent, signed statement from the player (co-signed by their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the player is a minor) confirming their will to be eligible to represent the new association.

3 Copy of the player's valid international passport (issued by the authorities of the country of the new association), duly indicating the player's nationality, place of birth and the period of validity of the passport.

5 Official statement issued by the player's current association, duly stamped and signed by the relevant authorised officer, explicitly confirming whether the player has ever played for any of its representative teams. If the player has played for any of those teams, the statement should list all of the matches (at any level and in any kind of football) in which the player took part, indicating for each match: i) the date; ii) the age category and/or level of the representative team (e.g. youth team or "A" international level); iii) the type (i.e. official or unofficial) and the name of the competition; and iv) the kind of football (i.e. 11-a-side, futsal or beach soccer).

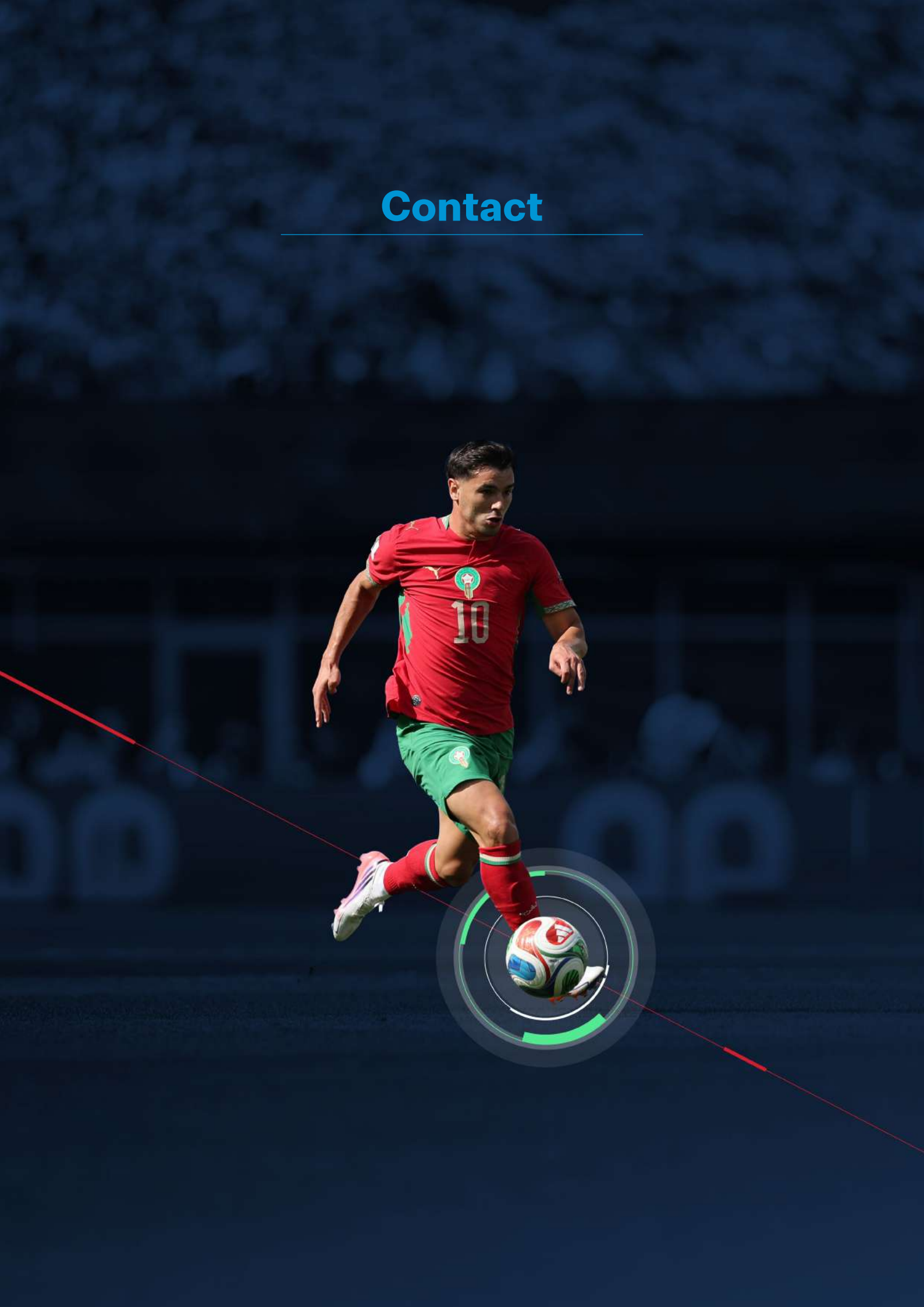
14 Copy of the decision rendered by the PSC granting the change of association.

15 Statement issued by the competent government authority and/or citizenship certificate confirming since when the player has held the nationality of the country of the former MA, or copies of all the player's passports (issued by the authorities of the country of the former MA) since the player was granted a change of association.

* The documentation must clearly i) indicate the date on which the move occurred, and ii) demonstrate that the player has lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least three or five years, depending on the circumstances of the player in question.

** The list is not exhaustive and is merely a guideline for the types of reasons that have been invoked in requests submitted to the PSC in the past.

Contact



Contact

FIFA is fully committed to assisting Member Associations and football stakeholders regarding the content of this document and/or any regulatory matters regarding eligibility to participate for representative teams in international football.

As such, please feel free to contact us at any time at: regulatory@fifa.org.

For questions regarding the interpretation of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes, as well as binding jurisprudence, please refer first to the Commentary on the Rules Governing Eligibility to Play for Representative Teams, which is available at legal.fifa.com.

Please note that any request for eligibility or a change of association shall be made by the relevant association exclusively via the FIFA Legal Portal (legalportal.fifa.com).

FIFA

Commentary on the Rules Governing Eligibility to Play for Representative Teams

SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION



FIFA®

Note: This commentary does not represent the formal position of FIFA or its decision-making bodies on specific matters or any future case.

All regulatory references correspond to the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes.

This commentary includes references to FIFA and CAS decisions rendered up until 30 June 2026.

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Introduction



Introduction

The importance of representative-team football

Representative-team football occupies a distinct place within the global game of football. Unlike club football, which is primarily organised around contractual relationships, contractual stability, registration periods and other rules of the global transfer system, representative-team football is organised around sporting nationality and the corresponding eligibility to play for representative teams. As a matter of fact, a player represents not merely a team, but a Member Association, its footballing community and the territory for which that association is recognised.

Representative-team football depends on the credibility of representative-team competitions. The selection of players for representative teams must therefore be governed by rules that are transparent, objective, predictable and capable of being applied consistently across all Member Associations. Football is increasingly shaped by migration, dual and multiple nationality, family links across different territories, the early movement of players and international-eligibility decisions. These developments have further increased the relevance of a transparent and consistent application of the regulatory framework.

Eligibility decisions may have lasting regulatory and sporting consequences. They should be taken on the basis of a clear understanding of the *ratio legis*, the applicable criteria, the limits of those criteria and the consequences of participation in official competition. The purpose of this Commentary on the Rules Governing Eligibility to Play for Representative Teams is therefore not only to explain these rules, but also to provide a practical legal tool for players, Member Associations and all other stakeholders.

Introduction

The validity of representative-team competitions

International sport has traditionally organised representative competition around nationality and based the eligibility of players to play for representative teams on nationality.[1] In football, this principle remains fundamental to the structure, legitimacy and integrity of representative-team competitions.

The validity of (national) representative-team competitions, and the fact that nationality is a key distinctive criterion, has been consistently recognised under European law. In *Walrave*, the European Court of Justice (**ECJ**) held that the prohibition on discrimination based on nationality did not affect the composition of sports teams, in particular national teams, because their formation was a matter of purely sporting interest.[2] In *Donà*, the ECJ confirmed that rules excluding foreign players from certain matches may be justified where they relate to the particular nature and context of those matches, including matches between national teams from different countries.[3] In *Bosman*, the ECJ again confirmed the validity of this distinction.[4]

Accordingly, the organisation of representative-team football around nationality is not an exception to the football regulatory system. It is one of its defining characteristics.

Legal nationality and sporting nationality

FIFA recognises that each state determines, as a matter of public law, who holds that respective state's nationality. That sovereign competence is – evidently – not displaced by FIFA's rules governing eligibility.

However, legal nationality and sporting nationality (or eligibility) are distinct concepts. The possession of a nationality may be a necessary condition for sporting eligibility, but it is not always sufficient. A player may hold one or more legal nationalities and still be required to satisfy additional (sporting) criteria before being eligible to represent a particular Member Association.

1 FIFA establishes as a principle in its Statutes that "Any person holding a permanent nationality that is not dependent on residence in a certain country is eligible to play for the representative teams of the association of that country." The International Olympic Committee requires, according to Rule 41 of the Olympic Charter, that "Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the NOC which is entering such competitor."

2 Case 36/74, *Walrave et al v. Union Cycliste Internationale et al.*

3 Case 13/76, *Donà v. Mantero.*

4 Case 415/93, *Union Royale Belge Des Sociétés De Football Association et al. v. Bosman et al.*

This distinction has been confirmed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (**CAS**), which has recognised the coexistence of two separate legal orders: one of public law, concerning legal nationality, and one of private law, concerning sporting nationality. These orders do not overlap completely and do not come into conflict merely because a sports governing body establishes additional eligibility requirements for the purposes of its competitions.[5]

Sporting nationality must be regulated through objective and identifiable criteria. It cannot depend on subjective factors such as personal preference, emotional attachment, cultural identification or sporting opportunity. Those factors may explain why a player wishes to represent a particular association, but they do not establish eligibility under the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes (**RGAS**).[6]

The "genuine link" as the central element

The FIFA eligibility framework rests on the requirement that a genuine link needs to exist between a player and the Member Association that the player represents or intends to represent.

This principle gives practical effect to the representative character of international football. A player must not only possess the relevant nationality. The player must also, in principle, always have an objectively recognisable connection with the Member Association concerned, unless the applicable rules specifically do not require such a link.

Where an additional connection is required, the FIFA framework recognises only defined and verifiable links. The RGAS do not permit eligibility to be established on broader notions of affinity, heritage, sporting integration or personal identification. The relevant link must fall within the categories expressly recognised by the rules.

As such, there are – in substance – three possible routes through which a player may establish the necessary connection with a Member Association:

1. First, eligibility may be based on ***jus soli***, namely the player's place of birth. A player may have the required link where the player was born on the territory of the Member Association concerned.

2. Second, eligibility may be based on ***jus sanguinis***, namely descent. A player may have the required link where at least one of the player's biological parents or grandparents was born on the territory of the Member Association concerned.

5 CAS 1992/A/80 *B. v. Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA).*

6 CAS 2007/A/1377 *Melanie Rinaldi v. Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA).*

3. Third, eligibility may be based on **residence**. A player may have the required link where the player has lived on the territory of the Member Association for a determined period required under the RGAS. That period is determined by reference to the age at which the player began living on the territory of the Member Association concerned.

These three routes reflect the balance struck by FIFA, and they recognise the principal ways in which a genuine connection with a footballing territory may arise: birth, family origin or sustained residence.

The regulatory framework

The rules governing eligibility to play for representative teams are set out entirely in the RGAS, more precisely in articles 6 to 10.

The substance of the eligibility framework has remained largely unchanged since the comprehensive modernisation adopted by the FIFA Congress on 18 September 2020, apart from subsequent renumbering and structural adjustments. That reform, the first of its kind since May 2008, followed a detailed working group process involving FIFA stakeholders and took into consideration the practical experience of Member Associations and more than two decades of jurisprudence concerning sporting nationality and change of association.

The reforms in particular recognised that players may have legitimate connections to more than one association, notably in an era of increased mobility and more frequent cases of dual nationality. At the same time, they maintained the principle that eligibility must be based on nationality and, in principle, a genuine link.

The increasing frequency and complexity of the eligibility questions arising in regulatory practice underscore both the continuing importance of that approach and the need for the eligibility framework to be applied with precision. Such questions may concern players born outside the territory of the association they wish to represent, players whose parents or grandparents were born in another territory, players who acquired nationality after moving as minors or adults, and players who have previously represented another association at youth or senior level.

Introduction

Core principles of FIFA's eligibility rules

FIFA's eligibility framework is based on the following core principles:

i) "No nationality, no eligibility"

The principle of "no nationality, no eligibility" constitutes the foundation of the eligibility framework. A player may only represent a Member Association if they hold the relevant nationality in accordance with the respective national law.

This principle reflects FIFA's long-standing position that representative-team football must remain linked to legal nationality and that sporting nationality cannot exist independently from the nationality conferred by a sovereign state. The requirement also promotes legal certainty and consistency in the application of the rules across all Member Associations.

As such, a permanent residence permit, or any comparable immigration status, does not in itself satisfy that requirement.

ii) Equal treatment

The eligibility framework seeks to ensure equal treatment of all Member Associations, irrespective of differences between domestic nationality laws, constitutional structures or geopolitical circumstances.

The FIFA eligibility rules therefore aim to establish a harmonised and balanced sporting framework that applies consistently across all Member Associations and prevents disparities between national legal systems from creating disproportionate sporting advantages or disadvantages.

iii) The existence of a genuine link between the player and the Member Association they (intend to) represent

As explained above, the genuine-link requirement reflects the representative nature of international football and reinforces its legitimacy and credibility by ensuring that players selected for representative teams possess an objectively identifiable connection with the association concerned. Where such a link is required, it must be established through one of the objective criteria exhaustively set out in the RGAS: *jus soli*, based on the player's place of birth; *jus sanguinis*, based on the place of birth of a parent or grandparent; or a prescribed period of residence in the relevant territory.

iv) **Avoiding cases of excessive severity or hardship**

While the framework prioritises sporting integrity and regulatory consistency, FIFA also recognises that an excessively rigid application of eligibility rules may produce disproportionate or unfair outcomes in individual cases. The RGAS therefore provide for carefully circumscribed exceptions designed to mitigate such outcomes where justified, while preserving legal certainty, equal treatment and the integrity of representative competition.

This commentary further examines the scope of those exceptions and clarifies the circumstances in which CAS jurisprudence has considered the strict application of the eligibility rules to result in excessive or disproportionate consequences.

v) **Prevention of abuse**

The prevention of abuse constitutes another fundamental objective of the eligibility rules. In particular, FIFA seeks to discourage and prevent practices commonly referred to as "nationality shopping", whereby nationality or eligibility arrangements are pursued primarily for sporting advantage rather than as a consequence of a genuine connection to the relevant association.

From another perspective, the RGAS also seek to prevent situations in which a Member Association requests or secures a player's eligibility, or encourages the player to pursue eligibility, without any genuine sporting intention of fielding the player in its representative teams.

The framework therefore relies upon objective criteria and procedural safeguards to prevent the manipulation or circumvention of the eligibility rules and to ensure that representative-team football retains its authenticity and credibility.

vi) **Protecting the sporting integrity of representative-team competitions**

The eligibility framework ultimately seeks to protect the sporting integrity, legitimacy and representative character of international football competitions.

Representative-team football derives its particular sporting and cultural significance from the idea that players genuinely represent the Member Associations for which they compete. The eligibility rules therefore seek to preserve competitive balance, maintain public confidence and ensure that representative-team competitions continue to reflect authentic sporting representation.

This commentary explains the eligibility rules, the principles that govern their interpretation and the practical consequences of decisions taken in particular by players and Member Associations. Its objective is to assist all stakeholders in identifying whether a player is eligible, whether a change of association is possible and required, and whether a player's connection with the relevant Member Association satisfies the requirements of the applicable regulatory framework.

Introduction

Definitions

For the purposes of this commentary, the terms set out below shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the RGAS.

Certain definitions are reproduced or adapted from the RGAS where they are of particular relevance to the eligibility framework; the list is therefore not exhaustive of the definitions contained in the RGAS. Additional definitions have been formulated specifically for the purposes of this commentary in order to facilitate the interpretation and application of the relevant provisions.

Where necessary, a definition reproduced from the RGAS is accompanied by an interpretative note clarifying its application in the context of this commentary.

Unless otherwise indicated, the definitions contained in the RGAS shall prevail in the event of any inconsistency.

Definitions set out in the RGAS

1. **FIFA**: Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
2. **Association**: a football association recognised as such by FIFA. It is a member of FIFA, unless a different meaning is evident from the context.

[...]

6. **Country**: a state recognised as independent by a majority of members of the United Nations.
7. **Confederation**: a group of associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographic region).

[...]

12. **Member Association**: an association that has been admitted into membership of FIFA by the FIFA Congress.

[...]

14. **Club**: a member of an association (that is a Member Association of FIFA) or a member of a league recognised by a Member Association that enters at least one team in a competition.
15. **Player**: any football player licensed by an association.

[...]

17. **Official competition**: a competition for representative teams organised by FIFA or any confederation.

    Further clarifications on the term "official competition": i) Unless otherwise provided by FIFA or by the organising confederation in the applicable competition regulations, any competition for representative teams organised by FIFA or a confederation shall be regarded as an official competition for the purposes of the RGAS; ii) Olympic Football Tournaments are considered as official competitions; iii) For the avoidance of doubt, FIFA retains the authority to determine the official status of any such competition, irrespective of the classification attributed to it by the relevant confederation.

Definitions and abbreviations specific to this commentary

For the purposes of this commentary, the following additional definitions and abbreviations have been formulated (and/or adopted from existing definitions) to facilitate the interpretation and application of the eligibility framework. In the context of this commentary, these definitions are explanatory in nature and do not amend, replace or prevail over the definitions or substantive provisions of the RGAS.

Unless otherwise indicated, the definitions contained in the RGAS shall prevail in the event of any inconsistency.

1. **"A" international level**: the highest level of representative-team football, commonly referred to as senior international level. A match shall in principle be regarded as having been played at "A" international level where the relevant Member Association is entitled to field its highest-level representative team from among the eligible players available for selection, and the applicable competition regulations do not impose an age restriction that precludes the team from competing as a senior representative team.

2. **CAS**: the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

3. **Commentary**: this Commentary on the Rules Governing Eligibility to Play for Representative Teams.

4. **Competition period**: the period starting with the first official match of the national league championship or national cup competition, whichever comes first, and ending with the last official match played within those competitions (as defined in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players).

5. **ECJ**: the European Court of Justice.

6. **Fielded**: a player shall be regarded as having been fielded where they have physically taken part in a match for any period of time, however brief, whether as a member of the starting line-up or upon entering the field of play as a substitute. A player shall not be regarded as having been fielded solely by reason of having been called up, included in the match squad, named among the substitutes or sanctioned by the referee whilst remaining on the team bench.

7. **Guide**: the Guide to Submitting a Request for Eligibility or a Change of Association.
8. **International transfer**: the movement of the registration of a player from one association to another association.
9. **Legal nationality**: the nationality held by a person pursuant to the applicable national law, as distinct from their sporting nationality under the RGAS. Legal nationality needs to be permanent and cannot be dependent on residence in a certain country.
10. **Procedural Rules**: the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal.
11. **PSC**: the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal.
12. **RGAS**: the FIFA Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes.
13. **Sporting nationality**: the regulatory status that determines the Member Association whose representative teams a player is eligible to represent. A player who participates in a match in an official competition for a representative team of a Member Association becomes tied to the sporting nationality associated with that Member Association, subject to article 10 of the RGAS.
14. **Type of football (also referred to as "kind of football")**: any of the three forms of football regulated by FIFA, namely 11-a-side football, futsal and beach soccer. A player who is fielded for a representative team of a Member Association in an official competition in any one type of football is tied to the sporting nationality associated with that Member Association in respect of all types of football. Accordingly, a player may not simultaneously be tied to different Member Associations in different types of football.

Article 6 of the RGAS

Principles



ARTICLE 6 – PRINCIPLES

1. *Any person holding a permanent nationality that is not dependent on residence in a certain country is eligible to play for the representative teams of the association of that country.*

2. *There is a distinction between holding a nationality and being eligible to obtain a nationality. A player holds a nationality if, through the operation of a national law, they have:*

   a) *automatically received a nationality (e.g. from birth) without being required to undertake any further administrative requirements (e.g. abandoning a separate nationality); or*

   b) *acquired a nationality by undertaking a naturalisation process.*

3. *With the exception of the conditions specified in article 10 below, any player who has already participated in a match (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category or any type of football for one association may not play an international match for a representative team of another association.*

4. *For the purposes of articles 7 to 10 below, the phrase "lived on the territory of the relevant association" shall mean a period of physical presence on the territory of that association. The period shall be for a defined period of time (in years) in accordance with the relevant provision.*

   a) *The period of physical presence is not interrupted by:*

      i) *short absences abroad for personal reasons;*

      ii) *holidays abroad during the football off-season;*

      iii) *medical treatment or rehabilitation abroad following injury or illness; or*

      iv) *travel abroad as a result of football employment.*

   b) *The period of physical presence is interrupted (and time requirement resets) where:*

      i) *a player is transferred to a club affiliated to a different association; or*

      ii) *a player is absent from a territory for any reason other than those set out in paragraph a) above.*

5. *Notwithstanding article 6 paragraph 4 a), unless exceptional circumstances exist, a player must be physically present on the territory of an association for at least 183 days during a 12-month period to be considered to have "lived on the territory" of that association for that year.*

6. *For the purposes of articles 7 to 10 below, the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal shall govern any requests for eligibility or change of association.*

COMMENTARY

Overview

Article 6 lays down the general principles applicable to eligibility to play for representative teams in international football.

Article 6 governs the nationality requirement, the effect of participation in a match in an official competition on a player's sporting nationality, the interpretation of residence for the purposes of subsequent articles of the RGAS, and the procedural framework applicable to requests for eligibility and change of association.

Article 6 paragraphs 1 and 2

1. Article 6 paragraph 1 provides the basis upon which a player may assert eligibility to participate for the representative teams of a Member Association.

2. Eligibility is conditional upon two threshold matters:

   2.1 the player holding a nationality; and

   2.2 that nationality being a permanent nationality that is not dependent on residence in a certain country.

3. Article 6 paragraph 2 clarifies the meaning of "holding a nationality", following several requests from Member Associations over the years and in accordance with the established jurisprudence.

Meaning of "nationality"

4. The RGAS continue to use the term "nationality" in the context of eligibility to participate for representative teams. As the criterion remains unchanged, it is important to distinguish this regulatory terminology from domestic legal systems in which a distinction may be drawn between the terms "nationality" and "citizenship".

5. In public international law, the legal bond between an individual and the state continues to be described by referring to the term "nationality". The International Court of Justice has described nationality as:

   "a legal bond having as its basis a social fact of attachment, a genuine connection of existence, interests and sentiments, together with the existence of reciprocal rights and duties. It may be said to constitute the juridical expression of the fact that the individual upon whom it is conferred, either directly by the law or as the result of an act of the authorities, is in fact more closely connected

with the population of the State conferring nationality than with that of any other State".[7]

6. In the same sense, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights definition of nationality also remains valid and unaltered as:

   "the political and legal bond that links a person to a given state and binds him to it with ties of allegiance and loyalty, entitling him to diplomatic protection from that state".[8]

7. One of the many mechanisms available to a state to legitimise the nationality of an individual is to grant citizenship. CAS has commented as follows:

   "There is clearly room in international law, and in the municipal law of some countries, to draw a distinction between 'citizenship' and 'nationality'. It can be expressed in the proposition that all citizens are nationals but not all nationals are necessarily citizens. That is to say, there may be a point in a person's relationship with a particular country where a person may become a national of that country notwithstanding he or she is not a citizen."[9]

8. This approach is consistently reflected in FIFA competition regulations, which continue to provide that proof of nationality is established through the holding of a permanent international passport. By way of example, article 15 paragraph 3 of the Regulations for the FIFA World Cup 2026™ Preliminary Competition provides that:

   "The only document considered to be valid proof of a player's identity and nationality shall be a permanent international passport that explicitly, and in Latin characters, states the player's first name(s) and surname(s), as well as their day, month and year of birth. Identity cards or other local supporting official documents shall not be accepted as a valid means of identification."

   Similarly, article 24 paragraph 5 of the Regulations for the FIFA Women's World Cup Brazil 2027™ establishes that:

   "Before the start of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027, every player on the final release list shall prove their identity, nationality and age by producing their legally valid individual passport with photograph (stating their day, month and year of birth). Any player who fails to submit these documents will not be allowed to take part in the FIFA Women's World Cup 2027."

7 Nottebohm case (second phase), judgment of 6 April 1955: ICJ reports 1955, p. 23.
8 *Castillo Petruzzi et al. v. Peru*, judgment of 30 May 1999, IACHR (Ser. C) No. 52 (1999).
9 CAS OG 00/003 *Arturo Miranda/International Olympic Committee (IOC)*.

Meaning of "holding a nationality"

9. The RGAS establish a clear distinction between holding a nationality and being eligible to obtain a nationality. The decisive question, for the purposes of the RGAS, remains whether the player holds a nationality. That expression refers to the present and legally effective possession of a nationality under the applicable national law. It is distinct from a situation in which a player is merely entitled, eligible or able to obtain that nationality at a later stage.

10. In particular, a player will not be regarded as holding a nationality merely because the relevant national legislation provides a route through which that nationality may be requested, confirmed or granted. The nationality must have already vested in the player. For the purposes of the RGAS, this may occur in two ways: either the nationality is received automatically at birth by operation of law, or it is subsequently acquired through a domestic legal process.

11. The first scenario concerns nationality received automatically at birth. This requires that the nationality be conferred by national legislation, from birth, in accordance with the principle of *jus soli* (birthplace), *jus sanguinis* (descent) or a combination of both, without the player being required to undertake any further administrative, declaratory or constitutive step for that nationality to exist.

12. The second scenario is where nationality is "acquired…by undertaking a naturalisation process". The term "naturalisation process" is interpreted broadly to mean any case aside from an automatic grant where nationality is acquired through the operation of a national law.

13. The decisive criterion is whether the nationality exists automatically as a matter of law, or whether it comes into existence only after the player or another person has completed an additional step. Formalities connected to the recording or evidencing of a status that already exists, such as birth registration, civil registry documentation or the issuance of a passport, do not normally prevent the nationality from being considered automatic.

14. By contrast, where nationality does not arise automatically and depends on the fulfilment of a substantive requirement under national law, the player will not be considered to have acquired that nationality automatically. Such scenarios include, without limitation, acquisition of nationality through:

    - a defined period of physical residence;
    - marriage;
    - the decision of a government official, body or monarch (e.g. presidential decree);
    - the exercise of an option or renunciation of another nationality;

- a defined amount of financial investment; or
- the fulfilment of substantial preconditions where a player is eligible to obtain a nationality.

15. On the other hand, a player is considered eligible to obtain a nationality where, under the applicable national law, they possess a legal entitlement or potential pathway to acquire a nationality in the future, but where one or more substantial legal, administrative or procedural requirements remain outstanding before the nationality becomes effective. In such circumstances, the player does not yet hold the nationality concerned and therefore cannot rely upon it for the purposes of eligibility to participate for the representative teams of the relevant Member Association.

16. In any scenario, in addition to holding the nationality, the requisites of genuine link established in article 7 or article 8 of the RGAS apply when considering the eligibility of a player to participate for the representative teams concerned.

Meaning of "permanent nationality that is not dependent on residence in a certain country"

17. Consistent with the established interpretation, the nationality held by a player must be both:

- "permanent", in that it is not automatically lost, withdrawn or rendered ineffective as a consequence of the player changing domicile; and
- not conditional on maintaining a domicile in a certain country.

Article 6 paragraph 3

18. Consistent with the established practice, article 6 paragraph 3 remains the central provision that determines when a player becomes tied to a sporting nationality associated with a Member Association for the purposes of their representative-team career.

19. A player is tied to a sporting nationality where:

    19.1 the player participated in a match (in full or in part); and

    19.2 that match was in an official competition, regardless of age category or type of football.

20. The established interpretation remains that participation in a match requires the player to have been fielded for any period of time.

    20.1 A player is considered to have been fielded where the player has physically taken part in the match, even for a matter of seconds, whether as a member of the starting line-up or after entering the field of play as a substitute.

    20.2 Conversely, a player who is named on the team bench but does not enter the field of play has not participated in the match. For the sake of completeness, the same applies where a player is sanctioned by the referee while on the bench but has not physically played in the match.

    20.3 Moreover, a player who has been called up to a representative-team squad but is not listed on the start list for a match as either a starter or substitute cannot be considered to have participated in that match.

21. The term "official competition" is defined in the FIFA Statutes as "a competition for representative teams organised by FIFA or any confederation".

    21.1 Friendly matches are therefore not matches in an official competition. Accordingly, a player's participation in a friendly match does not tie that player to the respective representative team and/or Member Association.

    21.2 Similarly, matches played as part of a representative-team competition not organised by FIFA or a confederation (e.g. tournaments organised by a regional association) are therefore not matches in an official competition. As above, a player's participation in such matches does not tie that player to the respective representative team and/or Member Association.

21.3 The status of a representative-team competition is to be determined by reference to the regulatory framework under which it is organised. In the absence of an express provision to the contrary in the applicable FIFA or confederation competition regulations, a competition organised by FIFA or a confederation will ordinarily fall within the meaning of an official competition.

21.4 Conversely, where the applicable competition regulations expressly designate a competition as friendly or non-official, the matches played as part of that competition will, in principle, not be treated as matches in an official competition.

21.5 FIFA remains competent to determine the status of a competition for the purposes of the RGAS, irrespective of the designation adopted by the organising confederation.

22. A player who is fielded by a representative team of a Member Association in a match in an official competition in one type of football (e.g. futsal) is tied to the sporting nationality of that Member Association for all types of football (e.g. 11-a-side football and/or beach soccer). Consequently, a player may not simultaneously be tied to the sporting nationality of one Member Association for one type of football and to that of another Member Association for a different type of football.

23. The established position remains that, once tied to the sporting nationality of a Member Association through participation in a match in an official competition, a player may represent another Member Association only after obtaining a favourable change-of-association decision pursuant to article 10. This applies irrespective of whether the player's first match for the representative team of the new Member Association is played in an official or a non-official competition, or in another kind of football.

24. As a general rule, it is the responsibility of the relevant association intending to call up and field a particular player to examine whether the latter is eligible to play for one of its representative teams.

24.1 A Member Association that intends to field a player in a representative-team match on the basis of article 6 (where applicable, read together with article 7 or article 8) has a responsibility to verify the eligibility of that player in advance. A Member Association is thus responsible for fielding only eligible players in a representative-team match.[10]

10 CAS 2012/A/2742 *Qatar Football Association v. FIFA, Oman Football Association and AFC.*

24.2 Article 19 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code provides that a Member Association that fields an ineligible player (including on the basis of non-compliance with the eligibility rules in the RGAS) may be sanctioned by the FIFA judicial bodies. This has been upheld in several CAS decisions.[11]

Article 6 paragraphs 4 and 5

25. Several provisions of the RGAS rely on the concept that a player "lived on the territory of the relevant association". Article 6 paragraphs 4 and 5 provide a definition of this concept.

26. In particular, where a player relies on article 7, 8 or 9 to establish eligibility for the representative teams of a Member Association, the player may invoke a "residence link" with the relevant territory. The purpose of article 6 paragraphs 4 and 5 is to clarify the meaning of that residence link and to identify the cumulative criteria that must be satisfied.

27. The first criterion is that "lived on the territory of the relevant association" refers to "a period of physical presence on the territory of that association".

    27.1 A player must therefore have been physically present within the territory of the relevant Member Association to be considered to have lived on the territory.

    27.2 A player's administrative registration or domicile in a territory, including for fiscal purposes, is not sufficient where the player was not physically present in that territory.

28. The second criterion is that the period of physical presence shall be for a defined period of time (in years).

    28.1 The residence-link criteria in articles 7, 8 and 9 establish the minimum number of years that a player must have been physically present on the territory of the relevant Member Association.

    28.2 By way of example, if a player asserts that they began their period of physical presence on 5 March 2023, they will complete the defined period of time (in years) for the first year on 4 March 2024, for the second year on 4 March 2025, and so forth.

11 CAS 2012/A/3013 *Sudan Football Association v. FIFA*; CAS 2013/A/3360 *Federação Cabo-verdiana de Futebol v. FIFA*; CAS 2017/A/5001 *Federación Boliviana de Fútbol v. FIFA*; CAS 2017/A/*5002 Federación Boliviana de Fútbol v. FIFA*.

28.3 A player does not need to continue to be physically present on the territory of the Member Association concerned at the time an assessment (by FIFA or the relevant Member Association) is made regarding the defined period of time (in years). Rather, a player must have simply met the requirement prior to their first match for the relevant Member Association's representative team.

29. A further key element concerns the circumstances in which an interruption to the player's physical presence may affect the required period of physical presence. The relevant question is whether, despite their absence, the player has developed and maintained a genuine link with the country or territory of the Member Association, in line with the core principles underpinning the eligibility rules.

30. In this respect, the rules distinguish between:

30.1 permitted absences from the territory of a Member Association; and

30.2 non-permitted absences from the territory of a Member Association, which cause the defined period to reset.

Permitted absences

31. The permitted absences relate to standard reasons for a player to leave the country or territory of a Member Association. They do not impact on the player's genuine link to the country or territory:

31.1 Short absences abroad for personal reasons: this includes, without limitation, weddings, funerals, childbirth, necessary administrative acts with state authorities, or short holidays abroad during the football season. Whether an absence is considered "short" will take into consideration, in particular, the length of time of the football off-season. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

31.2 Holidays abroad during the football off-season: the start and end dates of the relevant football competition period (as defined in the Definitions section of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players) are determined with reference to the data inserted in the FIFA Transfer Matching System by the relevant Member Association.

31.3 Medical treatment or rehabilitation abroad following injury or illness: this recognises that players and clubs may seek improved medical treatment that is only available abroad, or when it is in the best interests of the physical and mental health of a player to rehabilitate from a serious injury or illness abroad.

31.4 Travel abroad as a result of football employment: this includes travel for football trials, training camps, matches or competitions, whether for a club or a representative team.

32. If a player undertakes a permitted absence, the defined period (as required by articles 7, 8 and 9) is not considered interrupted.

33. The assessment of whether such an absence qualifies as permitted is ultimately always made on a case-by-case basis.

34. Notwithstanding the permitted absences, the physical presence of a player is always required in the country or territory of a Member Association for at least 183 days during a 12-month period in order for the player to have lived on the territory of the Member Association for that year of the defined period.

34.1 The period of 183 days reflects the definition of residence found in several national immigration (or similar) laws.

34.2 The only permitted deviation from the 183-day period is where exceptional circumstances exist. These are situations that do not depend on the will of the player (e.g. natural disasters, global pandemics, matters of force majeure). As above, the assessment of whether such exceptional circumstances exist is ultimately always made on a case-by-case basis.

Non-permitted absences

35. The non-permitted absences relate to circumstances in which a player's departure from the country or territory of a Member Association may indicate the absence or interruption of the requisite genuine link to that country or territory.

36. Article 6 paragraph 4 b) identifies two circumstances in which the applicable period of physical presence is interrupted and the relevant time requirement resets.

37. The first circumstance arises where a player is transferred to a club affiliated to a different Member Association:

37.1 For these purposes, an international transfer needs to occur. Such an international transfer interrupts the player's period of physical presence by operation of article 6 paragraph 4 b) i). The interruption occurs irrespective of the duration of the transfer and regardless of the period of physical presence already accrued by the player on the territory of the relevant Member Association.

37.2 The international transfer constitutes an interruption even where the player continues, as a matter of fact, to reside on the territory of the relevant Member Association. The decisive factor is the movement of the player's registration to a club affiliated to another association, rather than the player's place of domicile or administrative residence.

37.3 By way of example, if a player's period of physical presence is interrupted due to an international transfer, the relevant year of residence will not be deemed completed, regardless of whether the player had already accumulated more than 183 days of physical presence within the territory.

38. The second circumstance arises where a player is absent from the territory of the relevant Member Association for a reason other than one of the permitted absences exhaustively identified in article 6 paragraph 4 a):

38.1 Such an absence interrupts the applicable period of physical presence where it cannot be characterised as a short absence abroad for personal reasons, a holiday abroad during the football off-season, medical treatment or rehabilitation abroad following injury or illness, or travel abroad arising from football employment.

38.2 Whether a particular absence falls within one of the permitted categories must be determined based on the nature, purpose and duration of the absence, as well as the circumstances of the individual case. An absence that falls outside those categories is non-permitted and interrupts the relevant residence period.

39. In either of the circumstances described above, the period of physical presence accrued before the interruption is disregarded for the purposes of the applicable residence requirement. A new defined period begins only once the player resumes qualifying physical presence on the territory of the relevant Member Association.

Article 6 paragraph 6

40. Article 6 paragraph 6 concerns the process to submit requests governed substantively by the RGAS. This paragraph provides the legal basis for the application process for the following:

    40.1 A request for eligibility (cf. art. 8 par. 2 b); art. 9 par. 2): such requests are mandatory where the RGAS expressly require the relevant Member Association to obtain a prior eligibility decision before fielding the player. They may also arise where the applicable competition regulations require prior confirmation of eligibility, where FIFA determines that a particular category of cases should be subject to prior review rather than self-assessment by the Member Association, or where a Member Association seeks confirmation from the FIFA general secretariat owing to uncertainty as to the interpretation or application of the RGAS or this commentary.

    40.2 A request for a change of association (cf. art. 10): such requests arise where a player has already been fielded in a match in an official competition by a representative team of a Member Association and is thus tied to the sporting nationality associated with that Member Association.

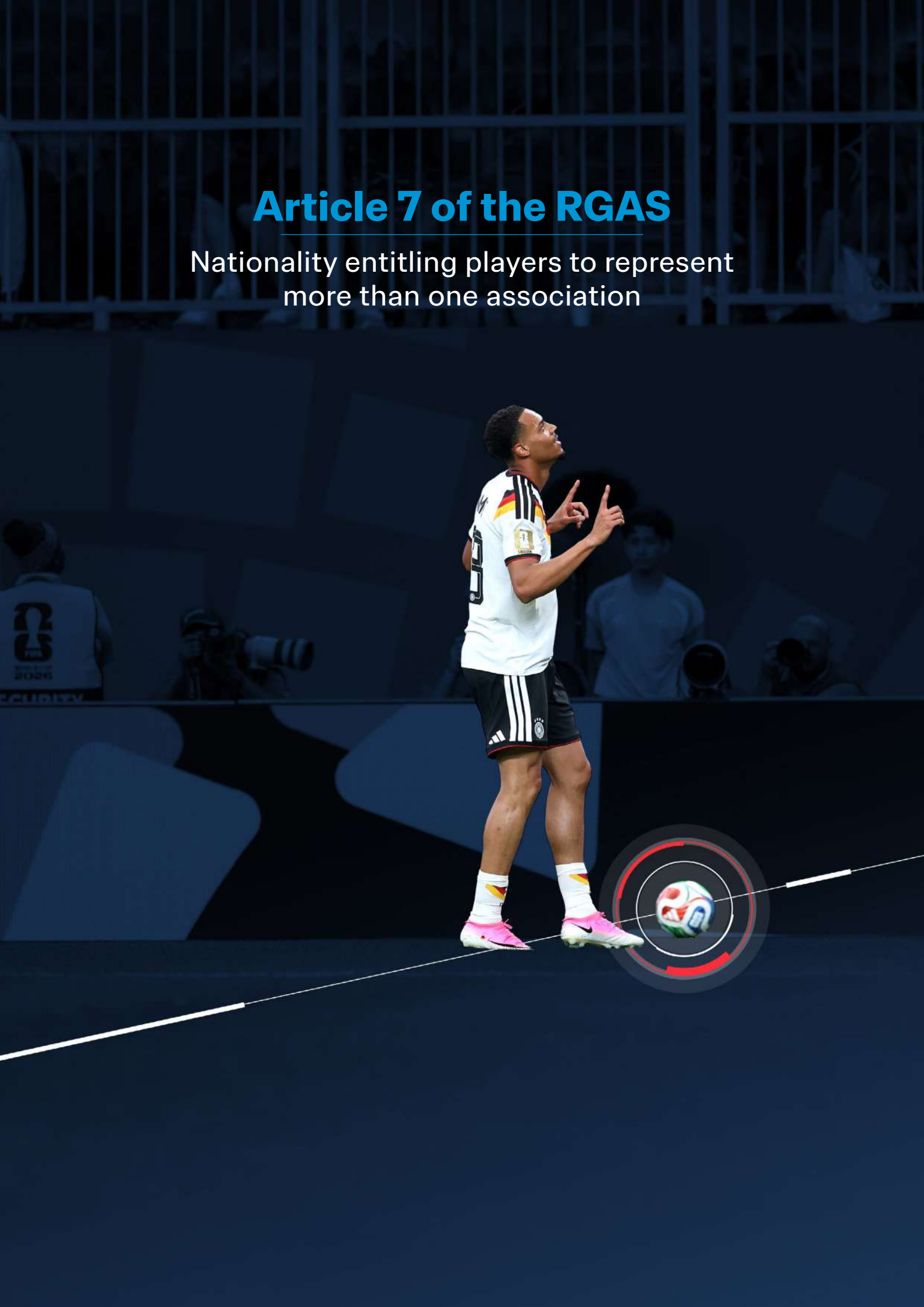
41. The request for eligibility or a change of association must be submitted exclusively via the FIFA Legal Portal at least 15 calendar days before the first day of the international window in which the representative team's activities for which the player is required will take place (cf. art. 31 par. 2 of the Procedural Rules).

42. Requests submitted outside the established deadline will, in principle, only be processed after the relevant international window. Exceptionally, FIFA may determine that a late request should be processed in time for that window where duly substantiated circumstances arising after the deadline render urgent consideration necessary. The existence of such circumstances shall be assessed restrictively on a case-by-case basis and shall not confer any entitlement to expedited processing.

43. The request for eligibility or a change of association shall be accompanied by the documents required for the relevant type of request, as set out in the Guide to Submitting a Request for Eligibility or a Change of Association (cf. art. 31 par. 3 of the Procedural Rules).

Article 7 of the RGAS

Nationality entitling players to represent more than one association



ARTICLE 7 – NATIONALITY ENTITLING PLAYERS TO REPRESENT MORE THAN ONE ASSOCIATION

1. *A player who, under the terms of article 6, is eligible to represent more than one association on account of their nationality, may play in an international match for one of these associations only if, in addition to holding the relevant nationality, they fulfil at least one of the following conditions:*

   a) *they were born on the territory of the relevant association;*

   b) *their biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant association;*

   c) *their grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant association; and/or*

   d) *they have lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least five years.*

2. *Regardless of paragraph 1 above, associations sharing a common nationality may make an agreement under which paragraph 1 d) of this article is deleted completely or amended to specify a longer time limit. Such agreements shall be lodged with and approved by the Council.*

3. *The associations which share a common nationality shall be identified and updated as appropriate by the FIFA general secretariat in a circular.*

Article 7 - Nationality entitling players to represent more than one association

COMMENTARY

Overview

FIFA's membership structure is not confined exclusively to sovereign states. Certain Member Associations represent territories rather than states and, for football purposes, are treated as distinct sporting communities within FIFA's regulatory framework.

Since nationality may be conferred only by a state, a single legal nationality may, within that structure, be relevant to more than one Member Association. Article 7 therefore governs the eligibility of players who hold such a "common nationality", also referred to as a "shared nationality", and who may consequently be eligible to represent more than one Member Association.

Article 7 paragraph 1

44. A player who falls within the scope of article 7 is eligible to participate for the representative teams of a specific Member Association only if they meet the requirements set out in article 7 paragraph 1. They must:

    44.1 hold the (common) nationality; and

    44.2 satisfy at least one of the genuine-link conditions as defined in article 7 paragraph 1 a) to d).

45. The first alternative condition a) is that the player was born on the territory of the relevant association. In other words, the player's birthplace must be within the physical territory for which the association governs over all forms of football.

    45.1 In this regard, even where the national law of a country may deem an individual to have been born in that country by reference to their place of birth, the applicable criterion remains unchanged. For FIFA purposes, the player is deemed to have been born in the country of the Member Association that currently governs over all forms of football on the territory where their place of birth is situated, determined by reference to present-day borders. The relevant point in time is when the act in question takes place, namely the fielding of the player or the submission of an eligibility or change-of-association request.

45.2 By way of example:

- a player, who has never participated in a match in an official competition for a representative team of a Member Association, was born in city A;
- at the time of the player's birth, city A was part of a territory governed by Member Association X, which continues to govern over all types of football in that territory;
- at present, city A is now part of a territory governed by Member Association Y, where Member Association Y currently governs all types of football.

In these circumstances, the player would only be able to rely on their birth in city A to establish eligibility to represent the teams of Member Association Y.

46. The second alternative condition b) requires that the player's biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant Member Association. The term "biological mother or biological father", rather than simply "mother or father", is intentional. It serves as a safeguard against abusive practices of "nationality shopping" by preventing situations in which an adult or a talented young player may be legally adopted for the purpose of facilitating a change of sporting nationality.

46.1 Should a player seek to rely on the place of birth of their adoptive parent, a request for eligibility (or for a change of association, where the player has already participated in a match in an official competition for a representative team of a Member Association) must be submitted in accordance with the Procedural Rules.

46.2 The PSC will determine whether an adoptive parent may stand in place of a biological parent, taking into consideration, inter alia, factors such as the age at which the adoption occurred, the age at which the player relocated (where applicable), whether the player's biological parents are still alive, and whether the player has a genuine link to the relevant Member Association.

46.3 By way of example, the PSC decided that an adoptive parent could substitute for a biological parent where the player was adopted and relocated to the territory at the age of three months and the player's biological parents were deceased.

47. The third alternative condition c) requires that the player's grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant association. The terms "grandmother" and "grandfather" shall again be understood as referring to the player's biological grandparents, in accordance with the same rationale set out above.

    47.1 In recent years, there have been instances where a player wishes to rely on the birthplace of one of their parents' adoptive parents, i.e. cases in which one of the player's biological parents was adopted. Consequently, the player's request for eligibility to play for the representative teams of the relevant association is based on their relationship with their parent's adoptive parent. In such situations, an analogy could, in principle, be made to allow the player's parent's adoptive parent to substitute for their biological grandparent. However, this requires a case-by-case analysis, subject to the specific circumstances and the corroborating evidence submitted by the relevant association, in line with the considerations set out above.

48. The final alternative condition d) requires that the player has lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least five years. In this respect, reference can be made to article 6 paragraphs 4 and 5, with the following specifications and explanations:

    48.1 The defined period of time (in years) is always five uninterrupted years.

    48.2 This requirement serves to better demonstrate a genuine link between the player and the territory of the Member Association.

    48.3 Unlike article 8, the defined period of time in article 7 paragraph 1 d) is not dependent on the age at which the player started their physical presence on the territory.

Article 7 paragraph 2

49. Article 7 paragraph 2 allows Member Associations sharing a common nationality to enter into an agreement under which article 7 paragraph 1 d) is deleted completely or amended to specify a longer time limit for their particular case.

50. The interpretation of this provision remains unchanged. Any such agreement shall apply exclusively to the Member Associations that are party to it. Such agreements must be submitted to, and approved by, the FIFA Council in order to ensure that they are reviewed for potentially abusive practices.

51. Any such agreements between Member Associations shall apply uniformly to all players holding the common nationality and may not be applied on an individual or case-by-case basis.

Article 7 - Nationality entitling players to represent more than one association

Article 7 paragraph 3

52. The following Member Associations share a nationality in the context of article 7:

- American nationality: American Samoa; Guam; Puerto Rico; United States; US Virgin Islands
- British nationality: Anguilla; Bermuda; British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands; England; Gibraltar; Montserrat; Northern Ireland; Scotland; Turks and Caicos Islands; Wales
- Chinese nationality: China PR; Hong Kong, China; Macau
- Danish nationality: Denmark; Faroe Islands
- Dutch nationality: Aruba; Curaçao; Netherlands
- French nationality: France; New Caledonia; Tahiti
- New Zealand nationality: Cook Islands; New Zealand

53. In addition, several associations that are members of confederations but not Member Associations of FIFA also share a nationality for the purposes of article 7. These include:

- Bonaire, a Concacaf member whose players hold Dutch nationality
- French Guyana, a Concacaf member whose players hold French nationality
- Guadalupe, a Concacaf member whose players hold French nationality
- Martinique, a Concacaf member whose players hold French nationality
- Northern Mariana Islands, an AFC member whose players hold American nationality
- Saint Martin, a Concacaf member whose players hold French nationality
- Sint Maarten, a Concacaf member whose players hold Dutch nationality

Article 7 - Nationality entitling players to represent more than one association

54. For confederation competitions in which the above-mentioned football associations participate, and given that the RGAS must be applied without amendment or addition, eligibility must be assessed on the basis of article 7, read in conjunction with article 6 paragraph 3. In this respect, the criteria set out by CAS remain unchanged.

    54.1 A player who has previously participated in a match in an official competition for a representative team of a Member Association of FIFA is not eligible to participate in a match in an official competition for a football association that is not a Member Association of FIFA. This position has been confirmed by CAS.[12]

    54.2 In any event, a football association that is not a Member Association of FIFA is not entitled to submit a change-of-association request on behalf of a player before the PSC.

    54.3 However, a player who has previously participated for a football association that is not a Member Association of FIFA in an official competition organised by a confederation remains eligible to participate for a Member Association of FIFA in an official competition organised by FIFA, provided that the player fulfils the relevant requirements of the RGAS.

12 CAS 2017/A/5290 *Florent Malouda v. Concacaf.*

Article 8 of the RGAS

Acquisition of a new nationality



ARTICLE 8 – ACQUISITION OF A NEW NATIONALITY

1. *Any player who refers to article 6 paragraph 1 to assume a new nationality and who has not played international football in accordance with article 6 paragraph 3 shall be eligible to play for the representative teams of the new association only if they fulfil one of the following conditions:*

   a) *they were born on the territory of the relevant association;*

   b) *their biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant association;*

   c) *their grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant association; and/or*

   d) *they have lived on the territory of the relevant association:*

      i) *for players that began living on the territory before the age of 10: at least three years;*

      ii) *for players that began living on the territory between the age of 10 and 18: at least five years;*

      iii) *for players that began living on the territory from the age of 18: at least five years.*

2. *A player who seeks to rely upon paragraph 1 d) ii) must:*

   a) *demonstrate that the move to the territory of the association was not for the purpose of participating for its representative teams; and*

   b) *submit, via the relevant association, a request for eligibility to the Football Tribunal.*

Article 8 - Acquisition of a new nationality

COMMENTARY

Overview

Article 8 governs the eligibility of a player who relies upon a new nationality for the purpose of representing a Member Association and who has not previously participated in a match in an official competition for a representative team of any Member Association within the meaning of article 6 paragraph 3. In addition to holding the relevant nationality, the player must establish a genuine link with the Member Association concerned through birth, descent or residence.

Where eligibility is based on residence, the applicable qualifying period is determined by the age at which the player began living on the relevant territory. Additional safeguards apply where the player began living there between the ages of ten and 18: the move must not have been made for the purpose of representing the association, and a request for eligibility must be submitted to the Football Tribunal.

Article 8 paragraph 1

55. Article 8 paragraph 1 remains unchanged, as it sets out the criteria for a player's eligibility to participate for the representative teams of a Member Association where they have:

    55.1 assumed a new nationality during the course of their life (for the purposes of article 8, this criterion is not limited to nationality acquired through a naturalisation process, but also applies where the player acquired that nationality automatically at birth and subsequently assumes or relies on it for eligibility purposes); and

    55.2 never participated for any representative team of a Member Association in an official competition in any age category or any kind of football.

56. Besides holding the nationality of the territory of the Member Association concerned, a player who is subject to article 8 is eligible to participate for the representative teams of that Member Association only if they meet at least one of the genuine-link conditions provided in article 8 paragraphs 1 a) to d).

57. Article 8 paragraphs 1 a) to c) correspond to their equivalent provisions in article 7. Reference can be made to the commentary on those respective provisions.

58. Article 8 paragraph 1 d) establishes different residence periods depending on the age at which the player began living on the territory of the relevant Member Association:

    58.1 Before the age of ten: the defined period of time (in years) is at least three uninterrupted years of physical presence. The rationale for this shortened period is that, given the young age of the player at the time of relocation, the move is presumed not to have been made for the purpose of obtaining eligibility to represent that Member Association.

    58.2 Between the age of ten and 18: the defined period of time (in years) is at least five uninterrupted years of physical presence. In such cases, the player must also satisfy the additional requirements set out in article 8 paragraph 2.

    58.3 From the age of 18: the defined period of time (in years) is at least five uninterrupted years of physical presence.

59. The reference to "began living on the territory" is deliberate. It prevents a Member Association from selecting whichever period of residence is most favourable to the player. The relevant Member Association must therefore provide official documentation establishing the date on which the player's residence on the territory began.

60. By way of example, recent decisions of the PSC have confirmed the approach established under article 6 paragraph 4: where, during the applicable defined period, a player is registered with a club affiliated to another Member Association, the player's period of physical presence on the territory of the relevant Member Association is interrupted and the residence period is reset. This applies even where the player had already accumulated more than 183 days of physical presence in the relevant 12-month period.

61. The request for eligibility must be submitted exclusively via the FIFA Legal Portal at least 15 calendar days before the first day of the international window in which the representative team's activities for which the player is required will take place (cf. art. 31 par. 2 of the Procedural Rules).

Article 8 paragraph 2

62. Article 8 paragraph 2 imposes two additional and cumulative requirements where a player seeks to rely upon the residence criterion set out in article 8 paragraph 1 d) ii), having begun living on the territory of the relevant Member Association between the ages of ten and 18.

63. First, the player must demonstrate that the move to the territory of the relevant Member Association was not undertaken for the purpose of participating for its representative teams. This requirement operates as a safeguard against the use of relocation as a means of obtaining eligibility to represent a particular association.

64. The reference to "began living on the territory" is deliberate. This provision aims to prevent the relevant Member Association from choosing whichever time frame suits it best. For that exact reason, the Member Association must provide official documentation establishing the date on which the player's residence on the territory began.

65. Second, the relevant Member Association must submit a request for eligibility to the PSC on behalf of the player. The player may not participate for the representative teams of that Member Association unless and until a favourable decision has been rendered.

66. Likewise, the request for eligibility must also be submitted exclusively through the FIFA Legal Portal, in accordance with article 31 paragraph 2 of the Procedural Rules, at least 15 calendar days before the first day of the international window in which the representative team's activities for which the player is required will take place.

Article 9 of the RGAS

Stateless individuals



ARTICLE 9 – STATELESS INDIVIDUALS

1. *A player that:*

   a) *does not hold any nationality; and*

   b) *due to national law of the country of their domicile, will never be granted the nationality of such country,*

   may be declared eligible to play for the representative teams of the association concerned provided that:

   c) *they have lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least five years; and*

   d) *they can demonstrate that the move to the territory of the association was not for the purpose of participating for its representative teams.*

2. *A player who seeks to rely upon paragraph 1 must submit, via the relevant association, a request for eligibility to the Football Tribunal.*

COMMENTARY

Overview

The concept of statelessness has long been recognised in public international law. A stateless person is someone who is "not considered as a national by any state under the operation of its law".[13] Article 9 aims to provide players in this specific situation with the opportunity to participate in representative-team football.

It is the only exception to the general principle of "no nationality, no eligibility" and corrects an excessive hardship while preserving the sporting integrity of representative-team competitions.

Article 9 paragraph 1

67. Article 9 paragraph 1 regulates the eligibility of a player who is considered stateless to participate for the representative teams of a Member Association.

68. In order to be declared eligible to participate for the representative teams of a Member Association, a stateless person must demonstrate that:

    68.1 they do not hold any nationality;

    68.2 they will never be granted the nationality of the country of their domicile on the basis of the relevant national law;

    68.3 they have lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least five uninterrupted years (this period of time is not dependent on the age at which the player began the physical presence); and

    68.4 their move to the territory of the Member Association was not for the purpose of participating for its representative teams.

69. The term "lived on the territory of the relevant association" is again defined by article 6 paragraphs 4 and 5, which – as explained above – set out the circumstances under which periods of physical presence are considered not interrupted and the situations that give rise to an interruption of such periods, as well as the minimum number of days required within a 12-month period for a player to be deemed to have lived on the territory of the relevant association.

13 1954 *Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.*

70. Furthermore, this exception applies only to situations where the player does not hold any nationality. For the sake of completeness, this provision would not apply to cases where the player has been banned, for any reason, from participating for their Member Association's representative teams while retaining their nationality.

Article 9 paragraph 2

71. In order to prevent abuse, the relevant Member Association must submit a request for eligibility to the PSC on behalf of the player, pursuant to the Procedural Rules, prior to the player being permitted to participate for its representative teams. The request for eligibility must be submitted exclusively via the FIFA Legal Portal at least 15 calendar days before the first day of the international window in which the representative team's activities for which the player is required will take place (cf. art. 31 par. 2 of the Procedural Rules).

Article 10 of the RGAS

Change of association



ARTICLE 10 – CHANGE OF ASSOCIATION

1. *A player may, only once, request to change the association for which they are eligible to play to the association of another country of which they hold nationality.*

2. *A request to change association may be granted only in the following circumstances:*

   a) *the player:*

      i) *was fielded in a match in an official competition at any level (with the exception of "A" international level) in any kind of football for their current association; and*

      ii) *at the time of being fielded for their first match in an official competition in any kind of football for their current association, they already held the nationality of the association which they wish to represent.*

   b) *the player:*

      i) *was fielded in a match in an official competition at any level (with the exception of "A" international level) in any kind of football for their current association;*

      ii) *at the time of being fielded for their first match in an official competition in any kind of football for their current association, they did not hold the nationality of the association which they wish to represent;*

      iii) *at the time of being fielded for their last match in an official competition in any kind of football for their current association, they had not turned 21 years old; and*

      iv) *meets any of the requirements provided in article 7 or 8.*

   c) *the player:*

      i) *was fielded in a match in an official competition at "A" international level in any kind of football for their current association;*

      ii) *at the time of being fielded for their first match in an official competition (at any level) in any kind of football for their current association, they held the nationality of the association which they wish to represent;*

iii) at the time of being fielded for their last match in an official competition in any kind of football for their current association, they had not turned 21 years old;

iv) was fielded in no more than three matches at "A" international level in any kind of football for their current association, whether in an official competition or non-official competition;

v) at least three years have passed since being fielded for their last match at "A" international level in any kind of football for their current association, whether in an official competition or non-official competition; and

vi) has never participated in any kind of football at "A" international level in the final tournament of the FIFA World Cup™ or a final tournament of a confederation competition.

d) the player:

i) wishes to represent an association that was admitted to FIFA membership after being fielded in their first match in an official competition (at any level) in any kind of football for their current association;

ii) was never fielded in a match in an official competition (at any level) in any kind of football for their current association after the association which they wish to represent was admitted to FIFA membership;

iii) at the time of being fielded for their first match in an official competition (at any level) in any kind of football for their current association.

a. held the nationality of the association which they wish to represent; or

b. obtained the nationality of the association which they wish to represent as soon as reasonably practicable after the country was recognised by the majority of members of the United Nations;

iv) meets any of the requirements provided in article 7 or 8.

e) the player:

i) was fielded in a match in an official competition at "A" international level in any kind of football for their current association;

ii) permanently loses their nationality without their consent or against their will due to a decision by a government authority; and

iii) holds the nationality of the association that they wish to represent.

3. A player is not permitted to play for their new association in any competition in which they have already played for their previous association.

4. A player who seeks to rely upon paragraph 2 must submit, via the relevant association, a request for change of association to the Football Tribunal.

5. A player that was:

a) granted a change of association; and

b) was not fielded in a match in any (official or unofficial) competition in any kind of football by the new association,

may request a change of association back to their former association provided they continue to hold the nationality of such association.

6. A player who seeks to rely upon paragraph 5 must submit, via the relevant association, a request for change of association to the Football Tribunal

7. A player that has filed a request in accordance with this article is not eligible to participate for any representative team until the request has been decided upon.

COMMENTARY

Overview

Article 10 is the provision governing the right of a player to change their sporting nationality in football after they have participated (at least in part of a match) in an official competition for the representative team of a Member Association in any age category or any kind of football.

The underlying principle remains unchanged. Once a player has already participated in a match (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category or any type of football for a representative team of one association, that player may not play in a match for a representative team of another association. However, a player may – in principle only once – request to change the association for which they are eligible to play to the association of another country of which they hold the nationality, but only in cases where one of the five circumstances outlined in article 10 paragraph 2 applies.

A change-of-association request must be submitted exclusively via the FIFA Legal Portal at least 15 calendar days before the first day of the international window in which the representative team's activities for which the player is required will take place (cf. art. 31 par. 2 of the Procedural Rules).

Article 10 paragraph 1

72. Article 10 paragraph 1 preserves the principle that a player may only once request a change-of-association decision from the PSC. The sole exception is provided in article 10 paragraph 5.

73. A change-of-association request is only necessary if the player is already tied to a sporting nationality associated with a Member Association as per article 6 paragraph 3. Consequently, a player who is eligible to participate for multiple Member Associations on the basis of article 6 (where applicable, read together with article 7 or article 8) does not require a change-of-association decision if they have only been fielded by a representative team of a Member Association in a match in a non-official competition.

Article 10 paragraph 2

74. Article 10 paragraph 2 sets out the five exhaustive circumstances in which a player may be authorised to change sporting nationality. The provision is limited to the situations expressly identified therein and may not be extended by analogy. Unless the relevant subparagraph provides otherwise, the requirements applicable to each circumstance are cumulative and must all be satisfied for a change of association to be granted.

Article 10 paragraph 2 a)

75. Article 10 paragraph 2 a) applies to the situation in which a player is tied to their current Member Association through participation in a match in an official competition below "A" international level and already held the nationality of the new Member Association at the relevant time.

76. A change of association may be granted under this provision where the following cumulative conditions are met:

    76.1 the player was fielded in a match in an official competition at any level except "A" international level in any kind of football by a representative team of their current Member Association; and

    76.2 the player already held the nationality of the new Member Association before they were fielded in a match in an official competition in any kind of football by a representative team of their current Member Association.

77. Regarding the definition of "A" international level, it is important to bear in mind that the decisive factor to determine if a specific competition or match is of "A" international level is whether the competition is subject to an age limitation. Other regulatory restrictions on player selection, including restrictions linked to the place of registration or employment of players, do not in themselves prevent a competition from being categorised as "A" international level.

    77.1 By way of example, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament is considered "A" international level, whereas the Men's Olympic Football Tournament is not, due to the age limitation established in its competition regulations.

    77.2 Accordingly, a competition may still qualify as being at "A" international level where its eligibility requirements restrict participation to players registered with or employed by clubs in a particular domestic league, country or region.

78. The player must have held dual or multiple nationalities (i.e. at least those of their current Member Association and new Member Association) or a common nationality at the time they were first fielded in a match in an official competition by a representative team of their current Member Association.

    78.1 This requirement must be corroborated by official documentary evidence demonstrating that the player already held the nationality of the new Member Association before their first match in an official competition for a representative team of their current association. For this purpose, only documents that establish, with certainty, the date on which the relevant nationality was held may be assessed by the PSC.

78.2 Such evidence may include, in particular, a valid or expired permanent international passport issued by the country of the new Member Association before the player's first match in an official competition for a representative team of their current association, or an official birth certificate, civil-registry extract or equivalent state-issued document expressly confirming that the player held the nationality of the new Member Association from a date preceding that match.

78.3 Documents issued after the player's first match for their current Member Association will not, in themselves, be sufficient unless they meet the requirements set out above.

Article 10 paragraph 2 b)

79. Article 10 paragraph 2 b) remains a limited exception designed to address situations of excessive hardship arising from differences between domestic nationality laws. In particular, this exception recognises that Member Associations domiciled in countries that do not permit dual or multiple nationality may otherwise be prevented from selecting players developed within their diaspora, where those players had previously been fielded in a match in an official competition below "A" international level by a representative team of another Member Association.

80. A change of association may be granted under this provision where the following cumulative conditions are met:

80.1 the player was fielded in a match in an official competition at any level except "A" international level in any kind of football by a representative team of their current Member Association;

80.2 the player did not hold the nationality of the new Member Association before they were fielded in a match in an official competition in any kind of football by a representative team of their current Member Association;

80.3 at the time of their last match in an official competition in any kind of football for a representative team of their current Member Association, the player had not turned 21 years old; and

80.4 the player satisfies at least one genuine-link condition under article 7 or article 8.

81. For the purposes of article 10 paragraph 2 b), the previously defined concepts of "fielded", "official competition", "'A' international level" and "kind of football" apply.

82. Consistent with the principle of legal certainty, the age requirement (that they had not turned 21 years old) shall not apply to players who played their last match in an official competition in any kind of football for a representative team of their current association prior to 18 September 2020 (the date that the September 2020 amendments entered into force).

83. In this respect, any player who participated in a match in an official competition in any kind of football for a representative team of their current association in these circumstances could not have reasonably expected, based on the former wording of the RGAS, that such participation would prevent them from changing association in the future in the event that FIFA decided to relax its eligibility rules. The following table contains some basic examples of this approach:

Change-of-association request from association A to association B submitted after 18 September 2020	Age requirement	Outcome
Born on 1 January 1997 on the territory of the country of association B Obtained the nationality of the country of association B on 1 January 2020 Fielded at youth level in official competitions for representative teams of association A, the first match being on 3 January 2015 (age: 18) and the last on 20 June 2018 (age: 21) Never played at "A" international level for representative teams of association A	**NO** Last match in an official competition with a representative team of association A was played prior to 18 September 2020	Change of association possible No age requirement + all other cumulative requirements met
Born on 1 January 1997 on the territory of the country of association B Obtained the nationality of the country of association B on 1 January 2020 Fielded at youth level in official competitions for representative teams of association A, the first match being on 3 January 2015 (age: 18) and the last on 20 September 2020 (age: 23) Never played at "A" international level for representative teams of association A	**YES** Last match in an official competition with a representative team of association A was played after 18 September 2020	Change of association not possible Age requirement not met as the player was 21 years or older on the date of their last match for a representative team of association A

Change-of-association request from association A to association B submitted after 18 September 2020	Age requirement	Outcome
Born on 1 January 2000 on the territory of the country of association B Obtained the nationality of the country of association B on 1 January 2020 Fielded at youth level in official competitions for representative teams of association A, the first match being on 3 January 2015 (age: 15) and the last on 20 February 2020 (age: 20) Never played at "A" international level for representative teams of association A	**NO** Last match in an official competition with a representative team of association A was played prior to 18 September 2020	Change of association possible No age requirement + all other cumulative requirements met
Born on 1 January 2000 on the territory of the country of association B Obtained the nationality of the country of association B on 1 January 2020 Fielded at youth level in official competitions for representative teams of association A, the first match being on 3 January 2015 (age: 15) and the last on 20 November 2020 (age: 20) Never played at "A" international level for representative teams of association A	**YES** Last match in an official competition with a representative team of association A was played after 18 September 2020	Change of association possible All cumulative requirements met, including age requirement, as the player was younger than 21 on the date of their last match for a representative team of association A

84. The obligation to meet a genuine-link condition under article 7 or article 8 respects the general principle underpinning the rules.

Article 10 paragraph 2 c)

85. Article 10 paragraph 2 c) remains a narrow regulatory exception for players who hold dual or multiple nationality or a common nationality, and despite having been fielded at "A" international level for a representative team of their current Member Association, have only had limited exposure at that level and – at the time when they were fielded – already held the nationality of the Member Association to which they now seek to change. The provision is intended to avoid excessive hardship in cases where such participation did not amount to a definitive senior international career, while preserving the sporting integrity of representative-team football.

86. A change of association may be granted under this provision where the following cumulative conditions are met:

    86.1 the player was fielded in a match in an official competition at "A" international level in any kind of football by a representative team of their current Member Association;

    86.2 the player already held the nationality of the new Member Association before they were fielded in a match in an official competition at any level in any kind of football by a representative team of their current Member Association;

    86.3 at the time of being fielded in their last match in an official competition in any kind of football for a representative team of their current Member Association, the player had not turned 21 years old;

    86.4 the player was fielded in no more than three matches (in an official or non-official competition) at "A" international level in any kind of football by a representative team of their current Member Association;

    86.5 at least three years have passed since the player's last match (in an official or non-official competition) at "A" international level for a representative team of their current Member Association; and

    86.6 the player never participated in a match at "A" international level in any kind of football in the final tournament of the FIFA World Cup or a final tournament of a confederation competition for a representative team of their current Member Association.

87. For the purposes of article 10 paragraph 2 c), the previously defined concepts of "fielded", "official competition", "'A' international level" and "kind of football" apply.

88. The player must have held dual or multiple nationalities (i.e. at least those of their current Member Association and new Member Association) or a common nationality at the time they were first fielded in a match in an official competition by a representative team of their current Member Association, regardless of whether that first match was at age-group or "A" international level.

    88.1 This requirement must be supported by official documentary evidence confirming that the player already held the nationality of the new Member Association before their first match in an official competition for their current Member Association. Such evidence may include, in particular, a valid or expired permanent international passport issued by the country of the new Member Association before the player's first match in an official competition for a representative team of their current association, or an official birth certificate, civil-registry extract or equivalent state-issued document expressly confirming that the player held the nationality of the new Member Association from a date preceding that match.

89. "Final tournament of a confederation competition" refers to the premier competition for a particular kind of football. By way of example, the competitions in 11-a-side football at the time of writing are:

Confederation	Women's football	Men's football
AFC	AFC Women's Asian Cup	AFC Asian Cup
CAF	CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations	CAF Africa Cup of Nations
Concacaf	Concacaf W Gold Cup	Concacaf Gold Cup
CONMEBOL	CONMEBOL *Copa América Femenina*	CONMEBOL *Copa América*
OFC	OFC Women's Nations Cup	OFC Men's Nations Cup
UEFA	UEFA European Women's Championship	UEFA European Championship

90. Consistent with the principle of legal certainty, the age requirement (that they had not turned 21 years old) shall not apply to players who played their last match in an official competition in any kind of football for a representative team of their current association prior to 18 September 2020 (the date that the September 2020 amendments entered into force).

91. This transitory interpretation is limited to the age requirement under article 10 paragraph 2 c). It reflects the fact that players who participated in a match in an official competition before 18 September 2020 could not reasonably have anticipated, under the former wording of the RGAS, that such participation would later be assessed by reference to an age limitation introduced as part of the 2020 reform. All other cumulative requirements of article 10 paragraph 2 c) must still be satisfied. The age requirement, the three-year waiting period, the limitation to no more than three matches at "A" international level, and the exclusion of players who participated in the final tournament of the FIFA World Cup or a final tournament of a confederation competition together ensure that this exception remains limited and that the sporting integrity of representative-team competitions is adequately protected.

Article 10 paragraph 2 d)

92. Article 10 paragraph 2 d) remains a specific exception for cases in which the sporting landscape has changed after a player was first fielded by a representative team of their current Member Association, because the Member Association to which the player now seeks to change was admitted to FIFA membership only after that first participation.

93. A change of association may be granted under this provision where the following cumulative conditions are met:

    93.1 the player was fielded in a match in an official competition at any level in any kind of football by a representative team of their current Member Association;

    93.2 the player's new Member Association was admitted to FIFA membership after they were fielded in their first match in an official competition by a representative team of their current Member Association;

    93.3 the player was never fielded in a match in an official competition at any level in any kind of football by a representative team of their current Member Association after their new Member Association was admitted to FIFA membership;

93.4 at the time of the player's first match in an official competition at any level in any kind of football for a representative team of their current Member Association, the player:

93.4.1 already held the nationality of the new Member Association; or

93.4.2 obtained the nationality of the new Member Association as soon as reasonably practicable after its country was recognised by the majority of members of the United Nations;

and

93.5 the player satisfies at least one genuine-link condition under article 7 or article 8.

94. For the purposes of article 10 paragraph 2 d), the previously defined concepts of "fielded", "official competition" and "kind of football" apply.

95. Furthermore, the player must:

95.1 have held dual or multiple nationalities (i.e. at least those of their current Member Association and new Member Association) or a common nationality at the time they were first fielded in a match in an official competition by a representative team of their current Member Association; or

95.2 demonstrate that they obtained the nationality of their new Member Association as soon as reasonably practicable after the country was recognised by the majority of members of the United Nations (to be assessed on a case-by-case basis).

96. The obligation to meet a genuine-link condition under article 7 or article 8 respects the general principle underpinning the rules.

Article 10 paragraph 2 e)

97. Article 10 paragraph 2 e) remains a limited exception for cases in which a player's connection with their current Member Association is affected by the involuntary and permanent loss of the nationality on which that sporting nationality was based.

98. A change of association may be granted under this provision where the following cumulative conditions are met:

    98.1 the player was fielded in a match in an official competition at "A" international level in any kind of football by a representative team of their current Member Association;

    98.2 the player permanently loses the nationality of their current Member Association without their consent or against their will due to a decision by a government authority; and

    98.3 the player holds the nationality of their new Member Association.

99. For the purposes of article 10 paragraph 2 e), the previously defined concepts of "fielded", "official competition", "'A' international level" and "kind of football" apply.

100. Whether a player has permanently lost the nationality of their current Member Association without their consent or against their will is a question of fact. It will be assessed by the PSC on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the relevant decision of the government authority, the applicable national law and the circumstances in which the loss of nationality occurred.

101. The provision may apply, for example, where nationality is lost as a consequence of a change in national legislation or an individual decision of a competent public authority. By contrast, the voluntary renunciation, abandonment or relinquishment of a nationality by a player, including where done in order to acquire another nationality, is not considered to have occurred without the player's consent or against their will.

Article 10 paragraph 3

102. A player who receives a favourable change-of-association decision is not eligible to participate for their new Member Association in any competition (preliminary or final) in which they already represented their current Member Association. This protects the sporting integrity of the respective competition.

103. By way of example, if a player participates for a Member Association in the preliminary competition for the "confederation U-20 championship 2026", that player may not, even after receiving a favourable change-of-association decision, participate for another Member Association in the final competition of that same championship.

104. However, (subject to their age and competition rules) the player may participate for their new Member Association in the preliminary or final competition for the "confederation U-20 championship 2028", which is considered a different competition.

Article 10 paragraph 4

105. A change of association is sought by the player concerned and reflects the player's personal decision to change the sporting nationality to which they are tied. The relevant Member Association does not make that decision on the player's behalf; its role is to submit the request to the PSC on behalf of the player, in accordance with the Procedural Rules.

106. The player's express consent must therefore be evidenced by a dated and signed statement confirming their wish to become eligible to play for the representative teams of the new Member Association. Where the player is a minor, the statement must also be signed by the player's parent or parents, or by their legal guardian or guardians, as applicable.

107. In the case of a change-of-association request, the statement must further confirm that the player understands that such a request may, in principle, be made only once, as stipulated in the Guide to Submitting a Request for Eligibility or a Change of Association and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the RGAS. The reference in the Guide to article 9 paragraph 1 of the September 2020 edition of the RGAS corresponds to the provision governing the once-only nature of a change of association under the regulatory structure in force at the time.

Article 10 paragraph 5

108. Article 10 paragraph 5 preserves a narrow exception to the otherwise applicable principle that a player may be granted a change of association only once. It addresses the specific hardship faced by a player who obtained a favourable change-of-association decision but was subsequently never fielded by a representative team of the new Member Association.

109. A player will be permitted to reverse a change-of-association decision where the following cumulative conditions are met:

109.1 the player was previously granted a change of association by the PSC;

109.2 the player was never fielded in a match (in an official or non-official competition) in any kind of football by a representative team of the new Member Association; and

109.3 the player continues to hold the nationality of their former Member Association.

110. For the purposes of article 10 paragraph 5, the previously defined concepts of "fielded", "official competition" and "kind of football" apply.

111. There is no waiting period to request the reversal of a change-of-association decision.

112. The word "continues" is of specific importance. The player must have held the nationality of the former Member Association throughout the period during which their sporting nationality was linked to the new Member Association. As a general rule, where the player abandoned, renounced or otherwise ceased to hold that nationality during that period, the genuine link with the former Member Association will be considered to have been lost.

113. The reversal of a change-of-association decision is only permitted once, to prevent abuse and protect the sporting integrity of representative-team competitions.

Article 10 paragraph 6

114. For a player who wishes to reverse a change-of-association decision pursuant to article 10 paragraph 5, the relevant Member Association must submit a change-of-association request to the PSC on behalf of the player, pursuant to the Procedural Rules, prior to the player being permitted to participate for its representative teams.

Article 10 paragraph 7

115. A player for whom a change-of-association request has been lodged is not permitted to participate in representative-team football until the PSC (or CAS, where relevant) has decided the matter. This protects the sporting integrity of representative-team competitions.

116. The FIFA general secretariat will communicate the decision of the PSC to the association(s) concerned via the FIFA Legal Portal. The terms of the decision will state whether the request is "accepted", "rejected" or "not admissible".

117. If the request is accepted, the player will be permitted to play for a representative team of their new association with immediate effect.

118. FIFA may also publish information concerning players who have been authorised by the PSC to change association through the FIFA Change of Association Platform. The platform is an information resource for the global football community. The player's authorisation to represent the new Member Association is not conditional upon publication on that platform. From a legal and regulatory perspective, only formal decisions by the PSC are decisive.

119. As a final remark, a change-of-association decision may be appealed before CAS, in accordance with article 50 of the FIFA Statutes.[14]

14 See e.g. CAS 2010/A/2071 *Irish Football Association v. Football Association of Ireland, Daniel Kearns and FIFA*; CAS 2018/A/5634 *Munir El Haddadi and Fédération Royale Marocaine de Football v. FIFA and Real Federación Española de Fútbol.*

Resources



Resources

FIFA regulations

- FIFA Statutes
- Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes
- Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players
- Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal

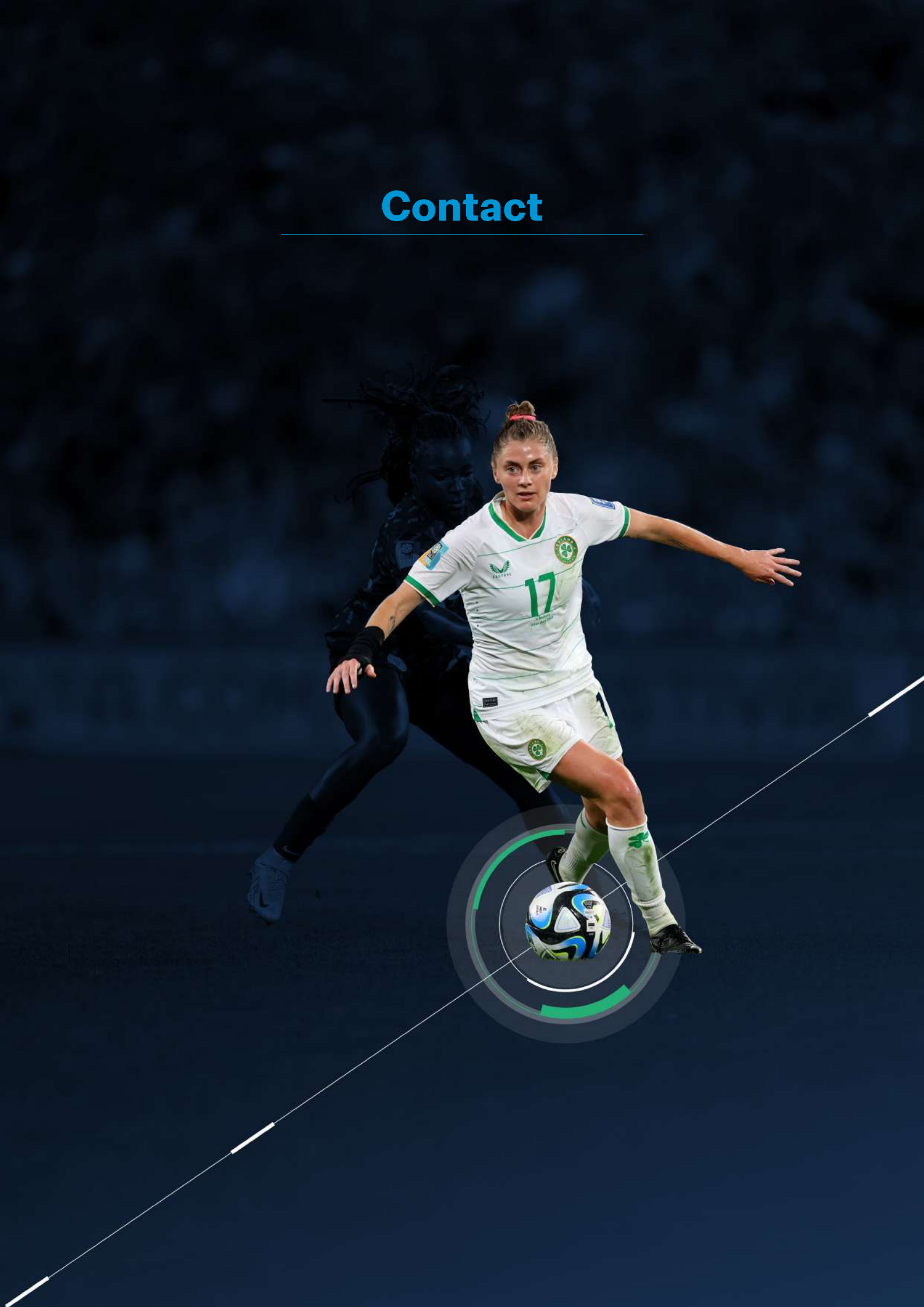
Court of Arbitration for Sport

- CAS 1992/A/80 B. v. Fédération Internationale de Basketball (FIBA)
- CAS 1994/O/132 Puerto Rico Amateur Baseball Federation (PRABF)/USA Baseball (USAB)
- CAS 1998/C/215 International Baseball Association (IBA)
- CAS OG 00/003 Arturo Miranda/International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- CAS 2007/A/1377 Melanie Rinaldi v. Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA)
- CAS 2010/A/2071 Irish Football Association v. Football Association of Ireland, Daniel Kearns & FIFA
- CAS 2012/A/2742 Qatar Football Association v. FIFA, Oman Football Association & AFC
- CAS 2012/A/3013 Sudan Football Association v. FIFA
- CAS 2013/A/3360 Federação Cabo-verdiana de Futebol v. FIFA
- CAS 2017/A/5001 Federación Boliviana de Fútbol v. FIFA
- CAS 2017/A/5002 Federación Boliviana de Fútbol v. FIFA
- CAS 2017/A/5290 Florent Malouda v. Concacaf
- CAS 2018/A/5634 Munir El Haddadi & Fédération Royale Marocaine de Football v. FIFA & Real Federación Española de Fútbol
- CAS 2020/A/7444 Munir El Haddadi & Fédération Royale Marocaine de Football v. FIFA & Real Federación Española de Fútbol

Resources

- CAS 2021/A/8075 Nedim Bajrami & Football Association of Albania v. FIFA & Swiss Football Association
- CAS 2022/A/9175 Federación Peruana de Fútbol v. Federación Ecuatoriana de Fútbol & FIFA
- CAS 2022/A/9176 Federación de Fútbol de Chile v. Federación Ecuatoriana de Fútbol, Byron Castillo Segura & FIFA
- CAS 2024/A/11090 Emilio Nsue López v. FIFA
- CAS 2024/A/11091 FEGUIFUT v. FIFA

Contact



Contact

FIFA is fully committed to assisting Member Associations and football stakeholders regarding the content of this document and/or any regulatory matters regarding eligibility to participate for representative teams in international football.

As such, please feel free to contact us at any time at: regulatory@fifa.org.

For questions regarding the procedure to request eligibility or a change of association, please refer first to the Guide to Submitting a Request for Eligibility or a Change of Association, which is available at legal.fifa.com.

Please note that any request for eligibility or a change of association shall be made by the relevant association exclusively via the FIFA Legal Portal (legalportal.fifa.com).

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Regulatory Guidelines
Armed Conflicts

April 2026

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Introduction

FIFA acknowledges with deep concern the impact of ongoing and recent armed conflicts worldwide, including the situation affecting the Middle East.

Such conflicts, like any armed conflict in the world, have a severe impact on the safety and daily life of players, coaches and other football officials as well as on the operations of clubs and leagues. The preservation of human life, physical integrity and overall well-being remains the foremost priority for FIFA and all football stakeholders.

While particular situations may remain highly volatile and evolve rapidly, as the global governing body of football, FIFA remains vigilant and continues to closely monitor developments across affected regions. The complexity and rapid evolution of armed conflicts have led to a substantial number of legal enquiries concerning the regulatory and contractual implications arising from such conflicts.

In response – and with a view to promoting clarity, transparency and guidance – FIFA, in cooperation and consultation with all its stakeholders, is issuing these regulatory guidelines to address the key legal considerations and most frequently submitted questions.

These guidelines take into consideration general principles of employment and contract law, the jurisprudence of the FIFA Football Tribunal (hereinafter the "FFT") and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (hereinafter "CAS"). They are the result of constructive exchanges between FIFA and its stakeholders, during which stakeholders shared insights on the evolving situation across several conflict-affected areas.

These guidelines contain general regulatory considerations that are not, *per se*, limited to the situation in the Middle East. Rather, they provide general guidance concerning the contractual rights of parties affected by armed conflicts.

Furthermore, these guidelines follow past examples, in which FIFA took specific regulatory steps or initiatives to respond to extraordinary circumstances aimed at providing helpful regulatory guidance to stakeholders. FIFA trusts that these guidelines will have the same beneficial effect and support.

1. General principles

At the outset, and as overall guiding principles, FIFA wishes to reiterate the following:

a) Whenever external conflicts or circumstances affect contractual relationships, FIFA encourages the relevant parties to seek mutually or collectively agreed solutions, whenever possible, including the possibility of mutually agreeing to temporarily suspend the employment contract.

b) In doing so, parties and their legal representatives must themselves assess their rights and obligations under the respective contractual relationship and applicable regulations.

c) It is the responsibility of each party to evaluate its legal position and determine, based on the circumstances and applicable regulations, whether they wish to unilaterally terminate an employment contract, or to take any other unilateral action.

d) If the FFT has jurisdiction to hear any possible dispute, the above determinations remain subject to its subsequent review, taking into account the principles of contractual stability and good faith, an individual's right to health and right to a safe working place, and all other relevant circumstances, in conjunction with established jurisprudence.

2. Relevant criteria

Whenever the FFT is confronted with a situation in which a party, due to extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances, unilaterally terminates a contractual relationship, or seeks to take any other unilateral action affecting a contractual relationship, past practice in comparable matters shows that the FFT generally applies the following general principles in evaluating the lawfulness of such actions:

a) **Conduct of the parties**: The FFT takes into consideration the conduct of the parties, notably whether they acted and communicated in good faith, undertook reasonable efforts to identify mutually acceptable solutions before resorting to unilateral measures, and whether their actions were generally reasonable, proportionate in light of the circumstances and consistent with the principles of contractual stability, the right to a safe working place, and an individual's right to health.

b) **Contract termination**: The unilateral termination of a contract must always constitute a measure of *ultima ratio*, which can be invoked only when no reasonable alternatives remain available and when a continuation of the contractual relationship has become untenable under the prevailing circumstances.

c) **Burden of proof**: Any party invoking the right to terminate an employment contract bears the burden of providing the underlying factual circumstances with credible and sufficiently substantiated evidence, which may include, for example, the following:

- safety and security conditions affecting the relevant city, region or country;
- government statements or restrictions, including measures limiting movement, labour activities or access to sporting facilities;
- governmental travel advisories, in particular those issued by an individual's home country, and namely those urging people to leave a country or advising against all travel to a country; and
- suspension of domestic leagues or competitions, where such suspension materially affects the performance of contractual obligations.

The FFT is further guided by a well-established body of jurisprudence, developed over time in matters arising from comparable circumstances. This body of case law delineates the legal thresholds applicable to doctrines such as force majeure and *clausula rebus sic stantibus*, which are frequently invoked in disputes linked to armed conflicts or unforeseen circumstances.

Given the rather restrictive manner in which these doctrines are generally applied, it is important for stakeholders to appreciate how the FFT, and CAS, have interpreted and applied these principles to date.

While an earlier award accepted the existence of force majeure in circumstances of a civil war, recent case law is more restrictive: it confirms that force majeure termination is recognised only in truly exceptional and unforeseeable circumstances that objectively prevent contractual performance. Decisions from both the FFT and CAS emphasise that war or instability alone does not automatically mean this threshold is met. CAS case law consistently requires proof that the relevant event was: i) unforeseeable, ii) beyond the parties' control, and iii) created an objective (not personal) impossibility of performance.[1] Where these criteria are not met, the FFT and CAS have rejected force majeure arguments and reaffirmed that any exception to the *pacta sunt servanda* principle, and therefore unilateral termination must be narrowly construed.[2]

1 See, for example, CAS 2024/A/10492 et al. at paras 94-95 and cases cited therein, confirming:

"94. As to the force majeure issue alleged by the Player, the Panel shall firstly recall that force majeure is a concept has been widely applied in previous CAS cases, giving rise to a well-established and consistent jurisprudence in this respect. For instance, the CAS award in case CAS 2018/A/5779 (para. 58), also quoted in case CAS 2020/A/7422 (para. 116), stipulate that: 'As a general rule it could be said that, under some extraordinary and limited circumstances, a party who does not fulfil a contractual obligation could be excused for his breach if he can provide that the breach is due to the occurrence of an event of impediment that is not only beyond his control (and that he cannot avoid to get over) but also that he could not have been reasonably expected to have taken into account when he assumed the relevant obligation that was breached.'

95. For force majeure to exist, there must be 'an objective (rather than a personal) impediment, beyond the control of the 'obliged party', that is unforeseeable, that cannot be resisted and that renders the performance of the obligation impossible'. Importantly, the concept of force majeure shall be applied in a restrictive manner as it constitutes a fundamental departure from the principle of pacta sunt servanda. *It is well reflected in CAS jurisprudence in which it has been stated that 'the conditions for the occurrence of force majeure are to be narrowly interpreted, since force majeure introduces an exception to the binding force of an obligation'."* (Internal citations omitted)

Further guidance (*contra* – circumstances not qualifying as force majeure) may be found in CAS 2018/A/5607 & CAS 2018/A/5608.

Further guidance (*pro* – circumstances qualifying as force majeure) may be found in CAS 2014/A/3463 & 3464.

2 See, for example, CAS 2024/A/10279 at paras 139-150, confirmed by the Swiss Federal Tribunal in 4A_226/2025; see also FPSD-16957.

Similarly, the doctrine of *clausula rebus sic stantibus*, which may allow contractual adjustments in unforeseen circumstances, is applied with considerable restraint. CAS has held that the doctrine only applies when new, unforeseeable and inevitable developments create an excessive burden that makes strict performance incompatible with good faith.[3]

Minor disruptions, increased difficulty or general hardship are insufficient to invoke either of these principles. The change in circumstances must be so significant that insisting on the original terms would be manifestly abusive and/or factually impossible.[4]

The FFT is therefore likely to accept such arguments only where a party can demonstrate a profound and unforeseeable alteration in circumstances directly affecting contractual fairness and performance.[5]

3 See CAS 2021/A/7673 & 7699 at paras 100-103:

"101. The clausula rebus sic stantibus *principle comes into play, if, at least, the following two requirements are met:*

- *the change in the contractual relationship is caused by new, unforeseeable and inevitable circumstances.*
- *The performance becomes excessively burdensome for one party. The balance between performance and consideration is so seriously disturbed that performance of the contractual obligation cannot be demanded in good faith. [...]"* (Internal citations omitted)

4 See, for example, CAS 2024/A/10279 at paras 151-156.

5 See, for example, FPSD-10972, as confirmed by CAS 2024/A/10607, which establishes, *inter alia*, that a just cause for terminating an employment contract is not limited to contractual breaches. A just cause may also arise from other serious impeding circumstances that fundamentally alter the conditions under which the contract was concluded, such that the affected party cannot reasonably, and in good faith, be expected to continue the employment relationship. Moreover, the existence of a just cause must be assessed on a case-by case basis, and "*a 'just cause' may exist beyond the strict limits of the occurrence of a force majeure situation*." (§92).

3. Registration

Furthermore, FIFA wishes to reiterate that, insofar as the registration of a player for a new club is concerned, the general rules established in article 5 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (hereinafter the "RSTP") continue to apply. Also, in possible scenarios in which a player unilaterally terminates a contract with just cause, or where a contract is terminated without just cause by a club, the principles established in article 6 of the RSTP continue to be applicable. In this regard, specific reference is made to article 6 paragraph 3 a) of the RSTP, which provides the relevant exception enabling a possible registration of a player outside a registration window.

In particular, FIFA may, on an expedited and *prima facie* basis, assess whether a unilateral termination appears to have occurred with or without just cause for the limited purpose of determining eligibility for registration under article 6 paragraph 3 a) of the RSTP. An analogous assessment would likely have to be made in a circumstance where a player invokes the concept of force majeure to leave their former club, and if the player then seeks to be registered for a new club. This preliminary assessment is strictly without prejudice to any subsequent decision by the Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC), the FFT or any other competent deciding body on the substance of the contractual dispute and any resulting consequences.

While it ultimately remains the authority of Member Associations to grant an exceptional registration under article 6 paragraph 3 of the RSTP, there was a consensus among stakeholders that in circumstances covered by these guidelines, and if justified in an individual case, there would generally seem to be valid reasons for Member Associations to treat such requests favourably.

Player registration matters also continue to be governed by the regulatory framework applicable to international transfers (i.e. Annexe 3 to the RSTP). In particular, and in order to ensure that players are able to continue their professional activity irrespective of a possible contractual dispute, FIFA wishes to recall that Member Associations shall not withhold an ITC on the grounds of a contractual dispute or a potential contractual dispute. A Member Association shall deliver an ITC within 72 hours. Should a Member Association fail to respond to an ITC request within this time frame, the new association may proceed to register the player concerned, and FIFA will be even more active in guaranteeing the employment rights of players in these situations.

In all cases, FIFA wishes to remind that any potential registration of a player, whether within or outside a registration period, remains subject to the regulatory authority and discretion of the engaging Member Association, which retains the responsibility to ensure full compliance with its national regulations and competition rules. Accordingly, any registration decision must always respect the principles of competitive balance and the integrity of the competition. While FIFA's regulatory framework provides mechanisms to facilitate player mobility in extraordinary circumstances, the implementation of such mechanisms by the relevant Member Association must safeguard fairness, uniformity of application and the orderly progression of the sporting competition.

4. The role of the FIFA Football Tribunal

The FFT is, pursuant to the FIFA Statutes and the RSTP, the competent body for adjudicating disputes arising from employment relationships, contractual matters, player registrations and other regulatory issues falling under its jurisdiction. It is composed, *inter alia*, of representatives of clubs and players' unions from all around the world, and its decisions are taken with complete independence from the FIFA administration.

In line with established practice, the FFT conducts a case-by-case assessment of each dispute lodged before it. It bases its determinations exclusively on the case file before it, which consists of the submissions, arguments, evidence and documents duly presented by the parties.

The FFT retains – subject to a review by CAS – the ultimate decision-making authority for all disputes under its jurisdiction.

These guidelines are therefore issued without prejudice to the FFT's independent assessment, and they are not binding on the FFT, or restrict or otherwise alter the FFT's discretion in evaluating facts or applying the relevant regulatory framework.

Finally, should a party wish to initiate proceedings before the FFT, notably by filing a claim against a contractual counterparty, it can always do so by submitting the relevant documentation to FIFA via the FIFA Legal Portal, and following the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal as detailed in the Guide to Submitting Claims before the Football Tribunal.

* * *

FIFA

Parents' Education on Football Agents



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Foreword



Foreword

Football is more than a game. It is a global passion that shapes futures and inspires dreams – of which none are more precious than those of children, as the next generation of players who will carry the sport forward. At FIFA, we recognise that with opportunity comes responsibility. The journey from grassroots to professional football is full of promise, but it is also fraught with challenges, particularly for minors and their families. Their aspirations must be nurtured, their rights safeguarded and their voices heard.

This handbook reflects FIFA's unwavering commitment to building a fair, transparent and ethical football agent ecosystem that places the well-being of minors at its core. We believe that education is the most powerful tool to ensure that every decision made is informed, responsible and aligned with the child's best interests. Knowledge equips parents to ask the right questions, recognise good practice and reject unethical behaviour. It enables families to navigate the complexities of representation with confidence, ensuring that football agents serve as trusted partners who consistently help children to flourish.

The role of parents in this process cannot be overstated. You are the guardians of your child's rights, advocates for their development and protectors of their future. By embracing a child-centred approach, you contribute to an environment in which football not only provides a pathway to success but is also a safe and enriching experience. This means prioritising education alongside sport, demanding transparency in every interaction and standing firm against any form of exploitation.

FIFA has a clear vision of a global football community in which integrity prevails, minors are protected from harm and families are empowered to make decisions that honour children's dreams while championing dignity throughout the beautiful game. To that end, this handbook is more than a guide – it is a statement of principle. It reflects our collective dedication to the mission of ensuring that the future of football is founded on trust, respect and responsibility.

We invite you to read these pages carefully, to use them as a resource and to share the insights that they contain widely. Together, we can create a football agent ecosystem that provides a firm footing for the future by looking after the many children involved in the game. Their journey begins with hope, and it is everybody's responsibility to ensure that it continues with fairness, safety and protection.

Finally, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Loughborough University and the FIFA Football Agent Working Group for their contribution to the development of this handbook. This publication would not have been possible without their close collaboration and expertise.



Patricio Varela
Head of Agents



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01 INTRO

Introduction



Introduction

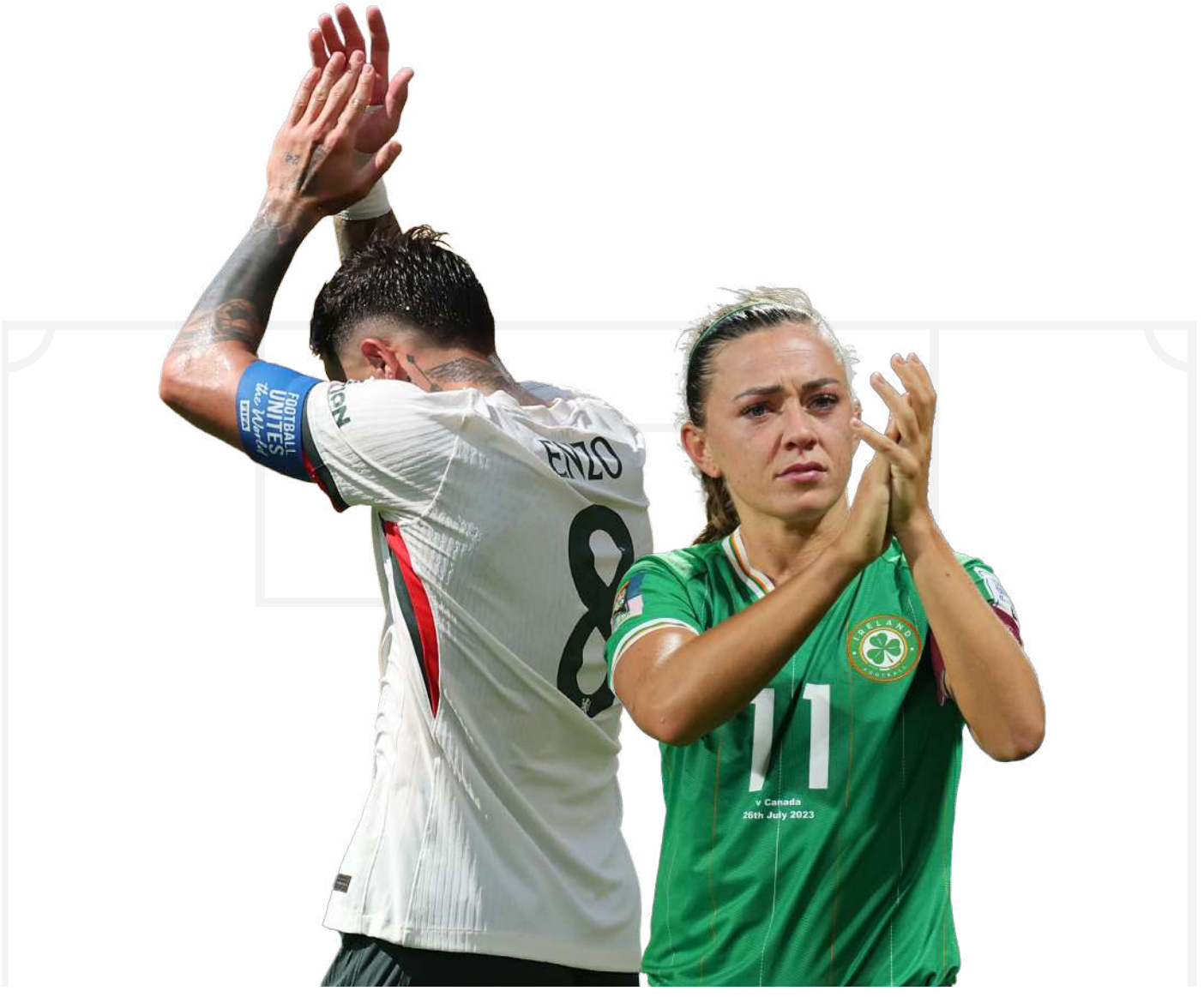
1.1. Why this handbook

Navigating the world of football agents can be complex, especially when your child is involved. This handbook has been created to support you, the parent, in understanding how to effectively and confidently engage with football agents, always with your child's best interests at heart.

This handbook is designed to empower you with the knowledge and tools needed to understand what football agents do, how they are regulated and what good practice from a football agent looks like. Equipped with this understanding, you can play an informed role in your child's football journey, making decisions that protect their welfare and support their development, as well as ensuring that any engagement with a football agent is genuinely in your child's best interests, both on and off the pitch.

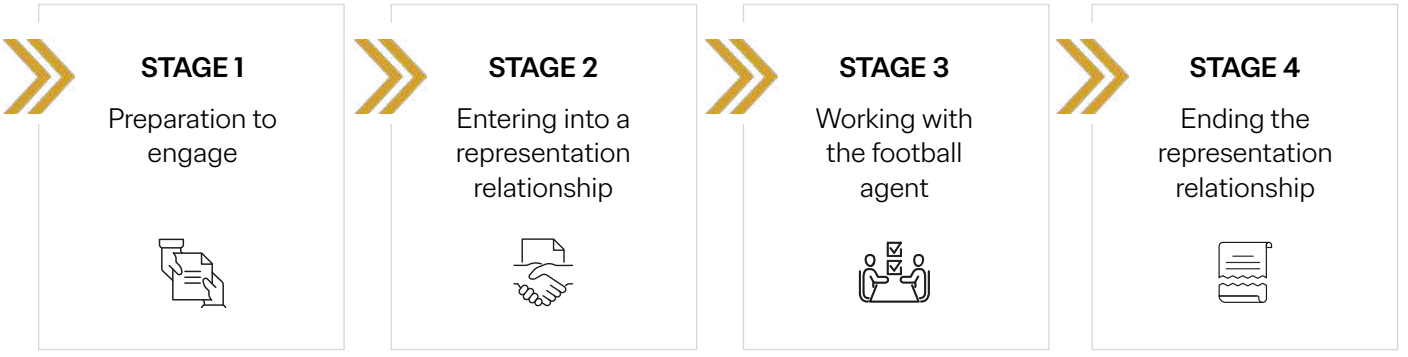
Most importantly, this handbook is grounded in a child-centred approach, one that puts your child's well-being, development and voice at the heart of every step when dealing with football agents. It is about enabling you to feel prepared, ask the right questions, recognise ethical agent practices and make decisions that fully support your child's aspirations and future.

Throughout this handbook, we use the term 'parent' – this is a catch-all term that refers to a parent, a guardian, or anyone else with legal responsibility for a child, like a grandparent who has taken on this role.



1.2. Structure of the handbook

This handbook has a clear, stage-based structure that mirrors the typical stages of engagement between players and football agents. Having the content organised in this way allows you to focus on what is most relevant to your child's current situation while also preparing for the future.



There are four key stages of engagement for players and parents to consider in relation to football agents:

STAGE 1

Preparation to engage

This is when no contact has been made with any football agent for which you need to prepared. At this point, your role is to build an awareness and comprehension of football agents. At this stage, you need to understand what football agents do and how they are regulated. You also need to know how to deal with initial approaches by football agents and how to choose the right one for your child when the time comes.

STAGE 2

Entering into a representation relationship

This stage begins when your child is considering entering into a representation relationship with a football agent or is about to do so. It is crucial to understand the nature of representation agreements and the legal and regulatory obligations involved, as well as how to identify and handle inducements to enter into a representation relationship.

STAGE 3

Working with the football agent

Once your child is represented by a football agent, your role as a parent shifts to collaboration and supervision. At this stage, it is important to understand how to work effectively with the football agent in order to support your child in the representation relationship. You need to have a grasp of trials, transfers, football employment contracts and payments to agents for their services.

STAGE 4

Ending the representation relationship

At some point, the representation agreement may come to an end, either through expiry or due to early termination, whether unilateral or by mutual agreement. You need to understand what to consider when ending a relationship with a football agent, including the regulatory requirements and implications, as well as how to handle switching to a new football agent and what to do after a representation relationship ends.

1.3. How to use the handbook

The main objective behind this handbook is to help you make informed and child-focused decisions at all times. You are encouraged to carefully read the handbook in full.

In each section of the handbook, you will find:

- key learning points and practical advice;
- regulatory guidance and compliance tips;
- aspects of good parenting practice; and
- guides on specific topics aimed at helping you navigate real-life scenarios.

We recommend that you refer to the handbook no matter what stage your child is at, from preparing to enter into contact with a football agent for the first time to managing the end of a representation agreement.



FIFA

02

UNIT 1

Preparation to engage



Preparation to engage

2.1. Parents' role when dealing with agents

Children's rights and parents: What is the role of parents as part of a child's rights-based approach?

Parents are key duty bearers in upholding the rights of their child, as established by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This role means that parents are not only responsible for providing physical, emotional and developmental support but also for ensuring that their child's rights are fully respected, protected and fulfilled.

The UNCRC enshrines the human rights of children. It outlines children's rights, which are generally categorised under three headings: the rights to provision, participation and protection. The UNCRC views children as active participants in their own development and, in football, they can therefore be considered agents of change.



The right to provision (survival and developmental rights)

This includes rights to various forms of formal and informal education, primary healthcare, leisure and recreation, cultural activities and an adequate standard of living to support physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.



The right to participation (participation rights)

This covers the child's right to express their views on matters affecting them, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities.



The right to protection (protection rights)

This includes protection from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and cruelty, as well as the right to special protection during times of war and protection in the criminal justice system.

Parents must ensure that their child's rights are seen as entitlements – fundamental needs that must be met, rather than optional considerations.

This child's rights-based role requires parents to act as follows:

- **Respect the child's rights:** Parents must ensure that their actions do not infringe on the child's rights. This includes creating an environment where the child's views and needs are valued and considered.
- **Protect the child's rights:** Parents must take proactive steps to protect their child from any harm or mistreatment. This includes safeguarding against abuses from external parties, such as football agents, and ensuring compliance with laws and regulations that protect children.
- **Fulfil the child's rights:** Parents should actively help their child to achieve their potential by accessing necessary resources, such as education and healthcare, as well as enabling them to participate in recreational activities. This also includes creating opportunities for the child to express their views and be an active participant in decisions affecting them.

In this role, parents must embrace the **guiding principles of the UNCRC**, such as non-discrimination, acting in the best interests of the child, supporting the child's survival and development and ensuring the child's participation and inclusion in matters affecting them. By doing so, parents ensure that their child is empowered as an individual with rights, capable of growing into a responsible and fulfilled adult.

The parent's child's rights-based role is therefore about creating a supportive environment that not only meets the child's basic needs as a human being but also respects their views protects them from harm and empowers them to be an active participant in their own lives.

CHILD'S RIGHTS-BASED PARENTING WHEN DEALING WITH FOOTBALL AGENTS

Parents play a crucial and multifaceted role in supporting their children in youth and professional football. They provide logistical and financial support, emotional backing, care and protection. Essentially, parents are core members of the support network around the child throughout their football journey.

The central objective of parents is to guide and support their child's development and advancement in football, ensuring that the child remains at the centre and their best interests are being met: **a child-centred approach**. As the child's development, well-being and welfare should be every parent's top priorities, parents need to understand the intricacies of a football agent's role to effectively support their child. This involves offering support in the following areas:



PROVISION

Assisting the child's progression in football by helping to choose and engage the right football agent.

PROVISION AND PROTECTION

Ensuring that both their child and the football agent comply not only with the law, such as child labour or child protection law, but also with the regulations of football governing bodies during their engagement.

PROTECTION

Safeguarding the child from potential football agent malpractice or wrongdoing that could negatively affect their football journey or personal development.

PARTICIPATION

Ensuring that the child's views are given due consideration, in line with their maturity, in all decisions that affect them. This means actively seeking and valuing the child's input in any decision-making process and giving them age-appropriate feedback.

WHY CHILD'S RIGHTS-BASED PARENTING IS IMPORTANT WHEN DEALING WITH FOOTBALL AGENTS

When dealing with football agents, adopting a child's rights-based approach to parenting is crucial to ensuring the best outcomes for your child. This approach places your child at the centre of all decisions and processes, ensuring that their well-being, development, protection and interests are prioritised above anything else.



Putting your child's best interests first at all times

By maintaining a child's rights-based approach, you as a parent can make sure that any decisions made by the football agent are truly in the best interests of your child, balancing their football aspirations with their personal growth and aspirations as a human being. The reality is that most children will not progress to the professional game. This places a responsibility on everyone around them to prepare them for a future outside of football and to support them to continue their education and vocational training, whilst also helping them to continue participating in amateur competitions or in other roles in the sport, such as coaching or refereeing, if they want to stay in football. For those few players (statistically less than 1%) that do realise their dreams and play professional football, their careers as players are likely to be only a short part of their lives, meaning that parents retain a responsibility to ensure that their child receives at least basic academic education or vocational training.



Safeguarding against potential harm

Young players are vulnerable because of their dependency on the adults around them for their success and selection. They therefore require protection. Child's rights-based parenting involves actively safeguarding your child from potential football agent malpractice by staying informed, demanding transparency and ensuring that legal and regulatory requirements are adhered to. This role helps to protect your child from falling victim to the unscrupulous practices that could harm their career or personal well-being.



Empowering your child to have a voice

Football agents may sometimes overlook a young player's opinions. A child's rights-based approach means encouraging your child to actively participate in conversations and decisions about their career. By valuing and amplifying your child's voice, you empower them to eventually take charge of their own future. This not only helps them to make informed decisions about their career, but also fosters self-confidence and independence.



Promoting long-term success beyond football

A child's rights-based approach does not just focus on short-term goals. Instead, it emphasises the long-term success and well-being of your child beyond their football career. It ensures that their education, emotional health and personal aspirations are given equal importance so that they have a stable foundation, whether they continue in professional football or pursue other opportunities in life.

Overall, in a highly competitive and fast-paced industry, child's rights-based parenting helps to ensure that your child's welfare and holistic development remain a priority. By putting your child's rights and needs first, you help to create a safe, empowering and supportive environment for them to thrive both on and off the pitch.

2.2. The role of football agents: what do they do?

THE ROLE OF THE MODERN-DAY FOOTBALL AGENT: HOLISTIC TALENT REPRESENTATION

A football agent is an individual who performs services on behalf of their client, addressing the client's needs and activities both on and off the pitch.

Football agents represent a variety of clients, including individual football players, coaches, clubs and single-entity leagues. Here, we will focus on **players** as the primary clients of football agents, but it is important that parents ask whether a football agent represents clubs and coaches in addition to players.

The scope of a football agent's services can be divided into two broad categories:

On-the-field representation

On-the-field representation is the core responsibility of a football agent and primarily involves supporting players in their main football activity on the pitch – playing for a club. Football agents are responsible for identifying employment opportunities for players and managing all contractual aspects.

This dimension of the role includes services related to the following:

- **Identifying employment opportunities:** finding suitable clubs for players
- **Organising trials and try-outs:** setting up trials to give players opportunities to showcase their skills
- **Negotiating contracts:** negotiating employment terms and contracts with clubs
- **Renewing contracts:** handling the renewal of employment contracts with clubs
- **Transferring players:** managing negotiations and concluding transfers from one club to another

This core role is also at the heart of the regulations relating to football agents.

Definition of "Football Agent Services" under the FIFA Football Agent Regulations (FFAR): *"Football Agent Services: football-related services performed for or on behalf of a Client, including any negotiation, communication relating or preparatory to the same, or other related activity, with the purpose, objective and/or intention of concluding a Transaction."*



Off-the-field representation

Off-the-field representation may encompass services related to off the pitch aspect of a player including their lifestyle, welfare and well-being, in addition to their commercial, financial and legal needs. The football agent plays a role in either managing these aspects or outsourcing them to specialists to provide services that require specific expertise, allowing players to focus on their performance on the pitch.

Key off-the-field representation services may include the following:

- **Branding and marketing:** managing the player's personal brand
- **Social media management:** overseeing social media profiles and content
- **Content development and public relations:** creating content and managing the player's public image
- **Client concierge services:** handling the player's day-to-day needs to ensure comfort and convenience
- **Financial management:** providing financial planning and management
- **Legal services:** offering legal advice and support

It is important to note that, although these off-the-field services are beneficial, they fall outside the fundamental scope of a football agent's role and often require support from specialised professionals in each field. When football agents take on these responsibilities, it is essential to ensure that they have the necessary expertise or collaborate with qualified experts to avoid compromising the quality of the support provided to the player. Parents and players should be aware of this distinction to ensure that these auxiliary services are adequately handled without detracting from the football agent's primary obligations.

Additionally, financial management and legal services are areas that certainly require particular specialist expertise and football agents are likely to outsource them. Therefore, parents and players should always seek independent advice on their financial and legal needs.

TYPES OF FOOTBALL AGENTS

Individual football agents

Under the FIFA Football Agent Regulations (FFAR), FIFA requires football agents to be individuals. The FIFA football agent licence, which is a prerequisite for providing football agent services (for on-the-field representation only), may only be obtained by a natural person (i.e., an individual, not an organisation).

According to the FFAR:

"Football Agent: a natural person licensed by FIFA to perform Football Agent Services."

Football agencies

In addition to individual football agents, there are agencies formed by licensed football agents to provide a range of services.

It is common in the football industry to see agencies consisting of multiple licensed football agents. These agencies pool their resources to offer a broader range of services compared to individual football agents.

Generally, individual licensed football agents who work without ties to a larger agency and run their own operations are referred to as **independent football agents.**

The FFAR define an agency as follows: *"Agency: an organisation, entity, firm or private company retaining, comprising, employing or otherwise acting as a vehicle for the business affairs of one or more Football Agents."*



WHY IS UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FOOTBALL AGENTS IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS?

Understanding the types of football agents (individual football agents v. agencies) is crucial for parents when engaging and choosing the right football agent to represent their child. The right choice can have a significant impact on the child's career, well-being and overall experience in the football industry.



Evaluating the scope of services

Individual football agents and football agencies often differ in the scope of the services they can offer. Parents should assess what type of support their child needs and choose the appropriate agent accordingly.



Choosing personalised or team-based representation

On the one hand, individual football agents generally offer a more personal approach, dedicating their time and attention exclusively to a smaller number of clients. On the other hand, agencies can provide a team-based approach, where multiple professionals work collectively on behalf of the player. Parents need to consider whether a highly personalised service or a more expansive team-based support system is best suited to their child's needs.



Understanding independence and potential conflicts

Independent football agents operate without ties to larger agencies, which means they may have fewer conflicts of interest when representing your child. Conversely, agencies may represent multiple clients, including other players and clubs, which can sometimes lead to conflicting interests. Parents should make an informed decision to minimise potential conflicts that could negatively impact their child's career.



Navigating contract negotiations and representation agreements

Agencies may have more resources to navigate complex negotiations with various actors, including clubs, sponsors and other stakeholders. However, independent football agents may provide more personalised attention during negotiations, advocating for their client's best interests in a direct manner. Parents need to ensure that their child's interests are adequately protected and prioritised.



Aligning with your child's long-term goals

Understanding football agent types allows parents to align the representation obtained with their child's long-term goals both on and off the pitch. If the child's focus is solely on playing football, a dedicated individual football agent might be the best choice. However, if the goal is to build a long-term career that also involves branding, endorsements and opportunities off the pitch, a well-resourced agency might be more suitable.

Overall, by understanding the different types of football agents, parents are better equipped to make informed decisions when selecting a football agent for their child. Whether the focus is on personalised attention, broad support, minimising conflicts or aligning with long-term career goals, understanding the differences between football agents helps parents to navigate the complexities of football agent selection to work towards the best possible outcome for their child's football journey.

2.3. How are football agents regulated?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS TO UNDERSTAND HOW FOOTBALL AGENTS ARE REGULATED?

As a parent, it is crucial to ensure that both your child and the football agents you engage comply with the regulations governing football agents.

Compliance with regulatory requirements provides the following benefits:

Benefits to your child

Ensuring compliance means that your child, as a player, is not involved in any activities that breach the regulations. This is a key responsibility for you as a parent to monitor because your child may not understand the regulations. By adhering to these rules, your child can avoid disciplinary action or penalties from football governing bodies that may result from regulatory infringements.

Benefits to the football ecosystem

Demanding regulatory compliance from football agents when they are representing your child not only benefits your child but also contributes to raising the professional standards of the football agent industry. As a parent, playing an active role in ensuring that football agents follow the rules supports a fair and transparent football ecosystem, which ultimately serves the best interests of your child.

Parents' role in supporting regulatory compliance when dealing with football agents.

Overall, parents need to be proactive in supporting and monitoring the regulatory compliance of the football agents they engage.

To effectively perform this role, it is essential that parents understand the regulations governing football agents.



REGULATORY MODEL: THE LICENSING-BASED REGULATORY SYSTEM FOR FOOTBALL AGENTS

The licensing-based regulatory system for football agents

In the world of football, football agents are regulated by FIFA and its member associations (also known as member associations). FIFA has established a regulatory framework for football agents under its Football Agent Regulations (**FFAR**). The FFAR set a global regulatory standard to govern football agents. FIFA also requires member associations to adopt regulations in line with the principles and standards established by the FFAR, meaning that each member association has its own rules governing football agents within their respective territories.

As a parent, it is crucial to understand both the FFAR and the football agent regulations of the applicable member association.



Licensing-based regulatory system

Football agents are regulated through a licensing-based system as established by the FFAR. **This means that individuals must obtain a licence from FIFA to provide football agent services.**

Key features of the FIFA football agent licence

- **Issued to a natural person:** The licence is granted to an individual (natural person) for an indefinite period.
- **Digitally issued:** The licence is issued as a digital ID, which is called the FIFA Football Agent Digital Licence Card.
- **Strictly personal and non-transferable:** The licence cannot be transferred.
- **Global authorisation:** The licence authorises a football agent to conduct football agent services on a worldwide basis.



Once an individual obtains a football agent licence, they must comply with the FFAR as well as the regulations of the respective member association.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PARENTS AND PLAYERS?

Under **article 18 of the FFAR,** clients of football agents, including players, must do the following:

- **Verify the football agent's licence:** Ensure that the football agent is appropriately licensed by FIFA before signing any representation agreement. (FIFA Parents' Guide 2).
- **Report any breaches:** Immediately report any violations of the regulations to FIFA or relevant member associations.

Clients of football agents are also prohibited from doing the following:

- **Engaging unlicensed football agents:** Engaging or attempting to engage an unlicensed individual to perform football agent services is strictly forbidden.

Therefore, it is crucial for parents to ensure that they and their child only engage licensed football agents to avoid potential regulatory breaches and to protect the child's interests.



ART. 18 | FFAR

Clients:

» shall satisfy themselves that a Football Agent is appropriately licensed by FIFA prior to signing the relevant Representation Agreement; [...]

» shall immediately report any breaches of these Regulations to FIFA, the confederations or member associations. [...]

Clients (and their officials, when applicable) may not engage, or attempt to engage, in the following conduct:

» Engage or appoint an unlicensed person to perform Football Agent Services;"

** It is important to note that in some countries (particularly France and Italy), national law may also govern football agents and might impose conditions on becoming, and practising as, a football agent. In this case, we kindly advise you to contact the relevant member associations for further information.*

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR AUTHORISATION FOR LICENSED FOOTBALL AGENTS TO REPRESENT MINOR PLAYERS

ART. 13 | REPRESENTATION OF MINORS

i. An Approach (and/or any subsequent execution of a Representation Agreement) to a minor or their legal guardian in relation to any Football Agent Services may only be made no more than six months before the minor reaches the age where they may sign their first professional contract in accordance with the law applicable in the country or territory where the minor will be employed. This Approach may only be made once prior written consent has been obtained from the minor's legal guardian.

ii. A Football Agent that wishes to represent a minor or represent a club in a Transaction involving a minor shall first successfully complete the designated CPD course on minors and comply with any requirement to represent a minor established by the law applicable in the country or territory of the member association where the minor will be employed.

iii. A Representation Agreement between a Football Agent and a minor shall only be enforceable where:

   a. The Representation Agreement meets the minimum requirements provided in article 12 paragraph 7;
   b. The Football Agent has complied with paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article; and
   c. The Representation Agreement is signed by the minor and their legal guardian as provided by the law applicable in the country or territory of the member association where the minor will be employed.

iv. Any violation of paragraph 1 shall be sanctioned, at a minimum.

Authorisation requirement to represent minor players

Alongside the licensing requirement to provide football agent services, the **FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP)** have also established a regulatory regime for the representation of minor players, which requires licensed football agents to be specifically authorised to represent minors.

- **Authorisation requirement**
  A key regulatory condition is the authorisation required for licensed football agents to represent minors. Simply obtaining a football agent licence does not automatically allow football agents to represent minors. Instead, football agents must obtain this additional authorisation before approaching parents (directly or indirectly) or entering into a representation agreement with a minor player.

- **How is the authorisation obtained?**
  To obtain an authorisation to represent minors, a football agent must successfully complete the designated **continuing professional development course** provided by FIFA, known as the **"Representing Minors"** course, and pass the final assessment. Once this is completed, the football agent is authorised to represent minor players.

  This authorisation is valid for three years and must be renewed upon expiry.

Definition of "minor" under the RSTP: *"Minor: a player who has not yet reached the age of 18."*

What does this mean for parents and players?

If your child is under the age of 18, it is crucial to ensure that the football agent is not only licensed but also authorised to work with minors. Without this authorisation, it is prohibited under the regulatory regime for a football agent to approach you as a parent or enter into a representation agreement with your child.

Always check the football agent's authorisation status if your child is under 18 when the football agent approaches you to discuss representing your child. (FIFA Parents' Guide 2).

YOUR CHILD'S AGE: A KEY CONSIDERATION TO BE REPRESENTED BY A FOOTBALL AGENT

Alongside the licensing and authorisation requirements to represent minors, another crucial consideration is the **age of the player.** There are strict age restrictions under the **FFAR** that determine when minors can be represented by agents.

Therefore, as a parent, it is important to ask whether your child is at the appropriate age to be represented by a football agent.

The age of the minor

According to the FIFA Football Agent Regulations (FFAR), a football agent must not make any approach to, or enter into any representation agreement with, a minor or their legal guardian until six months before the minor reaches the age at which they can sign their first professional contract.

Article 13 paragraph 1 of the FFAR: A football agent representation agreement *"may only be made no more than six months before the minor reaches the age where they may sign their first professional contract in accordance with the law applicable in the country or territory where the minor will be employed".*

The responsibility lies with the football agent to verify that the player is old enough to enter into a representation agreement. To do this, football agents must check the player's age using an official form of identification, such as a passport, birth certificate or national ID.

However, it is equally important for parents to understand the age at which their child may sign their first professional contract. If the child is too young, they cannot be represented by a football agent under the FFAR and under relevant national law.

What does this mean for parents and players?

Before entering into any representation agreement, parents should be fully aware of the age requirements under the relevant national law and FIFA regulations. This ensures compliance with the rules and helps to protect the interests of your child. It might be the case that your child may not be legally represented by a football agent.

FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 1

Regulatory considerations when dealing with football agents

This guide is designed as a practical checklist tool for parents to ensure compliance with the FIFA Football Agent Regulations (FFAR) and to protect their child's interests when dealing with football agents.

Check the football agent's licence

QUESTION

Is the football agent licensed by FIFA?

Ensure that the football agent has a valid FIFA licence before entering into any discussions or agreements. Ask to see proof of their licence (their FIFA Football Agent Digital Licence Card).

Check the football agent's authorisation to represent minors

QUESTION

Is the football agent authorised to represent minors?

If your child is under 18, verify that the football agent has obtained the necessary authorisation to represent minors. Ask to see proof of the authorisation to represent a minor, which should be indicated on their licence card.

Check that the child is old enough to be represented

QUESTION

Is my child at the correct age to be represented by a football agent?

Make sure that your child is at the appropriate age to enter into a representation agreement. Understand when your child is eligible to sign their first professional contract.

You can find some of that information on the FIFA website

Check compliance with national regulations

QUESTION

Are there any national regulations regarding football agent representation that I need to be aware of?

Regulations may vary by country/territory. Ensure that the football agent is compliant with both FIFA regulations and the specific regulations of your country's/territory's football association.

FIFA offers a web page with links to national football agent regulations

FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 2

Step by step guide to Football Agent Verification

The guide provides parents with a step-by-step process to verify a football agent's licence to provide football agent services and their additional authorisation to represent minors. Use steps to ensure that any football agent engaging with you and your child is fully compliant with the regulations and that you are dealing with a genuinely licensed football agent that has authority to represent minors.

STEP 1

Ask the football agent to provide their FIFA Football Agent Digital Licence Card

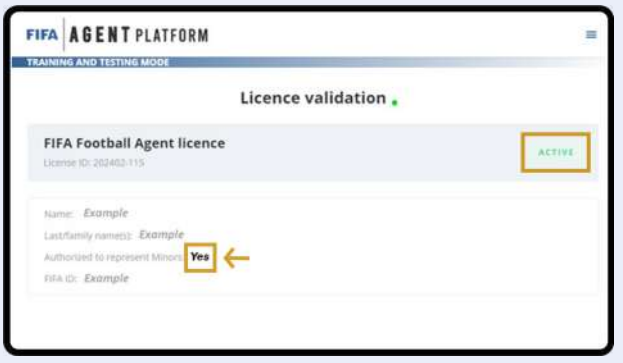
Always ask the football agent to provide their official **FIFA Football Agent Digital Licence Card** before entering into any discussions.



STEP 2

Ask the football agent to provide their FIFA Football Agent Digital Licence Card

- Scan the QR code on the FIFA Football Agent Digital Licence Card to verify its authenticity.
- The QR code will provide direct access to FIFA's football agent system, allowing you to check and confirm the football agent's licensing and authorisation status in real time.
- It is important to ensure that the licence status is **"Active"**, the field **"Authorized to represent minors"** displays **"Yes"** and validates all other particulars.



STEP 3

Verify the football agent's identity

» Always ask to see the football agent's personal ID to confirm that the name matches the one on the FIFA Football Agent Digital Licence Card.

» Check that the name on the FIFA Football Agent Digital Licence Card matches the identity of the individual you are interacting with.

STEP 4

Verify the football agent's authorisation to represent minors

» **First**, check if there is an **authorisation date** on the FIFA Football Agent Digital Licence Card. If the football agent is authorised to represent minors, the authorisation date will be displayed.

» If the authorisation has **not been obtained**, the digital licence card will explicitly state **"No"** instead of providing an authorisation date.

» **Second**, if the football agent is authorised to represent minors, the **authorisation date** is the date on which the authorisation was obtained. The authorisation remains valid for **three years from this date**. Therefore, check to ensure that the authorisation is still valid.



STEP 5

Cross-check with your local member association or FIFA (if necessary)

If you have any concerns or doubts about the validity of the FIFA Football Agent Licence Card, contact your local member association or FIFA directly for confirmation.

2.4. Approaches by football agents

WHAT IS AN APPROACH?



Types of approaches

According to the FFAR, an approach is defined as:

i. Any physical, in-person contact or contact via any means of electronic communication with a client;

ii. Any direct or indirect contact with another person or organisation linked to a client, such as a family member or friend; or

iii. Any action when a football agent uses or directs another person or organisation to contact a client on their behalf in the manner described in (i) or (ii) above.

Based on this definition, an approach may take different forms and can be made to different people.



Forms of approach

- **Physical and in-person contact:** This involves direct in-person contact, such as when a football agent approaches a player at a game or a training ground.
- **Electronic communication:** Approaches can be made via phone, social media, messaging apps like WhatsApp, or email.
- **Direct or indirect contact:**

  Direct contact: This occurs when the football agent contacts the player or a family member directly. For example, if a football agent contacts a parent to discuss the potential representation of their child, this is considered direct contact.

  Indirect contact: This happens when a football agent reaches out through others. For instance, if a football agent asks another player's parent to introduce them to a player's parent, it is considered indirect contact.

  Both scenarios constitute an approach.



The written consent of parents as a precondition for approaches to minors

Parents must provide written consent for football agents to approach their child. This is a crucial regulatory requirement to ensure that the parents are fully aware of, and in agreement with, any interactions between football agents and their child.

FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 3

Key considerations in dealing with approaches by football agents

When a football agent approaches either the parent or the player, **it is essential for parents to consider** the following steps to ensure compliance with regulations before engaging the football agent:

Check the licence and authorisation status of the football agent

QUESTION

Is the football agent licensed and have they obtained the additional authorisation to represent minors?

Check that your child is old enough to be represented

QUESTION

Is my child at the right age for representation?

Ensure that you have given written consent

QUESTION

Have you given written consent?

Written consent from parents is required before a football agent can approach and represent a minor. Ensure that this consent is documented properly before any further engagement takes place.



2.5. How to choose the right football agents?

CHOOSING THE RIGHT FOOTBALL AGENT:
KEY QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS TO ASK BEFORE SELECTING A FOOTBALL AGENT

It is crucial for parents to ensure that the right football agent is chosen to represent their child. Selecting the right football agent is a critical decision, as the football agent becomes part of the support network around the player, helping to facilitate their development and career progression.

Parents must place their child at the heart of this decision-making process, using a child-centred approach. This means that parents must first understand what their child needs from a football agent and then evaluate how well the football agent can meet those needs.

Parents must therefore ask the right questions;

- first, to identify the needs of their child; and
- second, to assess whether a football agent can meet those needs

In identifying the specific needs of their child, parents should consider the following aspects:

The child's needs on the pitch (for football activity)

Understanding your child's goals and connected needs

- What are my child's career goals? How does the football agent plan to help them achieve those goals, both on and off the pitch?

Support for career transitions

- What support does my child need through key transitions, such as moving to a new club or signing their first professional contract?
- **First professional contract:** Does your child need a football agent to negotiate their first professional contract?
- **Subsequent contracts:** Is your child close to negotiating subsequent professional contracts?
- **International transfers:** Does your child need to negotiate an international transfer?
- **New club requirement:** Is your child due to be released from a club and do they need help finding a new club?

The child's needs off the pitch (ancillary to football activity)

What are my child's needs off the pitch?

- Consider your child's other needs that are not directly related to football but are essential for their well-being and growth.

FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 4

Questions to ask a football agent to assess their suitability to represent your child

When approached by a football agent or during a meeting, it is important to ask the right questions to build a rapport and assess whether the football agent is suitable for your child. The key areas to explore are described below, along with specific questions to ask.

The football agent's experience and qualifications

Educational background

What educational qualifications do you hold that are relevant to being a football agent?

Level of experience

What is your experience and track record in representing players, particularly those at a similar stage of their career as my child?

Working with young talent on the pitch

Can you share your experience of working with young players? How have you supported young players in their on-the-pitch development?

Supporting young talent off the pitch

How do you help young players with off-the-pitch matters, such as career planning, education or well-being?

Safeguarding and player care

I want my child to be placed at a club where there is a trained safeguarding/child protection/welfare officer – someone whom they can turn to if they have problems, worries or concerns. Do you check that clubs you work with have safeguarding and player care policies in place?

Examples of representation

Can you provide examples of young talent you have represented in the past? What challenges did you face, and how did you address them?

Examples of representation

Can you provide examples of young talent you have represented in the past? What challenges did you face, and how did you address them?

Alignment with your child's long-term goals

Understanding your child's goals

What are your thoughts on my child's career goals? How do you plan to help achieve those goals, both on and off the pitch?

Support for career transitions

How will you support my child through key transitions, such as moving to a new club or signing their first professional contract?

The football agent's network

Does the football agent have a strong network?

A well-connected football agent can open up better opportunities for your child, such as securing trials or facilitating transfers. It is important to understand the strength of the football agent's network.

Transparent communication

Is the football agent open and honest?

It is crucial that the football agent be transparent in their dealings, both with the child and the parents. They should provide clear, understandable information and be willing to answer questions honestly. Parents should feel comfortable discussing all aspects of their child's representation openly.

Openness and honesty

How will you keep us informed about your activities on behalf of my child? How transparent are you about contract terms, negotiations and opportunities?

Communication channels

What is your preferred method of communication and how often will we receive updates?

2.6. Fake football agents

WHAT IS A "FAKE FOOTBALL AGENT"?

Fraudulent football agents, also known as **"fake football agents"**, are individuals who falsely claim to have regulated status – in the case of football, **licensed football agent status, this means having been given a licence by FIFA** – and portray themselves as legitimate football agents to engage in unethical practices and criminal activities. Their objective is to exploit athletes and their families for personal gain.

Fake football agents often use **deceptive tactics** to engage with their victims and commit fraud. They may use false credentials or promise opportunities that do not exist, ultimately leading to financial or emotional harm.

Fake football agents are a known **integrity problem** in the world of football, and it is extremely important that parents take an active role in identifying and preventing these types of fraudulent activities.

DECEPTIVE TACTICS OF FAKE FOOTBALL AGENTS

Fake football agents pose a threat to athletes – particularly those who are young or inexperienced – and their families because, according to research, these individuals may use deceptive tactics to exploit athletes for their own gain.

Deceptive tactics of fake football agents

- **Portraying themselves as legitimate licensed football agents**
  This is the primary tactic used to create a false sense of trust and to make initial contact and engage with players and their families.
- **Using false promises**
  These criminals often make unfounded and unrealistic promises about opportunities, such as trials, transfers and lucrative contracts for players. These false promises are used as a hook to gain control over their victims and manipulate them into trusting the football agent.
- **Demanding funds/payments**
  After gaining control, fake football agents financially exploit players and their families by demanding funds, often in return for the opportunities they have falsely promised.
- **Disappearance after receiving funds**
  Once the funds have been received, fake football agents typically disappear. This may happen after receiving payment from the family in their home country or, in some cases, after the player has moved away from home with the promise of football opportunities. In such situations, players are abandoned in a foreign location, left vulnerable and exposed to further exploitation.



THE IMPACT OF FAKE FOOTBALL AGENTS ON PLAYERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Physical, mental and financial impact

The consequences of engaging fake football agents can be devastating. Families may experience financial losses and players can suffer physical and mental harm.

Loss of control and exposure to exploitation

When fake football agents take control of a player's career (as they are often allowed to do by trusting families), it can lead to various forms of exploitation, such as the player's abandonment in unfamiliar locations or coercion into unsafe environments. These scenarios can have long-lasting negative effects on both the player and their family.



FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 5

Step-by-step guide to how to protect your child from fake football agents

Detecting fake football agents is a crucial preventive measure in protecting young athletes and their families from potential deception and fraud.

PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM FAKE FOOTBALL AGENTS BY FOLLOWING THE BELOW STEPS

STEP 1

Verify the licence status of the individual

Always verify the licence status of any individual who claims to be a football agent. This is a fundamental measure for any parent to detect a fake football agent. (FIFA Parents' Guide 2).

STEP 2

Look out for red flags to assess if you are dealing with a fake agent

Unwillingness to provide licence details:
If the purported football agent hesitates or refuses to provide their FIFA Football Agent Digital Licence Card, this is a major red flag.

Pressure tactics:
Fake football agents often use high-pressure tactics to push families into making quick decisions without having checked their football agent licence.

Demanding funds:
A request for funds to find employment, promote a transfer or organise a trial is another strong indication that you are dealing with a fake football agent.

Unrealistic promises:
An individual promising lucrative contracts or opportunities is another sign of a fake football agent.

STEP 3

Take safeguarding measures to protect your child and the family from fake football agents

Never let your child leave their home (town) with these individuals:
Under no circumstances should your child leave their home town with someone claiming to be a football agent for opportunities such as trials or transfers. Always confirm the legitimacy of the football agent and the opportunity first.

Do not give funds to individuals for opportunities:
Never give any funds to individuals who claim to provide footballing opportunities for your child. Legitimate opportunities should not involve upfront payments to football agents for trials or transfers.

Report fake football agents:
If you become aware of a fake football agent, it is important to report these criminals to the relevant law enforcement authorities. In most countries, this may be considered child trafficking, and criminal sanctions may be imposed.

Educate and support your child:
Raise your child's awareness about fake football agents. Educate them on the tactics used by these individuals and encourage open communication, so that they know how to identify and report suspicious behaviour.

FIFA

UNIT 2

03 Entering into a representation relationship



Entering into a representation relationship

3.1. Representation agreement



What is a representation agreement?

A **representation agreement** is a written contract between the client (in this case, the player) and the football agent that establishes the legal relationship between the football agent and the player and enables the football agent to provide football agent services.

It is an important legal document that serves as the starting point for any player who is entering into a representation relationship with a football agent. This agreement defines the **services** that the football agent will provide to the player and the football agent's **roles and responsibilities** in the relationship, together with the obligations and responsibilities of the player towards the football agent.

Definition of "representation agreement" under the FIFA Football Agent Regulations (FFAR)

Representation agreement: a written agreement for the purpose of establishing a legal relationship to provide football agent services.

A requirement under the FFAR

The representation agreement is also a **regulatory requirement**. It needs to be in place for football agents to provide their services to their clients, ensuring that the relationship between the player and the football agent is formalised and compliant with the **FFAR**.

Article 12 paragraph 1 of the FFAR:

"A Football Agent may only perform Football Agent Services for a Client after having entered into a written Representation Agreement with that Client."

FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 6

Parents' guide to representation agreements

Representation agreements are governed by a range of conditions under the FFAR. When considering a representation agreement provided by a football agent, it is essential for parents to carefully examine the agreement to check whether it meets these regulatory standards. They should also thoroughly review its terms to ensure that it protects their child's best interests and aligns with their expectations. Parents should suggest amendments to the agreement if necessary and should not feel pressured to accept it immediately. **This guide outlines key considerations for parents when negotiating the representation agreement, during the signing process and after the agreement has been signed.**

Regulatory compliance

QUESTION

Have you checked the representation agreement for compliance?

Before signing the representation agreement

QUESTION

Does the representation agreement comply with the regulations, particularly the FFAR?

To answer this question, parents and players must thoroughly check the representation agreement to ensure that it complies with the regulatory requirements.

Check that the agreement contains the minimum elements to be valid

Question to ask: Does the agreement contain the minimum elements to be valid?

Under the FFAR, there are certain items that representation agreements must contain to be valid. Parents and players must ensure that the representation agreement includes:

- the names of the parties;
- the duration of the agreement (a maximum of two years);
- the amount of the service fee due to the football agent;
- a description of the nature of the football agent services to be provided; and
- the signatures of both parties (including a parent's countersignature if the player is a minor).

Check that the duration of the agreement does not exceed two years

Question to ask: Does the duration of the representation agreement comply with the regulatory requirements by not exceeding two years?

Under the FFAR, the duration of the representation agreement between the football agent and the player may not exceed two years. Ensure that the duration of the representation agreement does not surpass this limit.

Check that the agreement does not contain an automatic renewal provision

Question to ask: Does the representation agreement contain any automatic renewal provisions?

Under the FFAR, automatic renewal provisions, or any other provisions that attempt to extend the term of the representation agreement beyond the maximum period permitted, are not acceptable and are considered null and void. Ensure that the agreement does not contain any automatic renewal provisions.

Check that only a single representation agreement is signed at a time

Question to ask: Has the player signed any other representation agreement with the same football agent?

Under the FFAR, players are only permitted to sign one representation agreement at a time; an overlapping contract may not be signed with the same football agent before the current one expires.

Ensure that there is no other existing representation agreement in place with the current football agent or any other football agent.

If the player has an existing representation agreement with another football agent, check the exclusivity terms of that agreement.

Ensure that the football agent provides an opportunity to seek independent legal advice

Question to ask: Have you been given an opportunity to seek independent legal advice?

Under the FFAR, football agents must inform the player in writing that they should consider taking independent legal advice regarding the representation agreement. This advice may be from statutory agencies, non-governmental agencies or lawyers specialising in workers' rights (specifically child labour) and sports law, with specialist knowledge of contractual matters.

The football agent must also obtain the player's written confirmation that they have either obtained or decided not to take such independent legal advice.

Ensure that you seek independent legal advice on the representation agreement

Question to ask: Have you obtained independent legal advice on the representation agreement?

Parents are strongly advised to seek independent legal advice and to make sure that the legal adviser to whom they turn is truly independent, i.e. that the adviser is not also representing the football agent. This advice may be from statutory agencies, non-governmental agencies or lawyers specialising in workers' rights (specifically child labour) and sports law, with specialist knowledge of contractual matters.

FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 6

Considerations when signing the representation agreement

If the player is a minor, ensure that you, as a parent, countersign the representation agreement

Question to ask: Is your child a minor? If so, have you countersigned the representation agreement as the legal guardian?

As the legal guardian of the player, the parent must countersign the representation agreement, together with their child.

Ensure that you seek independent legal advice on the representation agreement and the signing process

Question to ask: Have you obtained independent legal advice on the process for signing the representation agreement?

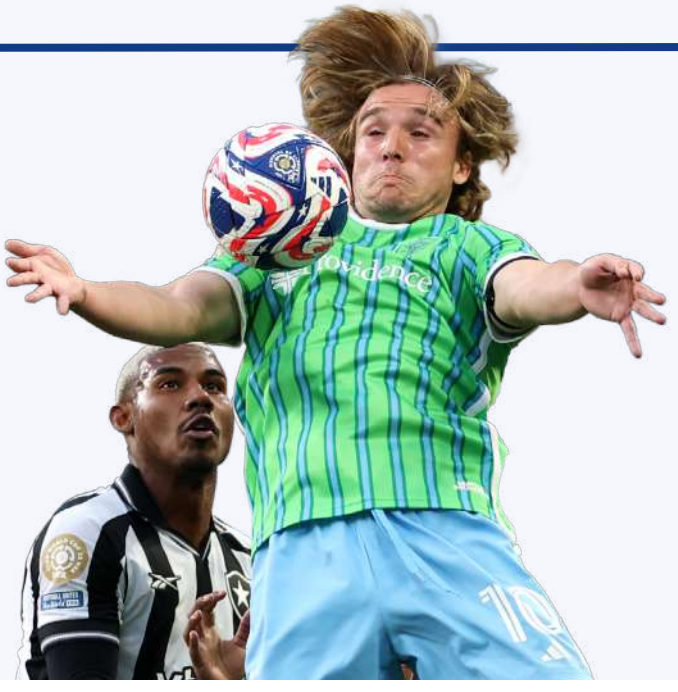
It is strongly advisable for parents to seek independent legal advice and make sure that this independent legal adviser is not also representing the football agent. This advice may be from statutory agencies, non-governmental agencies or lawyers specialising in sports law with knowledge of contractual matters.

Considerations after signing the representation agreement

Ensure that a signed copy of the representation agreement is given to you and/or your child

Question to ask: Have you received a signed copy of the representation agreement?

The football agent should provide a signed copy of the representation agreement to the parent and/or the player.



GOOD PARENT PRACTICE

Be clear on the terms and conditions of the representation agreement

Question to ask: Are all the terms and conditions of the agreement clear to you and your child?

Ensure that all contractual terms and conditions, such as fees, the services provided and the duration, are clear and fully understood.

Understand the termination conditions of the agreement

Question to ask: Do you understand the termination conditions of the representation agreement?

Check the termination conditions of the agreement, i.e. how and under what conditions either party may terminate the agreement. Ensure that these clauses are fair and that there is a way out if the relationship does not work as expected.

Monitor the football agent's contractual compliance

Question to ask: Is the football agent fulfilling their contractual obligations?

Regularly check if the football agent is fulfilling their obligations as defined in the representation agreement. This includes providing services and adhering to reporting and regulatory requirements for compliance purposes.



Check the service fee structure and payment terms

Question to ask: Is a service fee payable? If so, is the service fee structure clearly defined and outlined to you and your child?

Confirm that a fee is payable for the football agent services if your child is a minor and that the fee structure is clearly defined and also aligned with regulatory requirements. Make sure that you understand how and when payments will be made and to whom.

It is important to note that a football agent may not receive a service fee when engaged to perform football agent services relating to a minor unless the relevant player is signing the first or subsequent professional contract in accordance with the law applicable in the country or territory of the member association where the minor will be employed.

Agree on role of the parent(s) in decision-making

Question to ask: Have you agreed how you will be informed and consulted?

Confirm your role in the decision-making process regarding your child and consider including a provision in the representation agreement that outlines how you will be informed and consulted on decisions affecting your child, especially if your child is a minor.

Keep records of communications with the football agent

Question to ask: Do you keep records of all communications between the football agent and your child/yourself?

Maintain a good record of communications with the football agent, including emails, messages and notes from meetings. This ensures transparency and provides evidence if disputes arise.

FIFA standard representation agreement

FIFA has developed a standard Representation Agreement template to ensure consistency, transparency, and compliance in relationships between football agents and their clients. This template outlines the essential terms and regulatory requirements that must be included in any valid representation agreement. As a parent, understanding this template can help you assess the contract offered by an agent and ensure it meets the necessary standards to protect your child's best interests.

The template is accessible via the FIFA website.

3.2. Inducements

What is inducement?

In the context of football agents, an inducement refers to any incentive or reward offered to a player or their family to persuade them to enter into a representation agreement or representation relationship.

Inducements can take many forms, including cash payments or gifts.

Inducements are unethical and, more importantly, are prohibited under the FIFA Football Agent Regulations.

Football agents may use inducements as a way to gain influence over a player's decision, often targeting young players and their families, who may be unaware of the rules or who feel pressured by the prospect of professional opportunities. It is critical for parents to understand that accepting inducements from football agents is not only against the regulations but can also compromise the player's career and expose them to risks, including potential regulatory misconduct and **related sanctions**. Additionally, offering inducements may constitute a crime, such as bribery, under ordinary law,

As a parent, it is important to understand that rejecting any form of inducement is an essential step in ensuring that the relationship with the football agent remains **transparent and complies with the relevant regulations,** safeguarding the interests of your child and their career.



FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 7

Dealing with inducement by football agents



Prioritise your child's welfare and rights

QUESTION

Are you making decisions based on what is in your child's best interests rather than any personal gain?

Always keep your child's best interests at the heart of your decision-making. Avoid being influenced by incentives that could compromise your child's welfare or development or the transparency of representation.

Recognise and reject inducements

QUESTION

Is the football agent offering cash, gifts, free trips or any other type of inducement?

QUESTION

Does the offer feel like it is intended to influence your decision to choose the agent as your child's representative?

Politely but firmly reject any offer of inducements, explaining that you want to comply with the regulations and why it is not appropriate to accept them.

Use the opportunity to emphasise that, as part of your steadfast commitment to your child's welfare, you and your child value transparency and professionalism above all else.

Report inducements

QUESTION

Do you know where and how to report inducements by a football agent?

Be prepared to report any attempts at inducements to the relevant football governing body.

The FIFA Reporting Portal can be found here.

Reporting unethical conduct helps to protect your child and contributes to a more ethical and professional environment in football.

Educate your child about inducements

QUESTION

Have you discussed the risks of inducements with your child to make sure that they understand why it is important to reject this type of offer?

Talk to your child about the importance of being represented ethically. Explain what inducements are, why they are wrong and the potential risks associated with them.

Encourage your child to inform you if they receive any offers directly, emphasising that they should never feel pressured to accept gifts or incentives.

Ensure that your child knows that they have a right to be represented ethically and professionally and should always inform you if they have been approached directly by a football agent with an inducement.

FIFA

04

UNIT 3

Working with the football agent



Working with the football agent

4.1. Developing a collaborative working relationship

Why is developing a collaborative relationship with a football agent important for parents and what is their role in the process?

The representation relationship between a football agent and your child is an important part of their football career. As a parent, your role in this relationship is vital, and developing a collaborative working relationship with the football agent is crucial for ensuring that your child's needs and rights are placed at the centre of the representation relationship between the football agent and your child. It encourages open dialogue between you, the football agent and your child, ensuring that the football agent's actions are always aligned with your child's current and long-term interests.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS AS PART OF A COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FOOTBALL AGENT

As a parent, you play a pivotal role in supporting and overseeing your child's representation relationship with their football agent. A collaborative approach involves taking the action set out below.

Advocating for your child's needs:

You can advocate for your child's specific needs and goals, ensuring that the football agent understands what is most important for your child's growth as a player and a person.

Guiding your child:

It is important to guide your child (especially if they are a minor) through decisions, helping them to understand the implications of choices made with the football agent.

Supervising compliance:

It is your responsibility to ensure that the football agent complies with all legal and regulatory frameworks and that all action taken is lawful and ethical, thus safeguarding your child's interests.

Developing a collaborative working relationship with the football agent, while prioritising your child's needs and rights, creates a supportive environment that is conducive to their success and well-being, both on and off the pitch.

WHAT DOES A COLLABORATIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP LOOK LIKE?

After establishing a good relationship and building a rapport with the football agent, you will be well positioned to determine how the working relationship is going to develop. A collaborative working relationship means a partnership where all parties – parent, child and football agent – work together effectively to support the child's development, ensuring that the child is at the centre of the decision-making process.

KEY COMPONENTS OF A COLLABORATIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP

Shared objectives and expectations

A useful exercise to build a collaborative relationship is to openly consider each other's expectations. It is important to discuss the parties' expectations of themselves and what forms of support will be crucial to help the child.

Establishing how each party will best contribute to supporting the player is also important. Clarify the roles and qualities that are essential for a positive relationship between parents, the football agent and the child.

Also discuss how the football agent will work with you as a parent.

Transparency regarding decision-making

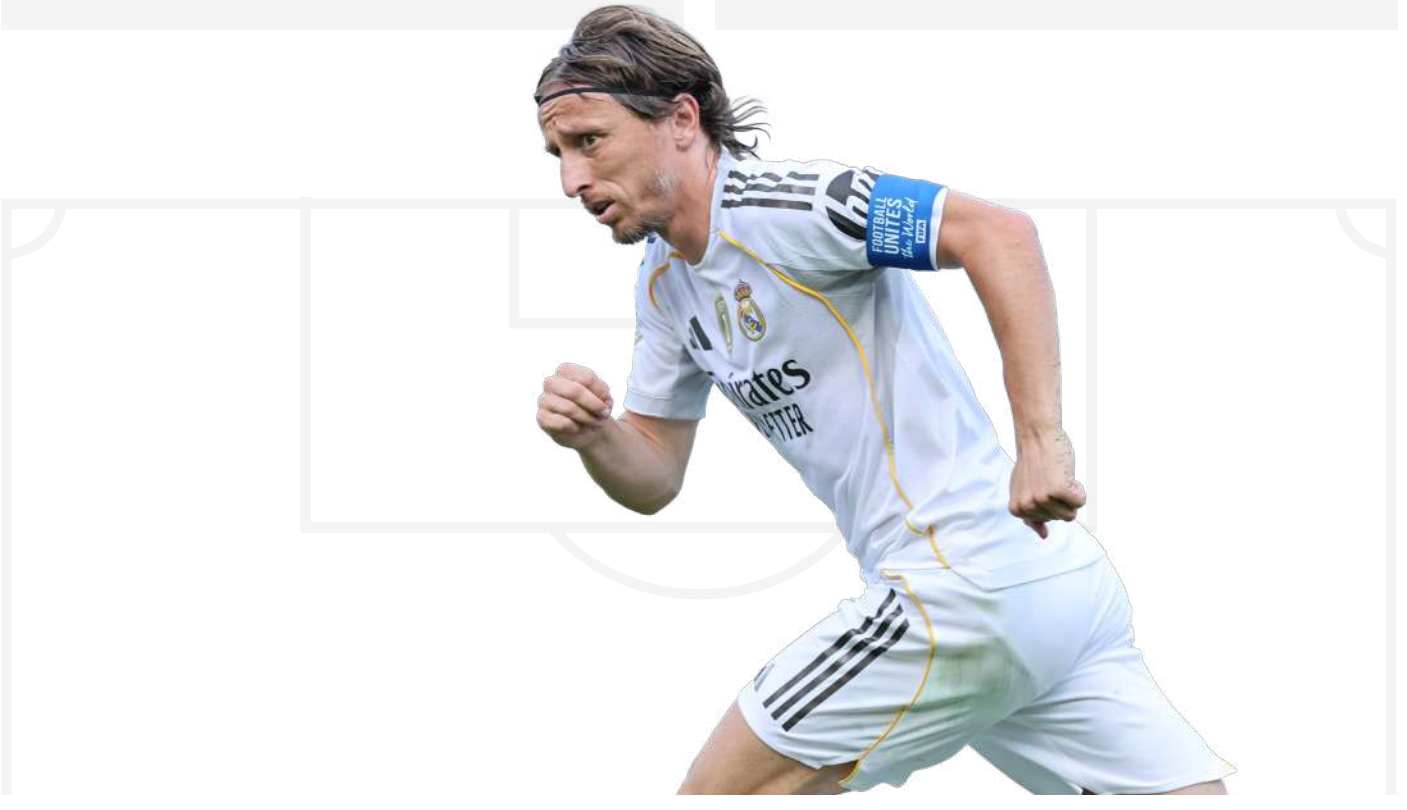
Decisions regarding trials, transfers or contracts must involve open discussion between the football agent, parent and child, making sure that all parties understand why a particular decision is being made and how it aligns with the child's football and holistic development. It is important that parents request, and be given, any documentation and offers regarding opportunities for their child, such as trials, contracts or transfer agreements.

Respect for the child's views

Being child-centred means that the child's views and preferences should be taken into account. The parent, football agent and child should all be involved in discussions about the child's future, and decisions should reflect what is best for the child.

Positive conflict resolution

There may be times when conflicts or disagreements arise. A collaborative relationship requires there to be methods for addressing these issues constructively in order to avoid a negative impact on the child. The parents and football agent should feel confident in discussing issues and finding resolutions without compromising the child's best interests and overall development.



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Developing a collaborative relationship with football agents

Setting benchmarks for a collaborative working relationship at an early stage

Initial discussion with the football agent

Start by setting the tone for a positive, respectful and transparent relationship. During initial meetings with the football agent, discuss shared goals for your child, each of your expectations and each party's role in achieving them.

Agree on communication methods

Establish how communication will take place, whether through regular in-person meetings, emails or phone calls. Agree on the frequency of updates to keep everyone informed and involved.

Communicate the child-centred focus

Clearly communicate that the needs and best interests of your child will be at the centre of all decisions. Make sure that the football agent understands the importance of respecting your child's views

Things to look out for and monitor during the representation relationship

Monitor the services provided by the football agent and the progress made

Regularly check in with both the football agent and your child to understand how things are progressing, ensuring that the football agent is delivering professional and ethical services.

Keep an open dialogue

Be available for discussions and maintain an open dialogue with the football agent. Encourage the football agent to provide honest updates about your child's career development and voice any concerns or suggestions you may have.

Monitor the football agent's legal and regulatory compliance

Ensure that the football agent complies not only with the law, but also with the terms of the representation agreement and the regulations relating to football.

Support the football agent

Offer support to the football agent in areas where your involvement may be helpful, such as providing relevant information about your child's interests or needs.

When to be involved in decision-making around your child – finding the right balance

Major decisions

Be directly involved in any major decisions that impact your child's football career. Make sure that your child has a voice in these decisions and that their views are respected.

Allow some autonomy

While it is important to be involved, also provide your child with some level of autonomy in the representation relationship. This builds their confidence and allows the child to develop independence, whilst you offer a supportive presence in the background.

Act as an advocate

In situations where your child is unsure or needs support, act as their advocate. This may involve seeking further information or clarification from the football agent.



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What to do if the collaborative approach is breaking down

Address concerns early

If you feel that the collaborative approach is breaking down, address your concerns with the football agent promptly. Be clear about what aspects of the relationship are not meeting expectations.

Discuss possible solutions

Work with the football agent to find a solution that puts the focus back on your child's best interests. Be open to making adjustments on both sides to resolve any issues.

Consider formal action if needed

If issues remain unresolved or you feel your child's best interests are being compromised, consider seeking legal advice or terminating the representation relationship, following the requirements stipulated in the representation agreement and under the relevant regulations.



4.2. Trials

What is a trial?

Trials can be important for your child by opening doors and providing opportunities for them.

Along with regulatory matters that are important for compliance, there are also practical factors that must be considered in order to uphold the welfare and safeguarding of your child when they are involved in trials.

We can identify three core elements from this regulatory definition:

A	Temporary period	→	B	During which a player who is not registered with a club	→ C Is evaluated by that club

In practical terms, this means that your child will be with a club for a temporary period, allowing the club to closely assess your child's football ability and suitability for their team. At the end of the trial, your child may be offered a contract or an opportunity with the club, or the trial may be unsuccessful, meaning that no offer will be made.

Following a successful trial, the player may be offered the chance to register with the club, either at the academy or with the first team.

Definition of "trial" under the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP)

"Trial: a temporary period during which a player that is not registered with a club is evaluated by that club."

Types of trials

Domestic trials

A domestic trial takes place within the home country of the child, where the child is invited to a club to be assessed.

International trials

An international trial involves the child travelling to a different country to be evaluated by a club. International trials can be an exciting and important opportunity, but they also involve more risks and challenges, such as long travel arrangements, adjusting to a different culture and diet, missing out on school, and possibly language and social barriers for the child.

It is important for parents to pay extra attention to safeguarding and ask the football agent if they have checked whether potential clubs have a safeguarding and player care policy in place. Making sure that their child is properly supported when away from home is critical, as this is when the risks of abuse, neglect and exploitation can increase in football. It is therefore advisable for at least one of the parents to accompany their child when travelling for and attending international trials.

The concept of exit trials

Exit trials are organised events where players who have been released by their clubs are given the chance to showcase their abilities to scouts and coaches from other clubs. Exit trials are often seen as a final opportunity to gain a new club contract after a player's initial contract has not been renewed. These trials are typically attended by multiple clubs and provide players with a platform to demonstrate their skills in front of a range of potential suitors. They can be particularly important for players seeking to continue their football careers after being released.

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International Trials: Key regulatory considerations

Understanding the regulatory requirements concerning trials helps parents to ensure that the trial process is safe and compliant for their child. **Parents play a critical role in verifying that all necessary regulatory requirements are followed in the trial process.**

Regulatory considerations for international trials

It is essential for parents to be aware of FIFA's regulatory requirements under the **Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP)** to ensure that the trial process is compliant. This is also in the best interests of their child.

The key regulatory aspects that parents need to understand when their child is involved in an **international trial** are as follows:

Permission from the child's current club when the child is a professional player

If your child has already signed as a professional with a club, they may only participate in a trial at another club if they have written permission from their current club. This ensures that all parties are informed of and agree to the trial.

FIFA Trial Form: an agreement on trial conditions

Before a trial commences, both the club and the player must agree on the conditions of the trial, including the following aspects:

- **Payment for accommodation:**

  Where will your child stay during the trial and who will cover the costs?

- **Travel expenses:**

  Who will pay for travel costs related to getting to and from the trial?

- **Meals:**

  Who will provide and pay for meals during the trial period?

- **Daily expenses:**

  How will daily costs, such as transport or minor expenses, be managed?

All these details must be recorded in the official FIFA Trial Form, which acts as a formal regulatory document in the process.

Completion and lodging of the FIFA Trial Form

The **FIFA Trial Form** must be **completed, signed** and lodged by the club in the **FIFA Transfer Matching System (TMS)** at least ten **days before the trial begins.** This process ensures that the trial is officially documented.

Duty of care during the trial

During the trial period, the **trial club owes a duty of care** to the player to ensure that your child's safety and well-being are prioritised. That is why it is essential that you ask the football agent if they have sought a club where there are safeguards and player care policies in place.

Maximum duration of trials

The duration of trials is strictly regulated and it is important that the following time limits not be exceeded:

- **For players aged 21 and below:**

  The maximum trial period is **eight weeks** per club, in any one season. This can be either consecutive or split into multiple periods.

- **For players over the age of 21:**

  The maximum trial period is **three weeks** per club, in any one season.

Make sure that the trial duration for your child does not exceed these limits.

Participation in friendly matches only during trials

During the trial, your child is **only allowed to participate in friendly matches** or other activities that fall outside of **organised football** (i.e. official competitions). This means that the club may not involve your child in official league matches or official tournaments.

No payments related to the trial

Anyone who is subject to FIFA regulations is **prohibited from requesting**, **offering or receiving payments related to a trial**, apart from those agreed for accommodation, travel, meals and daily expenses as documented in the FIFA Trial Form. **This is to prevent any potential for unethical practices or financial exploitation.** Parents must ensure that no payment requests are made outside of these defined areas.

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Additional regulatory considerations for minor triallists

Additional regulatory requirements apply to trials for minor players, i.e. those under the age of 18. It is crucial for parents to understand these. These provisions are designed to ensure the **safety and welfare** of young players and to protect their rights throughout the trial process. The **key requirements** for minor players taking part in international trials are as follows:

AGE REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS FOR TRIALS

A minor may only perform a trial with a club if the trial starts:

- during the season of the minor triallist's 16th birthday; or
- during the season of their 15th birthday if both the minor's domicile and the club's domicile are in Europe.

WRITTEN PARENTAL PERMISSION

The club must obtain **express written permission** from the minor triallist's parents before the trial can take place. This requirement ensures that parents are fully informed and actively involved in decisions concerning their child's participation in international trials.

DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT AT THE CLUB

The club is required to designate an **employee within the club** to serve as the **point of contact** for the minor triallist. This means that there will be a dedicated person who is responsible for overseeing the minor's welfare and whom parents can contact if they have questions or concerns during the trial.

ACCOMMODATION AND LIVING STANDARDS

The club must ensure that the minor triallist is provided with **optimum accommodation and living standards.** The club should also cover **adequate expenses**, including those relating to living expenses, such as accommodation and meals.

Informing the minor's current club (for amateur minor players under the age of 16).

For **amateur minor players under the age of 16**, the player's current club must be informed of the trial. The club must be provided with a complete and duly signed **FIFA Trial Form**.

LIMITS/RESTRICTIONS ON THE NUMBER AND DURATION OF TRIALS PER YEAR

A minor may only attend a maximum of two trials per calendar year, with each trial being subject to the duration limits outlined under the FIFA RSTP: eight weeks, consecutive or non-consecutive, per club. This restriction helps to protect young players from excessive trial periods.

What to expect from a football agent in a trial process

Football agents may play an important role in arranging and coordinating trials for players. It is important for parents to understand what their child's football agent should be doing before, during and after a trial to ensure a smooth and successful experience.

IDENTIFYING THE OPPORTUNITY AND ARRANGING THE TRIAL

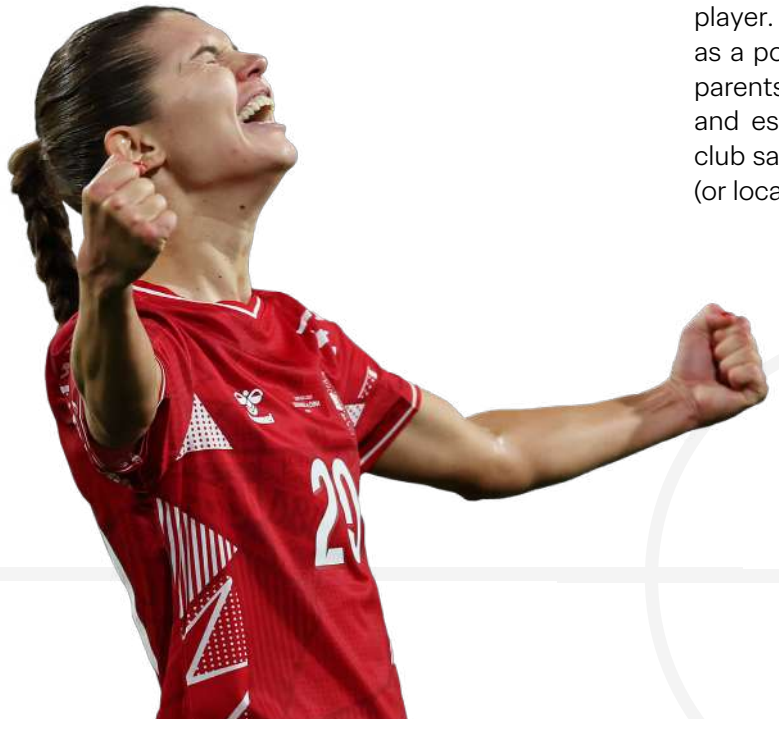
One of the roles of a football agent is to arrange a trial with a suitable club for the player. This involves the following:

- **Identifying the right opportunity:**
  The football agent needs to find a club that fits the player's skill level, career stage and ambitions.
- **Negotiating the trial invitation:**
  The football agent may negotiate with the club to secure an invitation for the player to attend the trial.
- **Assisting with the completion of the necessary paperwork for trials:**
  The football agent needs to understand the regulatory requirements and the relevant documents for arranging and coordinating trials and help parents and clubs to comply with/complete them.

COORDINATING AND MANAGING THE TRIAL PROCESS

Once a trial has been arranged, the football agent may coordinate various logistical aspects and manage the overall trial process in conjunction with the clubs, including the following:

- **Logistics and travel arrangements:**
  The football agent may help to organise **travel, accommodation and other logistical arrangements.**
- **Supporting the player in the process:**
  The football agent should communicate clearly with both the player and the parents about what to expect during the trial. The football agent should also make sure that all the conditions of the trial (such as payment for accommodation, meals and other expenses) are clearly explained to both the player and the parents, so everyone is aware of their responsibilities.
- **Ensuring that the duty of care towards the player is upheld:**
  During the trial, the football agent should make sure that the club is fulfilling its duty of care to the player. The football agent should also be available as a point of contact for both the player and the parents in case there are any issues during the trial and establish a line of communication with the club safeguarding/child protection/welfare officer (or local equivalent) if there is one.



AT THE END OF THE TRIAL

- **Assessing the club's feedback:**
  The football agent should gather **feedback from the club** regarding the player's performance during the trial. This is crucial in understanding whether the trial has been successful and if a contract or opportunity may be offered by the club.

- **Discussing offers:**
  If the trial is successful, the football agent will be responsible for discussing contract offers with the club.

- **Evaluating unsuccessful trials:**
  If the trial is unsuccessful, the football agent should provide **constructive feedback** to the player and their parents. This feedback should help the player to understand areas for improvement and identify what steps can be taken to enhance their chances in future opportunities.

- **Planning the next steps and for the future:**
  Whether or not the trial is successful, the football agent should work with the player and their parents to plan the next steps in the player's career.



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Checklist: Good parent practice when your child goes to a trial

When a child is going for a football trial, the football agent may facilitate the trial process, but parents also have a key role to play in preparing their child and managing expectations. As parents, you should primarily focus on providing emotional support and encouragement to your child, as well as ensuring their welfare and safety.

Before the trial

Ensure clarity on all aspects of the trial

- **Confirm the arrangements:** Ensure that you have a clear understanding of all the logistical details regarding the trial.
- **Discuss financial aspects:** Clarify with the football agent and the club what costs are covered by the club. Make sure that this is agreed upon and clearly outlined.

Avoid exploitation risks

- **No unauthorised payments:** Be aware that requesting or offering any payment related to trials is strictly prohibited, aside from expenses covered by the club. If anyone asks for money for trials, consider this a red flag and report it to the relevant authorities.

Ensure appropriate permissions and documentation

- **Make sure that all necessary permissions** are in place before your child goes for a trial.
- **In the case of international trials, ensure that your child has all necessary travel documents,** such as passports and visas, as well as health and travel insurance, and that you have copies of these documents for reference. Also keep a signed copy of the FIFA Trial Form.

Ensure that you have contact details

- **Emergency contacts for your child:** Make sure that your child has a list of important contact numbers, including yours, the football agent's, that of the club's designated point of contact and, where applicable, that of your country's nearest embassy/consulate in the host country/territory. This list should be easily accessible in emergencies.
- **Obtain details of the club's point of contact:** For minors, make sure that the club has designated a staff member to act as the point of contact. This individual should be accessible and responsible for your child's welfare during the trial, and you should have their contact information in case you need to reach them. This person may be known as the safeguarding, child protection or welfare officer or there may be a local equivalent depending on the country/club. You should request their name and direct telephone number.

Ensure travel safety and that logistical arrangements are in place

- **Ensure that travel arrangements are safe and reliable** and, where possible, that travel insurance is in place. Your child should be accompanied by a responsible adult (either you or a chaperone from the club or the football agent's team). You should ask whether this person has had safeguarding training and if travel insurance and health insurance are provided.

Set realistic expectations for your child about the trial

- **Talk about the trial:** Speak to your child about what they should expect during the trial. Let them know that this is an opportunity for the club to assess them, and that it may or may not lead to an offer.

Ensure that the duty of care is upheld during the trial process

- **Ensure that the football agent and the club understand the duty of care required:** Make sure that the football agent has communicated all safeguarding and welfare requirements with the club and has checked that a proper duty of care will be upheld during the trial.
- **Emotional support:** Trials, particularly international ones, can be overwhelming. Speak to your child about what to expect and remind them that they can always communicate their concerns. Encourage your child to speak up if they are unhappy or feel unsafe during the trial. This is why it is especially important that you ask questions about whether the club has a safeguarding policy and a designated safeguarding/child protection/welfare officer, so that your child knows whom they can talk to if they are worried or have concerns.
- **Ensure your child's safe return home:** Confirm the travel arrangements for your child's return home in advance. Ensure that all tickets and transport are properly booked and that any required travel documents and insurance are in place, such as passports and travel insurance.

Ensure that the duration of trials does not exceed regulatory limits

- **Two trials per year, each not exceeding eight weeks:** A minor is only permitted to attend two trials per calendar year, and the duration of each trial must not exceed eight weeks. Parents should ensure that their child is not being exposed to excessive trials, as overexposure may affect their well-being and other commitments.



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After the trial

Gather feedback from the football agent or the club

- **Request feedback:** Once the trial is over, ask the football agent or the club to provide detailed feedback.
- **Discuss the outcome of the trial:** If the trial is successful and an offer is made, the football agent and the club should help to explain the terms of the offer and what it means for your child's development. If the trial is unsuccessful, the football agent and the club should provide feedback that helps the player to understand why and what steps could be taken to improve.

Reflect on the trial experience

- **Talk with your child:** Sit down with your child and reflect on their experience of the trial. Whether the outcome is positive or negative, discussing how they felt about the experience is important for emotional growth and development.
- **Stay positive:** Reinforce the value of the trial experience, regardless of the outcome. As a parent, your role is to help your child see the positives in every situation.



4.3. Transfers

What is a transfer?

A transfer is the process of moving a player's registration from one football club to another, either within the same country or internationally. Transfers are regulated by FIFA and member associations and are crucial for players to progress in their careers, whether they are moving on for a better opportunity or being released by a current club.



Types of transfers

Transfers can be categorised into two main types:

National transfer

A national transfer refers to the movement of a player's registration between clubs within the same country (clubs that belong to the same association).

The **FIFA** Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players **(RSTP)** define a national transfer as *"the movement of the registration of a player at an association from one club to another within the same association"*.

International transfer

An international transfer involves the movement of a player's registration from a club in one country to a club in another country. According to the **FIFA RSTP**, an international transfer is *"the movement of the registration of a player from one association to another association"*.

Key regulatory considerations for international transfers of minors (RSTP)

Regulatory considerations for international transfers of minors

The **international transfer of minors** is subject to strict regulations to protect young players and safeguard their welfare.

As a parent, it is crucial to understand these rules to assess whether your child, if they are under the age of 18, is eligible to make an international transfer.

KEY REGULATIONS:

FIFA Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP)

The **FIFA RSTP** govern the **international transfer of minors, i.e. child players**. Generally, players under the age of 18 are not allowed to make an international transfer. However, article 19 of the RSTP outlines **exceptions** to this rule and details the processes involved.

ART. 19 | GENERAL RULE AND EXCEPTIONS

ART. 19, PARA. 1 The general rule

As a general rule, the international transfer of a player is only allowed if the player is over 18 years old.

ART. 19, PARA. 2 Exceptions to the general rule

There are five specific exceptions to the rule that allow players under 18 to be transferred internationally:

1. **Parental exception:** The player's **parents move to the country** where the new club is located, for reasons that are **unrelated to football**.
2. **European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) or same-country exception:** The player is aged **between 16 and 18** and the transfer is taking place **within the EU/EEA** or between two associations in the same country.
3. **50+50 exception:** The player lives **less than 50km from the national border,** and the new club is also **within 50km** of that border. The maximum distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters is 100km. In such cases, the player must continue to live at home and the two associations concerned must give their explicit consent.
4. **Refugee exception:** The player **flees their country of origin** (without their parents) for **humanitarian reasons.**
5. **Student exchange exception:** The player moves to another country without their parents for a **temporary academic exchange programme.**

ART. 19, PARA. 3 Additional exception (five-year rule).

There is an additional exception that allows a child who has **never previously been registered** with a club and is not a national of the country where they want to be registered for the first time to do so if the child has **lived continuously in the new country for at least five years.**

FIFA approval process for international transfers of minors

Even if a minor's case fits under one of the exceptions outlined above, **FIFA approval** is required before the transfer can take place. The approval process is designed to ensure that the player's welfare is prioritised.

The national association of the new club must submit an application for approval through Transfer Matching System **(TMS)**, including evidence that the child meets the criteria for one of the exceptions.

Supporting documentation for the application for FIFA approval

The approval application must include **supporting documents** that demonstrate how the circumstances meet the criteria for an exceptional international transfer to be approved. The FIFA Guide to Submitting a Minor Application provides details on which documents are required for each specific exception.

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Transfers: Good parent practice guide

When a child is involved in a transfer between clubs, parents play a crucial role in supporting them and ensuring that their best interests are prioritised. Transfers can be a significant moment in a young player's career, and making informed decisions whilst taking a rights-based, child-centred approach is essential.

Some of the key considerations for parents on what to know, what to do and what to consider during the transfer process are outlined below.

Things to know

Understand the transfer process

Know the type of transfer your child is undergoing, whether domestic or international, and be aware of the regulatory requirements for each.

Understand the FIFA Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) and any exceptions that may apply to your child if they are a minor in the case of an international transfer. This knowledge will help you to check whether your child is eligible for the international transfer.

Your child's rights in the transfer process

Your child has the right to be consulted and to have their views taken into consideration in all decisions affecting them. A transfer can have a major impact on their life, and it is essential to ensure that they feel involved in the process and agree to the transfer.

The transfer must be in the best interests of your child. It is important to evaluate how the move will affect their education, well-being and personal development beyond just their football career.

Understand the employment contract

It is important to understand the contractual terms regarding your child's transfer. Ask the football agent and the new club to provide you with your child's employment contract and thoroughly review it. Seek independent legal advice on the proposed employment contract.

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Things to do

Involve your child in the decision-making process

Speak to your child about their feelings and their goals and ask them if the transfer is something that they really want. Their opinions are valuable, and the decision should be a joint one that includes their input.

Work closely with the football agent to safeguard the best interests of your child and regulatory compliance

Ensure that the football agent is acting in your child's best interests. The football agent should explain every aspect of the transfer, including any contract details, and provide full transparency. If you have any concerns about the transfer, discuss these with the football agent.

Ensure that the football agent understands the regulatory regime on the international transfer of minors and has thoroughly reviewed the requirements and the application by working closely with the club.

Do your homework on the new club

Research the new club thoroughly. Understand its youth development programme and how it supports young players both on and off the pitch. You are strongly advised to speak to the club's representatives in advance to understand how your child will be supported in their football and personal development.

Ensure the educational development of your child

Ensure that the transfer will not negatively impact your child's education. For international transfers in particular, check how the new club will facilitate your child's continued education and provide academic support.

Ensure that you discuss your child's education with the football agent and the club.



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Things to consider

Your child's best interests

Consider whether the transfer is genuinely in the best interests of your child. Is the new club offering better development opportunities, a positive environment and support both on and off the pitch? The decision should always be about what is best for your child's overall development.

Long-term development versus short-term gains

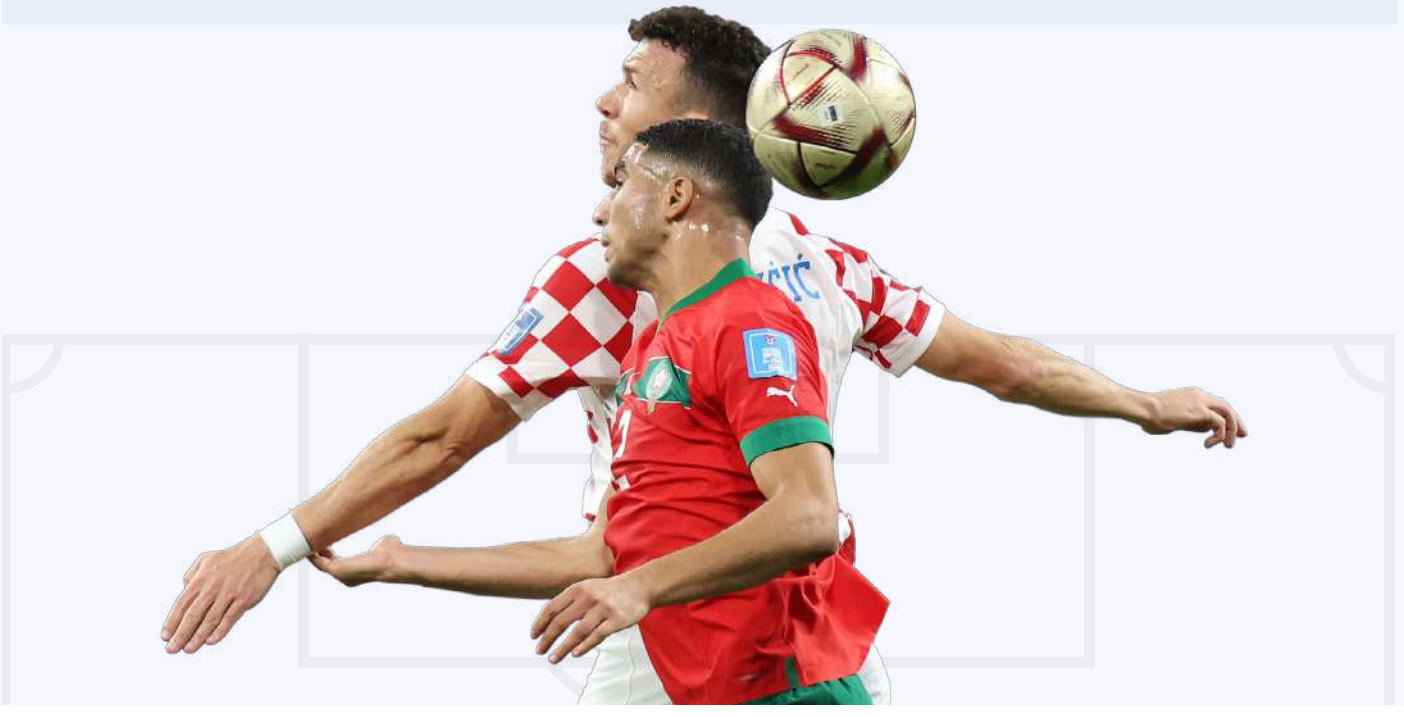
Evaluate the transfer from a long-term perspective rather than just focusing on immediate benefits. Does this move align with your child's career goals and provide an opportunity for holistic growth as a player and an individual?

Emotional impact on and support for your child

Transferring to a new club can be both exciting and challenging. Consider the emotional impact of the move on your child, especially if they have to leave their home, friends or school. Talk openly with your child about how they feel and ensure that they are emotionally prepared for the change and know whom to contact if they have any concerns.

Family support for your child

Assess how your family can support your child during the transfer. Will you be able to move with them if it is an international transfer? If not, how can you maintain strong communication and provide emotional support? Keeping your child's emotional needs at the forefront is crucial for their well-being during the transition from one club to another.



4.4. Employment contracts

What is an employment contract?

In football, an employment contract is the key legal document that determines the player's terms of employment with a club.

It is essential for parents to understand the different types of contracts that their child may be offered.

Types of employment contract

Professional contract

A professional contract is signed by a player who is officially employed by a club and receives remuneration for their football activities in excess of the expenses that they incur.

A professional contract is typically the first major milestone in a young player's career, as it signifies that the club values them enough to employ them on a paid basis, investing in their development.

Academy contract (scholarship contract)

An academy contract, also known as a "scholarship contract", is typically offered to young players who are part of a club's youth academy.

Scholarship contracts are signed prior to the first professional contract and provide young players with the opportunity to develop their skills while receiving support from the club. The terms of a scholarship are determined according to the domestic rules of the relevant member association.

Definition of a professional under the FIFA Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP):

"A professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more for their footballing activity than the expenses they effectively incur. All other players are considered to be amateurs."



Key regulatory considerations regarding employment contracts

FIFA Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) set out key guidelines for employment contracts in football. The key regulatory provision concerning employment contracts is article 18 of the RSTP which is a mandatory provision that applies to every transfer, both international and domestic, and to players of all ages.

The main aspects **article 18 of the RSTP** that parents should be familiar with are outlined below:

Detailing the involvement of a football agent in employment contracts

According to **article 18 paragraph 1 of the RSTP**, any employment contract that is concluded following the involvement of a football agent must include:

- the football agent's name;
- details of their client (in this context, the player);
- the football agent's FIFA licence number; and
- the signature of the football agent, which is also required under the FIFA Football Agent Regulations (FFAR).

The purpose of these rules is to ensure transparency regarding the role of football agents in contract negotiations.

Similarly, under **article 12 paragraph 11 of the FFAR,** any transfer or employment contract that results from the services of a football agent must contain these same elements. This ensures that the football agent's role is fully disclosed and documented.

Signing the first professional contract for minors

For parents, there are two key regulatory aspects to consider when your child is about to sign their first professional contract:

- **Contract term limits for minors**

  Under **article 18 paragraph 2 of the RSTP**, a player who is under the age of 18 may not sign a professional contract for a term longer than three years. Any clause that extends the contract beyond three years will not be legally recognised. It is important for parents to ensure that the duration of the contract complies with this limitation by verifying that the football agent checks the duration.

- **Capacity to sign contracts**

  By law, children usually may not enter into legally binding contracts on their own. In most cases, the parent or legal guardian must also sign the contract. Parents should always check the national law applicable to the contract to confirm the requirements for a minor signing an employment contract. This ensures that the contract is legally valid and the rights of the minor are fully protected. Please note that the permitted age to sign an employment contract varies from country to country. Even if a country allows a player to work at a young age, the best interests of the minor must always supersede purely financial considerations.

Conditions for the validity of contracts

Under **article 18 paragraph 4 of the RSTP**, the validity of an employment contract cannot be conditional upon a successful medical examination or the grant of a work permit. This provision means that, once signed, the contract should not be subject to further conditions, such as the player passing a medical exam or receiving a work permit, as these conditions could potentially be used to exploit or undermine the player.

FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 12

Parents' guide to employment contracts

Regulatory compliance

01 Verify the employment contract's compliance with the regulations

Ensure that the football agent checks that the contract complies with the FIFA RSTP and the FFAR, as well as the regulations of your respective member association.

QUESTION **Has the football agent ensured that the employment contract complies with FIFA regulations and the regulations of your national association?**

02 Ensure that the details of the football agent are incorporated into the contract if football agent services are provided

This means verifying that the contract includes the football agent's name, FIFA licence number and signature, together with their client's (i.e. your child's) name .

QUESTION **Does the employment contract include the football agent's name, FIFA licence number and signature and the client's (i.e. your child's) name?**

03 Duration of professional contract for minors

Ensure that the maximum duration of the contract is three years if your child is under 18 years old. Any clause suggesting a longer term will not be acceptable under the FIFA RSTP.

QUESTION **If your child is under the age of 18, does the employment contract comply with the maximum duration of three years?**

04 Duration of professional contract for minors

Check if the parent or legal guardian must also sign the contract, as children generally cannot legally enter into contracts by themselves. Check the national law in your country for these requirements.

QUESTION **Does your child's legal status require a parent or guardian to also sign the contract? Have you confirmed these requirements under the national law in your country?**

05 Validity of the contract

Ensure that the contract is not conditional upon a successful medical examination or the granting of a work permit, as stipulated under the FIFA RSTP.

QUESTION **Is the validity of the employment contract conditional upon a successful medical examination or the granting of a work permit, which would violate FIFA regulations?**

GOOD PARENT PRACTICE

Always put the interests of your child first

This includes ensuring that the employment contract is understandable and fair and aligns with your child's footballing and continued educational aspirations. Make sure to explain the contract to your child in simple terms, allowing them to have a voice in the decision-making process.

QUESTION TO ASK

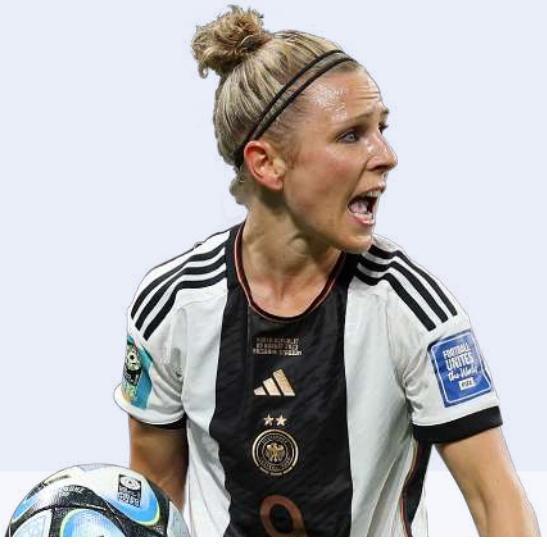
Does the employment contract align with your child's footballing aspirations and educational goals?

Supervise and review the football agent's involvement in contractual processes

Review the work carried out by the football agent in drafting and negotiating the employment contract. Confirm that the football agent is complying with all relevant regulations.

QUESTION TO ASK

Is the football agent complying with all relevant regulations during the contractual process?



Seek legal advice

Always consider seeking independent legal advice before signing any employment contract, particularly if it is your child's first professional agreement. Professionals, such as lawyers or player union representatives, can help to explain any complex terms and identify potential risks.

QUESTION TO ASK

Have you sought independent legal advice to ensure that you fully understand the contract?

Check key contractual terms and conditions

Fully review the contract to ensure that the terms meet expectations and that your child understands them.

QUESTION TO ASK

Have you reviewed all the key terms and conditions of the employment contract?

Keep records

Maintain copies of all signed documents and keep detailed records of all communications with the football agent, clubs and other actors such as governing bodies.

QUESTION TO ASK

Are you maintaining copies of all signed documents and keeping detailed records of communications?

4.5. Payments to football agents

Key regulatory considerations

Under the regulations, payments made to football agents are known as "**service fees**".

What is a service fee?

A **service fee** is the **remuneration paid to a football agent** in exchange for the services that they provide, such as negotiating employment contracts, transfers or other football-related agreements. This fee is often outlined in the **representation agreement** and is a crucial part of the representation relationship between the player and the football agent.

How is the service fee determined?

The amount of a service fee can vary depending on the agreement made between the football agent and the client. Typically, it is calculated as one of the following:

A percentage of the player's salary:

In many cases, the service fee may be a percentage of the player's annual salary. This percentage must be outlined in the representation agreement and agreed between the parties.

A fixed fee/sum:

Sometimes, the service fee may be a **fixed amount,** agreed upon in advance by the football agent and the player and stipulated in the representation agreement.

Regulatory considerations in respect of payments to football agents

When dealing with payments to football agents, it is essential for parents to understand the regulatory considerations outlined in the FIFA Football Agent Regulations (FFAR). An overview of the key regulatory considerations regarding payments to football agents is provided below:

Service fee provisions under the representation agreement

- **The service fee needs to be linked to services provided:**

  A football agent can only receive a service fee for services that are specified in advance in the representation agreement, and the representation agreement must be in force at the time when the services are performed.

- **The service fee is paid via an invoice:**

  The service fee must be paid on an invoice basis, meaning that the football agent should issue an invoice for the payment.

Conditions regarding service fees for football agents for the representation of minors: what parents need to know

Provision under the FFAR

ART. 14 | SERVICE FEE – GENERAL PRINCIPLES

ART. 14, PARA. 9 Service fee

"A Football Agent may not receive a service fee when engaged to perform Football Agent Services relating to a minor unless the relevant player is signing their first or subsequent professional contract in accordance with the law applicable in the country or territory of the member association where the minor will be employed."

When it comes to football agents and payments, there are specific regulations concerning minors (players under the age of 18) of which parents must be fully aware.

- A football agent may only receive a service fee from a minor in certain limited circumstances: Specifically, football agents may only receive a fee when they are involved in the process of the minor signing their first or subsequent professional contract, provided that this is in accordance with the relevant laws in the country or territory where the minor will be employed.
- It is important to check applicable local laws: The payment of a service fee is subject to the laws of the country or territory of the member association where the minor is being registered. This means that parents need to verify whether the applicable laws allow for service fees in connection with the signing of a professional contract for a minor.
- Ensure that payment terms are clearly outlined in the representation agreement: This includes details of the football agent's role in the signing of a contract and the circumstances under which a service fee may be due. The representation agreement must be valid at the time when the football agent services are performed.
- Seek independent legal advice: It is advisable for parents to seek independent legal advice to ensure that the payment terms are fully compliant with the regulations, and that they understand their rights and obligations.

Before making any payment, ensure that the above conditions are met if your child is a minor

Service fee entitlement of football agents when the representation agreement expires (the representation relationship comes to an end)

There are two conditions for the entitlement to the service fee other than the expiry of the representation agreement. These are that:

- The employment contract that was negotiated by the football agent still needs to be in place; and
- The service fee entitlement beyond the duration of the representation agreement is clearly agreed and provided for in the expiring representation agreement.

Therefore, as a parent, check if the football agent has a legitimate entitlement to receive service fees beyond the expiry of the representation agreement by confirming that these two conditions are met.

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Good practice guide on football agent service fees



01 Be aware of the limited circumstances in which a service fee may be payable to football agents if your child is a minor

QUESTION Under what specific circumstances is the football agent entitled to charge a service fee for representing your minor child?

QUESTION Is the football agent invoicing a service fee for my child's **first professional contract** or for a **subsequent professional contract?**

02 Understand the service fee structure under the representation agreement

QUESTION Have you reviewed and understood the fee structure in the representation agreement?

03 Check that the service fee is linked to the football agent services

QUESTION Are the football agent's invoiced service fees directly tied to the specific services outlined in the representation agreement?

04 Understand and monitor the football agent's entitlement to service fees beyond the expiry of the representation contract

QUESTION If the football agent is entitled to fees after the representation agreement has expired, is this clearly agreed and linked to an ongoing negotiated employment contract?

05 Keep records of service fee payments

QUESTION Are you maintaining clear and organised records of all payments made to the football agent, including invoices and receipts?

4.6 Human trafficking

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking as a fundamental human rights problem

Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery and one of the severest human rights violations of the 21st century.

In the context of football, human trafficking has become a critical safeguarding concern. Sophisticated trafficking networks prey on the dreams of young players, promising them better lives and opportunities with big clubs, often away from home. These promises can come from fake football agents or rogue intermediaries who are not licensed to represent players. Families, who are desperate to give their children a chance at a better life, may fall victim to these scams, selling possessions or taking out loans to finance their children's journey.

Traffickers use deception and coercion to gain control over their victims. They make fake promises of opportunities that are impossible to refuse, preying on those who seek to escape poverty or discrimination or wish to improve their families' lives.

The essence of human trafficking is to control and exploit human beings as commodities for profit, disregarding their well-being and future. In the football industry, this has led to young talents being abused, with lifelong consequences.

It is important to emphasise that the vast majority of football agents work in the best interests of their clients and the game. However, parents must remain vigilant to the threat of trafficking o protect their children effectively.

International legal definition of human trafficking

International legal definition of human trafficking: the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, known as 'Trafficking in Persons Protocol' or 'Palermo Protocol', is an international legal framework that defines human trafficking. For individuals aged 18 and older, three distinct elements must be present for something to be considered trafficking:

- **An act:** the recruitment, transport, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person.
- **Means:** the use of force, threat, coercion, abduction, fraud or deception.
- **A purpose:** exploitation.
- **Child trafficking:** For the trafficking of children (those aged under 18), only the act and purpose are required to constitute trafficking. Consequently, the "means", such as coercion or deception, does not need to be proven when children are involved. Consent is considered irrelevant in cases of child trafficking, as children might readily consent, but their consent holds no legal value due to their vulnerability and age.

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children.

The process of human trafficking in and through football ("football trafficking")

The process of **football trafficking** often begins with an intermediary, generally someone pretending to be a football agent or talent scout, approaching a young player and offering an opportunity to sign with a foreign club. These approaches may happen in person or through social media.

- **Initial approach and promises:** The trafficker promises trials and a potential football career abroad. To secure this opportunity, they demand a finder's fee and additional funds for living expenses in the destination country. To gather these funds, the player's family may sell possessions or take out a loan, driven by the hope of a better future for their child.
- **Travel to the destination country:** Once funds are secured, the player is sent to the destination country, often travelling through legal channels on a short-term visa. Upon arrival, the trafficker takes the player's documents and spending money, under the guise of keeping them safe.
- **Trials and abandonment:** Sometimes, the player may attend a trial with a club, but often they do not. In some instances, the player is abandoned immediately upon arrival. If the player does get trials, they may be taken to several different trials until a contract with a club is offered. However, the terms of the contract are frequently unfavourable, leaving the player in a vulnerable position.
- **Precarious outcome if trials fail:** If the trials fail, or if the player signs a contract that is subsequently not renewed, the intermediary abandons the player, taking the finder's fee, passport and any remaining money. Left without identification, money or support, the player is often unable or reluctant to return home.
- **Exploitative circumstances:** Alone, abandoned and with no means of supporting themselves, the player may find themselves stranded in a foreign country. The dreams that once seemed so achievable turn into a nightmare of exploitation and vulnerability, with the young player left in a dire and unsafe situation.

This process highlights the manipulative tactics that traffickers use to exploit young players and their families, turning the dream of a football career into a serious safeguarding risk. It underscores the importance of parents remaining vigilant and verifying opportunities before taking action.



FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 14

Tackling human trafficking in football

It is crucial for parents to understand the warning signs and take proactive measures to ensure that their child does not fall victim to unscrupulous individuals posing as football agents or scouts.

Some key aspects to consider when navigating football opportunities for your child are as follows:

01 Check the football agent status of the individual

- Always verify if the individual is properly licensed as a football agent. Licensed football agents have a FIFA Football Agent Digital Licence Card.
- Refuse to work with individuals who cannot provide valid evidence of their football agent status.

QUESTION

Is the football agent **licensed**? Can they provide proof of their licence? Does the football agent have a **track record**?

FIFA Parents' Guide 2

02 Beware of unrealistic promises

- Be wary of individuals promising guaranteed trials or contracts at high-profile clubs without a proven track record or credibility.
- Be wary of individuals promising guaranteed trials or contracts at high-profile clubs without a proven track record or credibility.
- Real opportunities will have clear schedules and specific plans.
- If the football agent avoids answering questions or becomes defensive when you ask for more information, this is a serious warning sign.
- Trustworthy football agents will be transparent and patient with parents.

QUESTION

Are the promises **realistic**? Does the football agent guarantee **trial success**, **contracts** or placements at legitimate, known clubs? Have they provided specific details about the **club, trial dates** and **conditions**?

03 Beware of financial demands and upfront payments

- **Do not pay finder's fees:** Legitimate football agents do not ask for upfront payments. Be particularly wary if an individual demands a finder's fee, travel costs or living expenses before any arrangements are made.
- **Be cautious of unusual payment methods:** A trustworthy football agent will not demand payment through unsecure or informal methods, such as cash payments, untraceable wire transfers or payments to personal accounts.

QUESTION

Is the football agent asking for **upfront payments**? Are they demanding a **finder's fee, travel costs** or **living expenses**? Are the payment methods used suspicious?

04 Look for inconsistencies and a lack of transparency in the information about the opportunity

- **Details of the club or trial:** A legitimate trial should come with full details of the club and a trial schedule. Be wary if an individual is unable to provide the club's name or contact details or information on how long the trial will last.
- **Lack of documentation:** Trials organised by licensed football agents and clubs will involve official documents, including proper travel documentation.

  If an individual does not provide proper paperwork, it is a significant red flag.

QUESTION

Are clear details about the **club and trial** provided? Do you have contact information for the **club** or a direct **point of contact**?

05 Things to watch out for regarding travel and documentation

- **Separation from documents:** Traffickers often take possession of passports or important documents upon arrival at the destination. Make sure that your child keeps all their documents and does not allow anyone else to take them for "safekeeping".
- **Travel alone or with unfamiliar people:** Be wary of a football agent who insists that your child travel alone or with strangers.

  If a football agent is unwilling to allow parents or guardians to accompany the player, this is a warning sign.

06 Awareness of safeguarding and duty of care

- **Duty of care:** A legitimate club will acknowledge its duty of care towards triallists, especially minors. The club should provide appropriate accommodation, supervision and care. Be cautious if a football agent fails to discuss the care arrangements for your child.
- **Point of contact at the club:** For minors, and particularly for triallists, the club should designate a point of contact. Ensure that this is discussed and confirmed before agreeing to any trial.

QUESTION

Do you have contact information for the **club** or a direct **point of contact**?



What to do if in doubt

Seek legal advice: If you are unsure of the legitimacy of an opportunity or a football agent, seek independent legal advice before signing any contracts or agreements.

QUESTION Have you sought **independent legal advice?**

What to do if in doubt

Report suspicious activity: If you suspect that an individual is involved in trafficking activities, report them to the relevant authorities.

QUESTION Do you know where to **report suspicious activity?**

Report concerns to the **relevant authorities** (police, immigration services or child protection agencies) and **football governing bodies** if something feels wrong.

By asking these questions and staying vigilant, you can protect your child from football trafficking risks.

Football trafficking can devastate a young player's dreams and put their safety at risk.

By taking proactive steps, verifying football agents, avoiding upfront payments, seeking transparency and ensuring proper safeguarding, parents can significantly reduce the risk of their child becoming a victim of trafficking. Always remain vigilant and put your child's well-being at the centre of every decision involving football opportunities.



UNIT 4

05 Ending the representation relationship



Ending the representation relationship

5.1. Termination of the representation agreement

What is termination? What is termination of the representation relationship with a football agent?

The **termination** of a representation agreement legally ends the representation relationship between the football agent and your child (the player, who is a party to the contract). Terminating this agreement is the formal way to end the representation relationship with a football agent.

How might the representation agreement with a football agent be terminated?

Natural expiry of the agreement:

The representation agreement naturally comes to an end on its expiry date, as, under the regulations, the maximum duration of the representation agreement is two years.

Mutual premature termination of the agreement of the parties:

Both contractual parties (the football agent and the player) may agree to terminate the agreement before it naturally expires.

Unilateral premature termination of the agreement:

One party (either the football agent or the player) may terminate the agreement before it expires, without obtaining the consent of the other party. However, legitimate grounds must be provided to legally justify this termination, since the parties have not mutually agreed to terminate the agreement (which is why this is referred to as "unilateral" termination).

The role of parents in the process of terminating the representation agreement

Before deciding to terminate the representation agreement, particularly in the case of unilateral premature termination, **it is essential for parents to carefully consider the potential consequences of the termination.** It may affect the player's career and, if not handled properly, could lead to legal disputes that might negatively impact the child.

Importance of seeking independent legal advice

You are strongly recommended to seek independent legal advice before terminating a representation agreement with a football agent. Legal support can help to ensure that the termination, whether the agreement ends automatically or is terminated prematurely by either party, is handled appropriately, preventing any potential legal consequences or disputes that might otherwise arise.

FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 15

Natural termination of the representation agreement: The agreement expires



Natural termination of the representation agreement: the agreement expires

When the representation agreement is approaching its expiry date, as a parent you must first consider what to do about the agreement: **does your child want to renew or terminate the representation relationship? This is an important decision to make.**

- **Assess whether or not to renew:** Before the representation agreement naturally expires, parents should discuss with their child whether they wish to continue with the current football agent or pursue a new representation relationship.
- **Review and evaluate the football agent's performance:** Encourage your child to evaluate the football agent's performance during the representation period. Were the football agent's services satisfactory? Did they adequately fulfil their role in supporting your child?
- **Seek legal advice:** Consider obtaining independent legal advice to understand the implications of allowing the agreement to expire. This can help to ensure that all obligations are fulfilled, and there are not any unexpected legal consequences for your child.
- **Respect your child's views in line with their level of maturity:** Throughout the process, respect your child's autonomy in decision-making. Involving the child in contractual discussions empowers them to manage their career.

There are two important regulatory considerations:

01 A football agent's entitlement to be paid a service fee beyond the representation agreement if the representation agreement is no longer in place

ARTICLE 14 PARAGRAPH 5

"A Football Agent is entitled to receive a service fee only if the fee corresponds to the services stipulated in advance in a Representation Agreement, and the Representation Agreement is in force at the time at which the relevant Football Agent Services are performed.

a) Where an employment contract has a duration longer than the associated Representation Agreement, a Football Agent may receive a service fee after expiry of the Representation Agreement as long as the Individual's negotiated employment contract is still in effect, and provided that this is expressly agreed with the Client in the Representation Agreement."

An important consideration is the football agent's entitlement to a service fee beyond the expiry of the representation agreement. Football agents may be entitled to continued service fee payments in respect of the employment contracts that they have negotiated on behalf of their clients. It is therefore important to check this entitlement when considering ending the representation relationship.

Two conditions need to be met for the football agent to be entitled to a service fee after the representation agreement has expired:

- The employment contract that was negotiated by the football agent must still be in place.
- The entitlement to a service fee beyond the duration of the representation agreement must have been clearly agreed and be provided for in the expiring representation agreement.

As a parent, it is therefore important to check if the football agent has a legitimate entitlement to receive service fees beyond the expiry of the representation agreement by confirming that these two conditions are met.

02 Automatic renewal provisions under the representation agreement are null and void

ARTICLE 12 PARAGRAPH 3

"A Representation Agreement concluded between an Individual and a Football Agent may not exceed two years. This term may be extended by a new Representation Agreement only. Any automatic renewal provision, or any other provision that purports to extend any term of the Representation agreement beyond the maximum period, shall be null and void."

A representation agreement concluded between the player and a football agent may not exceed two years (the maximum permitted duration under the FFAR) and this term may only be extended by a **new representation agreement.**

Any automatic renewal provision, or any other provision that purports to extend any term of the representation agreement beyond the maximum period, **shall be null and void**. As a parent, you should therefore check whether the representation agreement contains any automatic renewal provision and recognise that this type of provision will be null and void from a regulatory perspective.

Decision to renew the representation agreement

If the decision is to renew the representation agreement with the football agent, start considering what the new representation agreement should contain.

One key consideration is to ensure that the new representation agreement is fully compliant with the relevant regulations: FIFA Parents' Guide 6.

Key considerations after the termination of the representation agreement

Regulatory compliance

After terminating the representation agreement, there are specific regulatory obligations that need to be fulfilled to ensure compliance.

- **Reporting the termination to your football governing body:** Once the representation agreement has been terminated, the termination may need to be reported to the relevant football governing body. This ensures that the governing body is aware of the change, and that the player's status and representation are accurately reflected in its records. Check whether there is any reporting obligation concerning the termination of the representation agreement and ensure that it is satisfied.

FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 16

Premature termination with mutual agreement

Mutual premature termination of the representation agreement occurs when both parties to the contract, i.e. the player and the football agent, agree to terminate the representation agreement before its natural expiry date. This situation may arise when the representation relationship becomes untenable or is no longer beneficial for the player and the football agent.

- **Ensure that the agreement to terminate is documented:** When both the football agent and the player decide to terminate the representation agreement before its natural expiry date, it is crucial to document the mutual decision in writing. This ensures that both parties are formally released from their contractual obligations and have evidence of their mutual agreement.

When considering mutual termination, there are several important points for parents to consider and address to protect their child's interests:

Release from contractual obligations

Ensure that both parties are fully released from all contractual obligations outlined in the representation agreement.

- **Check that existing contractual obligations are addressed:** Ensure that any outstanding contractual obligations of both parties are addressed.

Service fee obligations

One of the most significant concerns regarding mutual termination is to ensure that the football agent does not demand undue or excessive service fees as part of the mutual termination. Therefore, as a parent, it is essential to understand the football agent's entitlement to service fees as outlined in the representation agreement.

- **Ensure that the service fee entitlement ends on or before the date of the mutual termination:** The football agent's entitlement to service fees after termination should be understood and must come to an end as the result of the mutual termination.

Seek independent legal advice

Before agreeing to a mutual termination, you are strongly recommended to seek independent legal advice. This step is a crucial consideration to safeguard the child in the termination process and avoid unforeseen legal consequences.

Good practice for parents

- **Maintain a supportive environment:** Throughout the process, provide emotional support to the child, who may be concerned about the impact of terminating the agreement.

Key considerations after the termination of the representation agreement

Regulatory compliance

After terminating the representation agreement, there are specific regulatory obligations that need to be fulfilled to ensure compliance.

- **Reporting the termination to your football governing body:** Once the representation agreement has been terminated, the termination may need to be reported to the relevant football governing body. This ensures that the governing body is aware of the change, and that the player's status and representation are accurately reflected in its records. Check whether there is any reporting obligation concerning the termination of the representation agreement and ensure that it is satisfied.

FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 17

Unilateral premature termination of the representation agreement

Unilateral premature termination occurs when one party, either the football agent or the player, decides to terminate the representation agreement before its natural expiry date without mutual agreement.

For this type of termination, legitimate legal grounds are required to avoid negative legal and financial consequences. **Unilateral termination without a legitimate reason can lead to disputes and may require the damage suffered by the other party as a result of the termination to be remedied.**

Parents must therefore be extremely careful to establish that there is at least one legitimate reason for the unilateral premature termination of a representation agreement.

Regulatory grounds for the unilateral premature termination of a representation agreement

Grounds for the termination of a representation agreement under the FIFA Football Agent Regulations (FFAR).

ARTICLE 12 PARAGRAPH 14

"A Representation Agreement may be terminated at any time by either party if there is just cause to do so. A party revoking or terminating a Representation Agreement without just cause must compensate the other party for any resulting damage. There is just cause to terminate a Representation Agreement when a party can no longer reasonably be expected, according to the principle of good faith, to continue the contractual relationship for the agreed term. This includes, but is not limited to, the following situations:

a) the withdrawal or suspension of a Football Agent licence;

b) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity;"

Under the FFAR, a representation agreement with a football agent may be unilaterally terminated if there is **just cause or this termination is clearly stipulated under the representation agreement.**

The existence of "just cause" provides legitimate grounds to unilaterally terminate the representation agreement.

Some specific examples of just cause include:

- the withdrawal or suspension of a football agent's licence; and
- ban on taking part in any football-related activity.

The regulations (art. 12 par. 14) establish what constitutes just cause.

Just cause is present when a party can no longer reasonably be expected, according to the principle of good faith, to continue the contractual relationship for the agreed term.

In the absence of just cause, the party terminating the agreement may be required to compensate the other party for the damage resulting from the termination. Therefore, ensuring that legitimate grounds exist before taking this action is vital to avoid adverse consequences for both parties to the contract, and particularly for the child.

Legal grounds for the unilateral premature termination of representation agreements

In addition to regulatory grounds, termination of the representation agreement may also be based on **legal grounds under ordinary law, particularly contract law.**

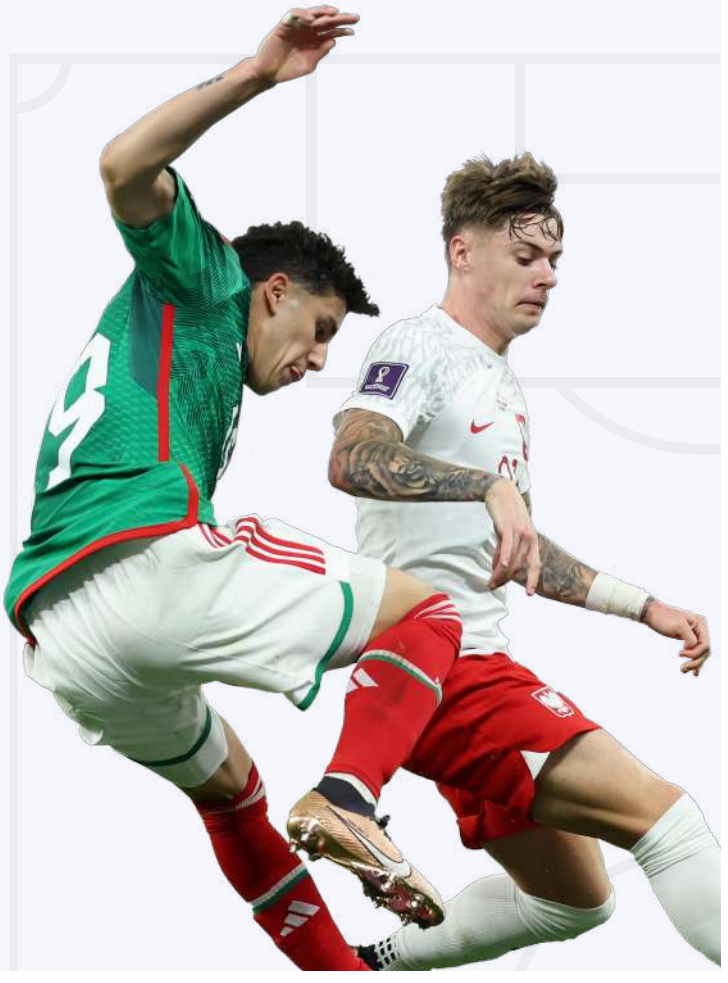
These grounds typically relate to serious breaches of the representation agreement or other conduct that makes the continuation of the representation relationship untenable. Some common legal grounds for termination are as follows:

- **Breach of contractual obligations:** If one party fails to fulfil their contractual responsibilities, this may represent grounds for termination. For example, if the football agent fails to deliver services as stipulated in the representation agreement or fails to act in the best interests of their client (in this case, your child), this could constitute a contractual breach and may justify termination.
- **Criminal activity or misconduct:** If the football agent is found to have been involved in any criminal activity or unethical conduct, such as fraud or corruption, this may provide a legitimate basis for the unilateral termination.
- **Lack of professionalism or poor performance:** If the football agent demonstrates a pattern of poor performance, negligence or unprofessional behaviour that jeopardises the player's career, this may be considered just cause for termination.

Consequences of unilateral premature termination

Unilateral premature termination can lead to disputes and legal consequences, particularly if the party terminating the agreement has no legitimate grounds to do so. These consequences can include the following:

- **Compensation for damages:** The terminating party may be held liable for damages resulting from the early termination if it is determined that there were no legitimate grounds for ending the contractual relationship. This compensation could include the payment of service fees, damages for lost opportunities or any other amounts to repair financial damage suffered by the other party.
- **Impact on the player's career and welfare:** For parents, it is essential to consider how unilateral termination might affect their child's career and welfare, including the loss of representation or potential difficulties in finding a new football agent, as well as psychological stress caused by being involved in a legal dispute.



Key practical considerations: unilateral premature termination of the representation agreement

- **Ensure that any issues leading to the termination are documented:** Before opting for unilateral termination, parents should carefully document all issues that have led to this decision. This could include breaches of the agreement, unprofessional behaviour or a poor level of service by the football agent, or a failure to meet contractual obligations. Having clear documentation provides evidence to support the termination if the football agent disputes it.
- **Identify and evaluate the legitimate grounds for unilateral premature termination:** It is crucial to have a clear and legitimate reason for terminating the agreement to comply with FIFA's regulations and the law.
- **Liability for compensation in the event of unilateral termination without just cause:** It is crucial to ensure that the termination is legally justified and to understand the potential financial consequences if the termination is deemed to be without just cause.
- **Seek independent legal advice:** Parents are strongly recommended to seek independent legal advice before proceeding with the unilateral premature termination of the representation agreement.
- **Prioritise your child's well-being:** The decision to unilaterally terminate the representation agreement should always be made with the child's well-being as the primary consideration. Parents should involve their child in discussions about terminating the representation agreement and provide emotional support for their child throughout this transition, which is essential to maintaining their well-being.

Key considerations after the termination of the representation agreement

Regulatory compliance

After terminating the representation agreement, there are specific regulatory obligations that need to be fulfilled to ensure compliance.

- **Reporting the termination to your football governing body:** Once the representation agreement has been terminated, the termination may need to be reported to the relevant football governing body. This ensures that the governing body is aware of the change, and that the player's status and representation are accurately reflected in its records. Check whether there is any reporting obligation concerning the termination of the representation agreement and ensure that it is satisfied.

5.2. Switching

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SWITCH REPRESENTATION?

"Switching" representation refers to changing a football agent during an existing representation relationship.

There are two common ways to switch football agents:

Terminating the existing representation agreement and appointing a new football agent 01

In many cases, switching involves ending the existing representation agreement so that the player can enter into a new representation relationship with a new football agent. This means that considerations around the termination of the existing representation agreement become important, including assessing the grounds for termination, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements in the process, and managing any potential legal consequences.

Termination of representation agreement

Appointing another football agent from within the same agency 02

Switching could also mean that another football agent from the same football agency takes over the representation of the player. In such instances, the representation agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the parties. This type of switch may have fewer legal implications but still requires careful evaluation of the process.

Therefore, before making the decision to switch the football agent representing their child, parents must take account of the consequences of terminating the existing representation agreement and assess whether switching is in the child's best interests under the circumstances.

Evaluating whether switching football agents is the right option

Before proceeding with a switch, parents should carefully evaluate whether this is the right decision for their child.

- **Is it better to wait until the existing representation agreement expires?** Consider if it might be best to wait until the existing representation agreement naturally expires. This can make the process smoother and avoid legal and regulatory complications arising from premature termination.
- **What are the benefits of switching?** Assess the **benefits** that the switch would bring to your child as a player. Will the new football agent provide better opportunities or support your child's development more effectively?
- **Is it worth it if termination has not been mutually agreed with the current football agent?** If mutual termination with the current football agent is not possible, evaluate whether switching is still worth pursuing. Premature unilateral termination can lead to disputes and brings added complexity, which could have a negative impact on your child.
- **Seek independent legal advice:** Seek **legal advice** before taking any action, especially if there is uncertainty about the existing representation agreement or the switch itself.

FIFA PARENTS' GUIDE 18 Key considerations before switching representation

Approaches by other football agents: key regulatory considerations

When it comes to switching football agents, parents must be mindful of the regulatory requirements surrounding approaches by other football agents to their child. Players who are already represented by a football agent through an exclusive representation agreement are protected by strict rules within the FFAR. These rules aim to prevent football agents from engaging with players who are already represented by someone else and maintain stability within representation relationships.

ART. 16, PARA. 1B) AND IC) OF THE FFAR

A Football Agent may

b) not Approach a Client that is bound by an exclusive Representation Agreement with another Football Agent, except in the final two months of that exclusive Representation Agreement;

c) not enter into a Representation Agreement with a Client that is bound by an exclusive Representation Agreement with another Football Agent, except in the final two months of that exclusive Representation Agreement.

The following rules apply to football agents when they wish to approach players who are under an existing representation agreement with another football agent:

- **The two-month rule for approaches by football agents:** A football agent may not approach a player who is bound by an exclusive representation agreement with another football agent, **except during the final two months** of the current representation agreement.
- **The two-month rule for new representation by a new football agent:** A football agent may **not enter into a new representation agreement with a player** who is still bound by an exclusive representation agreement with another football agent, **except during the final two months** of the current representation agreement.

What parents need to understand and ensure

Assess the timing of approaches and ensure that the two-month rule is met: As a parent, you should ensure that, if your child is approached by a new football agent while under an existing exclusive representation agreement with a football agent, the new football agent complies with the **two-month** rule under the FFAR.

In other words, no football agent is permitted to make an approach to, or enter into a new representation agreement with, your child until your child's existing representation agreement is within its final two months.

Question to ask: Is the current representation agreement within its final two months?

Question to ask: If the approach is outside the two-month window, have you reminded the football agent making the approach about the regulations and the potential breach?

Seek the permission of the current football agent if the approach is outside the two-month window: If, for any reason, your child wishes to consider switching to a new football agent before the final two months of the representation agreement, parents should seek permission from the current football agent.

This is a delicate area that requires careful handling to avoid breaching any contractual terms of the existing representation agreement and to maintain a professional and respectful relationship with the current football agent. Parents must understand that obtaining the current football agent's permission is important to prevent disputes.

Question to ask: If you are considering talking to a new football agent before the two-month window, have you obtained consent from your child's current football agent?

Contact information

Thank you for reading the FIFA Parents' Education on Football Agents handbook. We trust that you found this content helpful and that it will empower you to engage with football agents effectively, armed with the knowledge of what you should and should not expect from these interactions, while always prioritising your child's best interests.

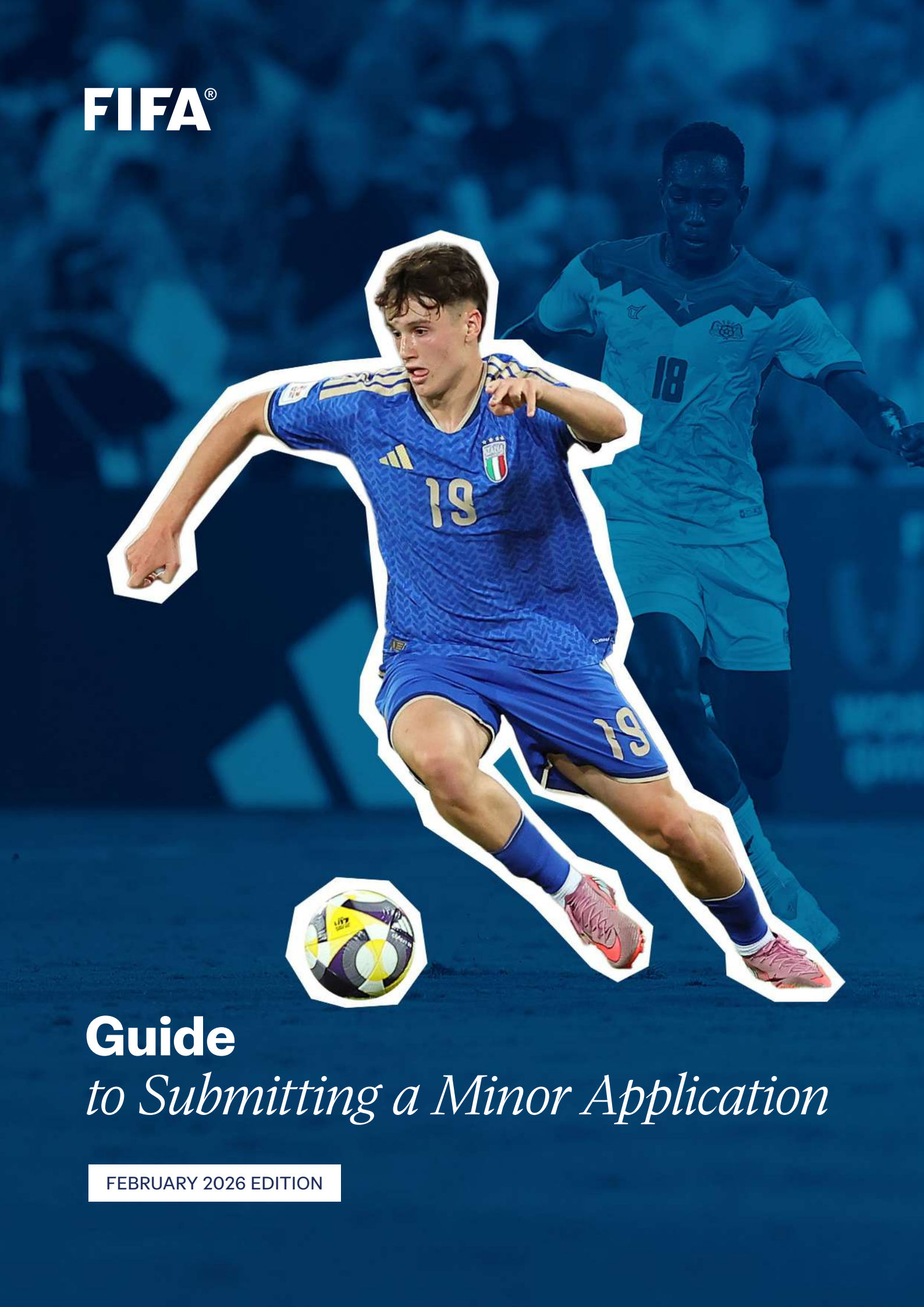
Building on this resource, we have created a dedicated section on FIFA.com related to the protection of minors, where you can access a summary of the key points of this handbook, as well as detailed information contained herein.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us, with "Parental Handbook" in the subject line.

regulatory@fifa.org



FIFA®



Guide
to Submitting a Minor Application

FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION

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01.
Minor Application Guide



Introduction to the minor application guide

The international transfer and first registration of minor players are governed by a dedicated regulatory framework designed to safeguard young players and ensure that their movement between member associations complies fully with FIFA's core principles of youth protection, regulatory transparency and the orderly conduct of international transfer of players.

In line with art. 19 par. 4 lit. a) of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP), any international transfer of a minor (art. 19 par. 2), any first registration of a minor who is not a national of the association in question (art. 19 par. 3), as well as the first registration of a foreign minor who has lived continuously for at least the previous five years in the country of registration, must be approved in advance by the Players' Status Chamber of the FIFA Football Tribunal. This requirement applies only if the minor is at least ten years old.

The procedural framework applicable to these matters is laid down in the Procedural Rules Governing the FIFA Football Tribunal (**Procedural Rules**). Art. 29 par. 1 lit. a) establishes the competence of the Players' Status Chamber in relation to minor applications, while art. 30 sets out the procedural architecture governing both the submission and assessment of such applications by member associations.

Of particular significance is art. 30 par. 3 of the Procedural Rules, which stipulates that each application must contain the documents requested in the Transfer Matching System (**TMS**) as described in the Guide to Submitting a Minor Application. This explicit regulatory cross-reference gives the present Guide a formal procedural character: it constitutes an authoritative and indispensable component of the documentation requirements mandated under the Procedural Rules and is therefore essential for ensuring that applications are complete and admissible.

Among other things, this document also further sets out the categories of information and documentation needed to substantiate a minor application, depending on the specific factual circumstances surrounding the proposed registration or transfer. Building upon this regulatory foundation, the Minor Application Guide provides a structured overview of the various scenarios in which an application may be required and identifies the corresponding documentation that member associations must prepare and upload in TMS.

Where a required document is not available in one of the three official FIFA languages, the member association must submit either a translation into one of these languages or an official confirmation summarising the essential facts of the document in an official FIFA language.

Lastly, while the FIFA general secretariat is responsible for reviewing and verifying the factual background of each case, decisions on the approval or refusal of a minor application rest exclusively with the Players' Status Chamber of the FIFA Football Tribunal. As such, the Minor Application Guide contributes to the coherent application of the RSTP and the Procedural Rules by setting out, in a consolidated manner, the documentation and procedural elements required for the proper submission of minor applications.

02.
The Individual Exceptions



"The parents of the player moved for reasons not linked to football"

Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP

Circumstances				Documents to be submitted												
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
International move of both of the player's biological parents	The player follows their parents that are moving to the new country for employment		The player's parents' new country of residence is the country where the player intends to be registered	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
	The player follows their parents that are moving to the new country for another reason not linked to football		The player's parents' new country of residence is the country where the player intends to be registered	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
International move of one of the player's biological parents	Parent not moving still alive		The player follows their custody-holding parent that is moving to the new country for employment	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
			The player follows their custody-holding parent that is moving to the new country for another reason not linked to football	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
	Parent not moving deceased		The player follows their living parent that is moving to the new country for employment	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
			The player follows their living parent that is moving to the new country for another reason not linked to football	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
International move of neither of the player's biological parents	Both player's parents are still alive	The player resided with one parent and now moves internationally to a new country to join the other custody-holding parent	The player's custody-holding parent resides in the new country for employment	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
			The player's custody-holding parent resides in the new country for another reason not linked to football	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
			The player's custody-holding parent has always resided in the country to which the player moves	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
		Parental authority taken away from the player's parents and awarded to a third person (legal guardian) by a national authority*	The player follows their appointed legal guardian who moves to the new country for employment	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
			The player follows their appointed legal guardian who moves to the new country for another reason not linked to football	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
			The player joins their appointed legal guardian who already resides in the new country	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓
	Both player's parents deceased	Parental authority awarded to a third person (legal guardian) by a national authority*	The player follows their appointed legal guardian that is moving to the new country for employment	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
			The player follows their appointed legal guardian who moves to the new country for another reason not linked to football	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
			The player moves internationally to join their legal guardian who already resides in the new country	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓

* In such case, the documentation referring to the player's parents should relate to the player's legal guardian.

1 **Employment contract of the player**

This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.

2 **Employment contract of the player's parent(s)**

Instead of an employment contract, an employment certificate (confirming the employment, position and date of contract), a company registry certificate (in case of self employment) or any other document corroborating the employment situation of the player's parents in the new country can also be provided, together with the work permit of the player's parents, if applicable.

3 **Other documents corroborating the reason invoked**

Explanatory statement from the player's parent(s) as to the reason for the move, along with documents corroborating the reason invoked.

4 **Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player**

Proof of birth must contain the player's birth date and filiation.

5 **Proof of identity and nationality of the player**

Such as government-issued ID card or passport.

6 **Proof of identity and nationality of the player's parent(s)**

Such as government-issued ID card or passport.

7 **Proof of residence of the player's parent(s)**

Proof of residence must have been recently issued and indicate the residence start date in the new country.

8 **Request for approval of first registration or international transfer**

9 **Documentation corroborating that the player's parent moving to or residing in the new country has custody of the player**

Such as Divorce decree (where applicable) or authorisation of the player's non-moving parent allowing the player to reside in the new country with the (moving) parent.

10 **Death certificate of the player's parent(s)**

11 **Decision of the relevant national authority taking away the parental authority from the player's parents and appointing a third person as the player's legal guardian**

12 **Decision from the relevant national authority appointing a third person as the player's legal guardian following the death of their parents**

13 **Statement from the club specifying the exact date and circumstances of the first contact with the player's parent(s) and/or the player**

The statement from the club wishing to register the player must contain the exact date in which the player's parent(s) and/or the player entered in contact with the club wishing to register the player, as well as the circumstances of such contact.

"The player is moving for humanitarian reasons with their parents"

Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP*

Circumstances	Documents to be submitted							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
The player is moving internationally to the new country with one or both of their parents who cannot be expected to return to their country of origin or their previous country of residence given that their lives or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Documents List

1 **Employment contract of the player**

This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.

2 **Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player**

Proof of birth must contain the player's date of birth and filiation.

3 **Proof of identity and nationality of the player**

Such as government-issued ID card or passport.

4 **Proof of identity and nationality of the player's parent(s)**

Such as government-issued ID card or passport.

5 **Proof of refugee status of the player's parent(s)**

A copy of the decision taken by the relevant national authority that grants the player's parent(s) the status of refugee(s) or "protected person(s)", or alternatively, an official confirmation from the relevant national authority that the player's parent(s) have been admitted to the procedure for being granted the right of asylum, as well as a copy of the temporary residence permit of the player's parents in the host country. The FIFA general secretariat and the PSC understand that said documents may contain privileged and/or sensitive data. Therefore, they will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be used within the scope of the minor application. In particular, they will not be disclosed, under any circumstance, in full or in part, to third parties not involved in the decision-making process related to the minor application in question.

6 **Proof of residence of the player's parent(s)**

Proof of residence must have been recently issued and indicate the residence start date in the new country.

7 **Request for approval of first registration or international transfer**

Such request should, where possible, be accompanied by confirmation as to whether the player is currently registered or has ever been registered with a club at the association of their home country (or any other country) and, if so, the date when they played the last official match for that club. In case of doubts as to the registration with a club in the country of the player's nationality and possible former club, confirmation issued by the FIFA Disputes & Regulatory Applications Department whether the player has indeed been registered with that club is required.

8 **Statement from the club wishing to register the player specifying the exact date and circumstances on how the player and the club first established contact**

The statement from the club wishing to register the player must contain the exact date in which the player's parent(s) and/or the player entered in contact with the club wishing to register the player, as well as the circumstances of such.

* Cf. FAQs, question 14.

"The player is over 16 and is moving within the territory of the EU/EEA* or between two associations within the same country"

Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 b) of the RSTP

Circumstances			Documents to be submitted									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Player is aged between 16 and 18	The player moves from a country outside the territory of the EU/EEA to an EU/EEA country	The player holds the nationality of an EU/EEA member state	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	The player moves from one EU/EEA country to another EU/EEA country	The player does not have the nationality of an EU/EEA member state and has been previously registered with a club within the territory of the EU/EEA in accordance with the RSTP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		The player has the nationality of an EU/EEA member state	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	The player moves between two associations witihin the same country	The player wishes to be registered in a member association which is domiciled in the same country as the member association at which they were previously registered.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Documents List

1 Employment contract of the player

This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.

2 Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player

Proof of birth must contain the player's date of birth and filiation.

3 Proof of identity and nationality of the player

Such as government-issued ID card or passport.

4 Proof of academic enrollment of the player

The proof of academic enrollment must include a signed and stamped statement issued by the relevant academic provider that confirms the player's enrolment, the qualification the player will receive upon completion of the course and the player's expected date of graduation

5 Weekly academic schedule of the player

Copy of the weekly academic schedule of the player duly signed and stamped by the relevant academic provider. According to the well-established jurisprudence of CAS and the PSC, and as a matter of principle, an academic load of eight hours per week has been considered the minimum requirement.

6 Documentation of accomodation/care

Such as a signed and stamped confirmation issued by the club wishing to register the player that states that the club will provide the player with accommodation and indicates the address of said accommodation as well as the name of the person responsible for the player. If the club will not provide accomodation to the player, a signed and stamped confirmation issued by the club wishing to register the player (i) specifying the living arrangements being made for the player and (ii) containing the address at which the player will be living, as well as the name of the host family or person(s) that will provide the accommodation and their relationship to the player (where applicable) has to be provided.

7 Documentation of football education

Proof of adequate football education and/or training in line with the highest national standards requires the submission of the following documentation and information:

- for male players, the club's training category in accordance with art. 4 pars 1 and 2 to Annexe 4 of the RSTP regarding training compensation; for female and/or futsal players, a statement from the association concerned (along with any relevant documentary evidence) confirming that the applicant club is deemed to be in "line with the highest national standards" of women's football and/or futsal education in that country;
- the player's weekly football training schedule (including the day and duration of each training session);
- a statement of the club wishing to register the player that specifies the team of the club that the player will be joining and the competition(s) in which they will be participating

8 Parental authorisation

9 Request for approval of first registration or international transfer

10 Confirmation of the registration of the player from the former association

The former association shall provide a statement confirming that the player was duly registered with its association, clearly indicating the club with which the player was previously registered

*Since Switzerland has a bilateral agreement with the European Union (EU) on the free movement of workers, the transfer would, per analogiam, take place within the territory of the EU, and therefore falls within the scope of article 19 paragraph 2 b).

"Both player and club are within 50km of their common border and the distance between the two is less than 100km"

Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP

Circumstances			Documents to be submitted							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
The distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters is not more than 100km The distance from the player's domicile to the closest common border of the neighbouring association is not more than 50km and The distance from the closest common border of the neighbouring association to the club's headquarters is not more than 50km	The player resides with both biological parents The player's parents are not moving internationally	The player's parents have always resided at their current address	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
		The player's parents have been residing at their current address for a considerable period of time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
		The player's parents have recently moved within their country of residence to their current address	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	The player resides with a custody-holding parent The player's custody-holding parent is not moving internationally	The player's custody-holding parent has always resided at the current address	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		The player's custody-holding parent has been residing at the current address for a considerable period of time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		The player's custody-holding parent has recently moved within the country of residence to the current address	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Documents List

1. **Employment contract of the player**
   This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.
2. **Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player**
   Proof of birth must contain the player's date of birth and filiation.
3. **Proof of identity and nationality of the player**
   Such as government-issued ID card or passport.
4. **Proof of residence of the player**
   Proof of residence must have been recently issued and indicate the residence start date at the current address.
5. **Proof of residence of the player's parent(s)**
   Proof of residence must have been recently issued and indicate the residence start date at the current address.
6. **Proof of Distance: 50 km rule**
   The distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters, measured in terms of the "route travelled", must not be more than 100km. Moreover, the distance between the player's domicile/club's headquarters and the closest common border, measured in point-to-point distance (aka "as the crow flies"), must not be more than 50km. In this regard, a screenshot/snapshot of Google Maps showing the aforementioned can be provided.
7. **Request for approval of first registration or international transfer**
8. **Documentation corroborating that the player's parent moving to or residing in the new country has custody of the player**
   Such as Divorce decree (where applicable) or authorisation of the other parent allowing the player to reside with the custody-holding parent.

"The player is moving for humanitarian reasons without their parents"

Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 d) of the RSTP

Circumstances	Documents to be submitted						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The player is moving internationally to the new country without their parents and cannot be expected to return to their country of origin or their previous country given that their life or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Documents List

1 **Employment contract of the player**

This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.

2 **Proof of identity and nationality of the player**

Such as government-issued ID card or passport.

3 **Proof of refugee status of the player**

A copy of the decision taken by the relevant national authority that grants the player the status of refugee or "protected person", or alternatively, an official confirmation from the relevant national authority that the minor player has been admitted to the procedure for being granted the right of asylum, as well as a copy of their temporary residence permit in the host country. The FIFA general secretariat and the Players' Status Chamber understand that said documents may contain privileged and/or sensitive data. Therefore, they will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be used within the scope of the minor application. In particular, they will not be disclosed, under any circumstance, in full or in part, to third parties not involved in the decision-making process related to the minor application in question.

4 **Proof of custody**

A copy of the decision of the competent national authority regarding the current legal custody of the minor player.

5 **Authorisation of custody holder**

A declaration of consent issued by the party that has custody of the minor player consenting to the player's registration with the club of the host country's football association.

6 **Parental situation**

A declaration regarding the current situation and whereabouts of the player's biological parents that is provided by the minor player, or the association of the player's host country, or any other competent authority.

7 **Request for approval of first registration or international transfer**

Such request should, where possible, be accompanied by confirmation as to whether the player is currently registered or has ever been registered with a club at the association of their home country (or any other country) and, if so, the date when they played the last official match for that club. In case of doubts as to the registration with a club in the country of the player's nationality and possible former club, confirmation issued by the FIFA Disputes & Regulatory Applications Department whether the player has indeed been registered with that club is required.

"The player is an exchange student undertaking an academic programme abroad"

Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 e) of the RSTP

Circumstances		Documents to be submitted									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The player's new club has purely amateur status (club without a professional team and without legal, financial or de facto links to a professional club)	The duration of the player's academic study abroad programme and the duration of the player's envisaged registration is less than a year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	The duration of the player's academic study abroad programme is longer than a year, but the player is turning 18 in less than a year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	The duration of the player's academic study abroad programme is longer than a year, but there is less than a year of the programme remaining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Documents List

1 **Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player**
Proof of birth must contain the player's date of birth and filiation.

2 **Proof of identity and nationality of the player**
Such as government-issued ID card or passport.

3 **Proof of identity and nationality of the player's parent(s)**
Such as government-issued ID card or passport.

4 **Documentation of exchange programme**
Official information about the exchange programme (name, purpose, funding, duration, etc.) provided by the organisers of the exchange programme, as well as confirmation that the minor player is enrolled in the exchange program.

5 **Confirmation of player's return**
Confirmation, issued and signed by the organisers of the exchange programme or the minor player's parents, that the minor player will return to their home country upon completion of the programme.

6 **Documentation of academic education**
Confirmation, issued and signed by the minor player's academic institution (school/college) in their host country, that indicates the dates of the envisaged duration of the relevant studies and includes a detailed timetable of the player's classes.

7 **Documentation of accommodation/care**
Specific details concerning the supervision and accommodation of the minor player during the exchange programme that include, in particular, the exact name and address of the player's host parents.

8 **Statement from the new association indicating the duration of the registration**
A declaration issued by the football association of the minor player's host country indicating the exact start and end dates of the envisaged registration of the player.

9 **Authorisation of host parents**
A declaration of consent issued by the minor player's host parents consenting to the player's registration with the club of the host country's football association.

10 **Request for approval of first registration or international transfer**

Five-year rule: "Player is registering for the first time and has lived continuously for the last five years in the country of intended registration prior to this request"

Exception: Art. 19 pars 3 and 4 of the RSTP

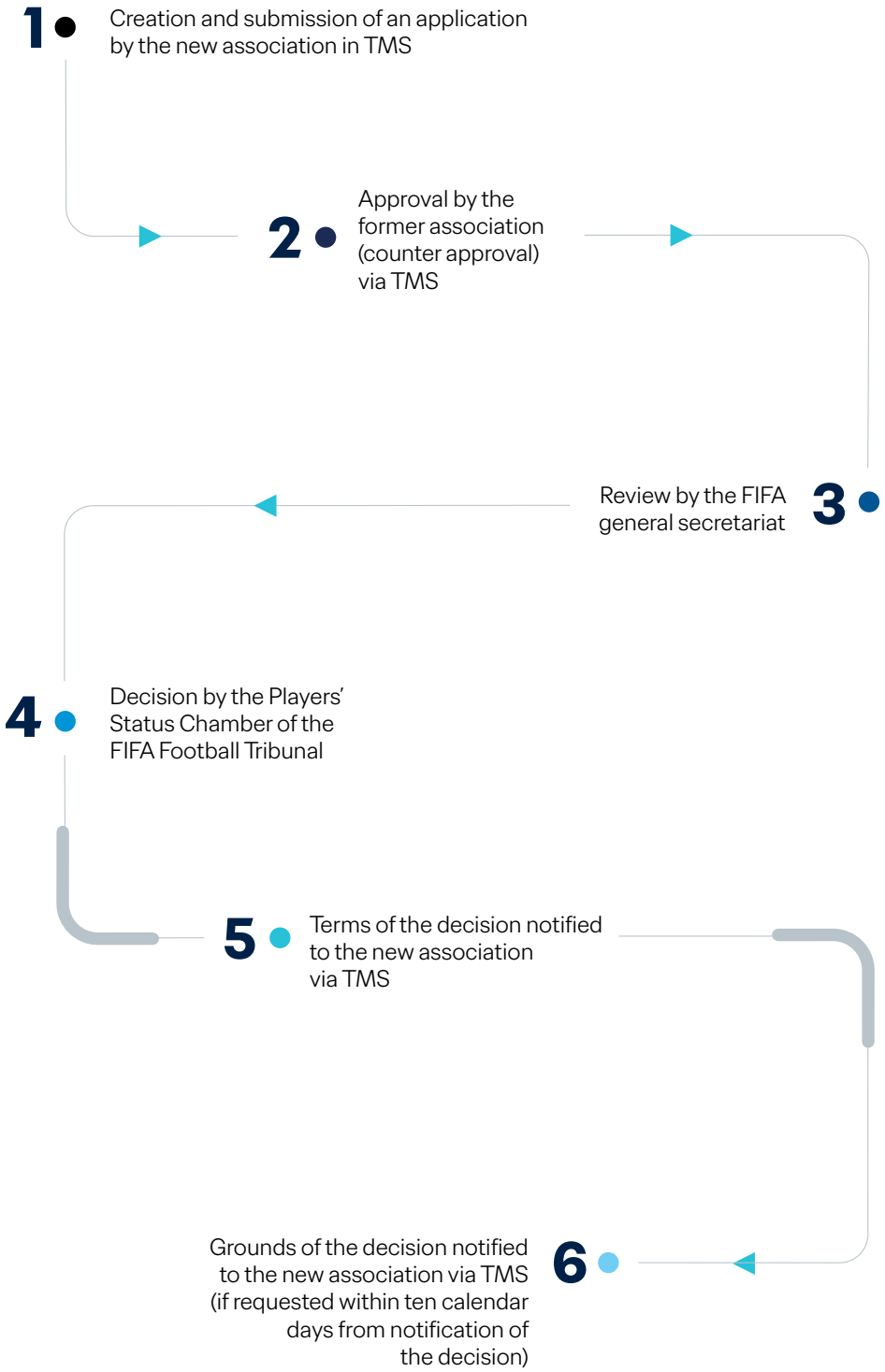
Circumstances	Documents to be submitted					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Player has lived **continuously for the last five years** in the country of intended registration prior to the request	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Documents List

1. **Employment contract of the player**
   This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.
2. **Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player**
   Proof of birth must contain the player's date of birth and filiation.
3. **Proof of identity and nationality of the player**
   Such as government-issued ID card or passport.
4. **Proof of residence of the player**
   Proof of residence must have been recently issued and indicate the player's residence start date at the current address.
5. **Proof of the player's school records for the past five years**
   If the proof of residence of the player does not reflect the player's residence for the past five years, alternatively, the association can submit the player's school records duly signed and recently issued by the relevant academic institution, provided that said records clearly indicate that the player has been enrolled without interruption over the last five years at said institution.
6. **Request for approval of first registration**

03.
Minor Application Process




1
Creation and submission of an application by the new association in TMS
2
Approval by the former association (counter approval) via TMS
3
Review by the FIFA general secretariat
4
Decision by the Players' Status Chamber of the FIFA Football Tribunal
5
Terms of the decision notified to the new association via TMS
6
Grounds of the decision notified to the new association via TMS (if requested within ten calendar days from notification of the decision)

36. Creation and submission of an application by the new association

After having gathered all the mandatory documents from the player, their parent(s) and/or the affiliated club, the new association will be responsible for creating the minor application and entering all the relevant information in TMS (cf. art. 30 par. 1 of the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal).

For each minor application, the new association must upload the mandatory documents in PDF format (the overview of the relevant documents to be uploaded depending on the various individual circumstances surrounding the international move of a minor player can be found in the Guide to submitting a Minor Application – cf. pages 6 to 12).

37. Approval by the former association (counter approval)

If a request for approval of an international transfer (except when humanitarian reasons are invoked) is submitted, the former association will be given access to the documents in TMS. It will then have seven days to (i) submit a statement through TMS in relation to the minor application and (ii) either approve or dispute said application (cf. art. 30 par. 4 of the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal).

If there is no response from the former association within seven days, the minor application will automatically be transmitted to FIFA via TMS for review and decision.

38. Review by the FIFA general secretariat

Upon receipt by the FIFA general secretariat, the minor application is assigned to a case handler,who will be responsible for reviewing the information and the documentation submitted.

During the review, the FIFA general secretariat may request additional information and/or documentation via TMS to the parties involved in order to supplement the minor application initially submitted. The party concerned must submit its response, along with the requested information and/or documentation, via TMS within the deadline given.

Once the review is complete, the FIFA general secretariat makes a proposal which is submitted – together with the minor application – to the Players' Status Chamber for decision (cf. art. 29 par. 1 of the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal). It should be noted that the proposal made by the FIFA general secretariat to the Players' Status Chamber is merely a (non-binding) recommendation.

39. Decision by the Players' Status Chamber of the FIFA Football Tribunal

Upon receipt of the minor application, the Players' Status Chamber will analyse the minor application and submit its decision in TMS.

40. Terms of the decision of the Players' Status Chamber of the FIFA Football Tribunal

Once the Players' Status Chamber submits the decision in TMS, the terms of the decision will be legally (and automatically) notified to the association(s) concerned via TMS (cf. art. 29 par. 2 of the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal).

The terms of the decision will state whether the application is "Accepted", "Rejected" or "Not admissible".

If the minor application is accepted, the parties concerned can complete the relevant steps leading to the player's international transfer or first registration.

41. Grounds of the decision of the Players' Status Chamber of the FIFA Football Tribunal

The association concerned has ten calendar days from the date of notification of the terms of the decision to request the grounds of the decision. Failure to do so will result in the decision becoming final and binding (cf. art. 15 par. 5 of the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal).

If an association requests the grounds of the decision, the motivated decision will be notified to the association(s) in full, written form via TMS.

According to art. 50 par. 1 of the FIFA Statutes, the Players' Status Chamber's decision may be appealed before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) within 21 days of the notification of the grounds of the decision.

04.
FAQs



General Questions

1. When does an international transfer or a first registration of a minor player occur?

If a minor player has never been registered at an association for the purpose of playing organised football[1] in their life and wants to be registered (for the first time) with a club affiliated to a member association, their registration constitutes a first registration.

If a minor player is registered at an association and now wants to be registered with a new club affiliated to another association, their registration with their new club constitutes an international transfer, i.e. said move would be subject to an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) as per art. 9 of the RSTP.

2. Is the first registration of a national minor player subject to the PSC's approval?

According to art. 19 par. 3 of the RSTP, the provisions of art. 19 (including those related to the mandatory prior approval of the PSC) also apply to any player who (i) has never previously been registered with a club, (ii) is not a national of the country in which they wish to be registered for the first time, and (iii) has not lived continuously for the last five years in said country.

As such, the first registration of a minor player holding the nationality of the country where they wish to be registered is not subject to the PSC's approval.

In this regard, it has to be noted that it is the responsibility of the association wishing to register the player to act with due diligence when investigating whether the player was previously registered or not.

3. Is the international transfer of a national minor player subject to the PSC's approval?

Where an international transfer of a minor player occurs, i.e. when the issuance of an ITC is needed[2], the prior approval of the PSC is always required regardless of the minor player's nationality, that is to say, also in cases where the minor player is a national of the country where they wish to be registered.

[1] Cf. definition number 6 in the RSTP

[2] Cf. also question 1 supra.

4. What is the situation for a minor player who stopped playing football and subsequently wants to be (re-)registered?

In this particular situation, professionals who end their careers upon expiry of their contracts and amateurs who terminate their activity remain registered at the association of their last club for a period of 30 months (cf. art. 4 of the RSTP).

As such, if a minor player was previously registered at an association, but subsequently stopped playing, the date of their last appearance for their previous club in an official match would have to be taken into account in order to determine whether their registration with their new club constitutes a potential (international) transfer (if their last appearance for their previous club in an official match occurred less than 30 months prior to the envisaged registration) or a first registration (if their last appearance for their previous club in an official match occurred more than 30 months prior to the envisaged registration).

5. What is the standard of proof used by the PSC to evaluate whether one of the exceptions is fulfilled?

In accordance with the jurisprudence of the PSC, a member association applying for the registration of a foreign minor player on the basis of one of the exceptions under art. 19, para. 2 of the RSTP must establish that the conditions are met to the 'comfortable satisfaction' of the Judge.

6. How old can the documents submitted in the context of a minor application be?

As a general rule, the PSC considers that, where possible, the documents provided should have been issued recently.

In particular, according to constant jurisprudence of the PSC, most of the documents submitted (particularly the relevant proof of residence) should have been issued:

i) less than six months prior to the submission of the minor application in TMS by the relevant member association, in case the minor application is submitted on behalf of a purely amateur club (cf. Definition 25 of the RSTP);

ii) or less than three months prior to the submission of the minor application in TMS by the relevant member association, in case the minor application is submitted on behalf of a professional club.

7. Are the decisions rendered by the PSC published?

In accordance with art. 17 of the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal, the FIFA general secretariat may publish decisions issued by the Players' Status Chamber or the Dispute Resolution Chamber.

Nevertheless, in order to safeguard the privacy and/or safety of the parties involved, while keeping in mind the confidentiality of the information and documentation provided in the context of a minor application (cf. question 8 infra), the FIFA general secretariat would only publish anonymised and/or redacted versions of the decisions passed by the PSC.

The decisions are published on legal.fifa.com.

8. What about data protection regarding the documentation to be provided in TMS within the context of a minor application?

The information provided in TMS and contained in the system is strictly confidential.

This is all the more important for the FIFA general secretariat and the PSC regarding documents and information related to minors and/or their parents.

The FIFA general secretariat and the PSC understand that said documents may contain privileged and/or sensitive data. Therefore, they are treated with strict confidentiality and are only used within the scope of the minor application. In particular, this information will not, under any circumstance, be disclosed, either in full or in part, to third parties not involved in the decision-making process related to the minor application in question (such third parties may include the authorities of the player's former country and the player's country of origin, in cases where humanitarian reasons are invoked – cf. also answer to question 14 infra).

ART. 19 PAR. 2 A) OF THE RSTP - GENERAL

9. What reasons – other than work-related reasons – are covered by the scope of this exception?

Although work is recognised as the most common reason leading a family to move from one country to another, the PSC recognises other reasons as the basis for a move, including:

- better education of the player and/or their parents;
- better living conditions;
- return to the country of origin;
- family reunion/reunification;
- investment;
- medical reasons; and
- retirement.

The above-mentioned list is obviously not exhaustive and serves merely as a guideline for the type of reasons that have been invoked in the context of minor applications submitted to the PSC in the past.

In relation to the above, in order to ease the process, associations may submit an explanatory statement from the player's parents regarding the reason that led them to move to the new country, along with the relevant documentary evidence supporting said statement, such as:

- school certificates indicating the date of the player's enrolment (if the move occurred for educational reasons);
- proof of residence from relatives (if applicable) living in the country where the player's parents moved (if the move occurred for family reunion or if the player's parents return to their country of origin);
- medical certificates in support of the medical reason invoked, if applicable;
- proof of investment made in the new country indicating in particular, the reasons for said investment and the date when it was made.

For the sake of completeness, it needs to be clarified that, regardless of the reason invoked, these applications were only accepted by the PSC in situations where it was clear that the player's parents moved to the new country for the reason invoked and not for the player's football career.

10. Under which circumstances would a player moving with only one parent be accepted?

In accordance with the jurisprudence of the PSC, the player's move with only one parent has been accepted in the following circumstances:

i) the player joins a parent who is already living abroad and who has shared (or full) custody of the player (the consent of the other parent is needed in case of shared custody);

ii) the player joins a parent who is already living abroad following the death of the other parent;

iii) the player joins a parent who is already living abroad after a national court awards full custody of the player to that parent; and

iv) the player moves abroad with a custody-holding parent for reasons not linked to football (the consent of the other parent and/or proof of custody is needed in such cases). The above-mentioned list is obviously not exhaustive and serves merely as a guideline for the type of reasons that have been invoked before the PSC in the past.

11. Under which circumstances would a player moving without their parents be accepted?

Within the context of the exception outlined in art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP, the PSC has recognised, only in very limited circumstances, the possibility for a player to move to a new country without their parents.

In particular, the PSC has accepted applications in the following very strict circumstances:

i) The player's legal guardianship has been withdrawn from the player's parents by a national court and been awarded to a third person or a relative;

ii) The player's legal guardianship has been withdrawn from the custody-holding parent by a national court and been awarded to a third person or a relative; and

iii) The player's parents passed away, as a consequence of which the player's legal guardianship was assigned to a third person or a relative.

ART. 19 PAR. 2 A) OF THE RSTP - SPECIFIC SITUATIONS

12. Can an application potentially be accepted if the player's parents are moving to the new country because of one of the player's parents' football career?

This question has been raised on many occasions in situations where one of the player's parents (i) is a (professional) football player, a football coach or working within the football industry, and (ii) moved with their family to a new country as a result of a professional opportunity.

Although literally speaking, in such cases the move of the player's parents is "linked to football", the PSC clarified on several occasions that (i) the provision of art. 19 par. 2 a) is aimed at preventing parents' moves motivated by the player's football career, and (ii) said exception could be applicable to situations where the move was motivated by one of the player's parents' football career.

13. The player's parents have not left their country of residence while the minor player was registered with a club abroad. The player now wants to be registered again with a club in their parents' country of residence. How should such cases be processed?

This situation refers to cases where:

a. the minor player was previously registered abroad on the basis of art. 19 par. 2 b), art. 19 par. 2 d) or art. 19 par. 2 e) of the RSTP and now wants to be registered (again) in the country where their parents are residing; or

b. the minor player was previously registered abroad on the basis of art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP, while still residing with their parents in their country of residence, and now wants to be registered (again) in the country where their parents are residing.

According to the strict wording of the RSTP, the aforementioned circumstances do not fall within the scope of the exception of art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP which, as a general rule, requires the relocation of the player's parents. Nevertheless, it is deemed that a situation where the player has always lived or is living again with their parents in their country of residence, without them moving, is in line with the ratio legis of art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP.

As such, it has been clarified that the member association wishing to register a minor player under these circumstances must submit an application on the basis of the exception outlined in art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP.

In such cases, the member association should provide – in addition to the documentation already listed in the Minor Application Guide (cf. page 6) – an explanatory statement along with evidence that the player's parent(s) has/have been continuously residing in the country where the player wishes now to play while they were previously registered abroad. Said documentation would have to be uploaded in TMS under the category "Other".

14. Is the reason "The minor player is moving for humanitarian reasons accompanied by their parents" in TMS an additional exception to those listed under art. 19 par. 2 of the RSTP?

No.

The above-mentioned reason is not an additional exception to the general principle outlined in art. 19 par. 1 of the RSTP, but rather a situation that would, in principle, fall under art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP, with the relevant federation bearing the burden of proving that the parents' move occurred for reasons not linked to football.

However, applications based on the reason "The minor player is moving for humanitarian reasons accompanied by their parents" require a specific (and distinct) procedure in order to ensure the appropriate protection of the minor player and their family.

As a matter of fact, in accordance with FIFA circular no. 1635, if an association submits an application prior to the international transfer of a minor moving for humanitarian reasons (if they were previously registered at the association of their nationality or any other association) via TMS, the former association will not have access to the information contained therein, it will not be invited to provide comments and it will not be notified of the PSC's decision.

ART. 19 PAR. 2 B) OF THE RSTP

15. Is the exception applicable to first registrations of players?

Although a first registration of a minor does not strictly speaking fall within the scope of art. 19 par. 2 b) of the RSTP, which requires a transfer within the European Union (EU) or the European Economic Area (EEA), a player who was not previously registered and has the nationality of an EU or EEA country will also benefit from the principle of free movement within the EU on the basis of said exception.

According to the well-established jurisprudence of the PSC, this exception is applicable to first registrations in situations where a minor player who has the nationality of an EU or EEA country wishes to be registered for the first time in an EU/EEA country[3].

16. How does the exception apply to international transfers?

The international transfer of a player from an EU/EEA country to another EU/EEA country – regardless of the player's nationality – strictly speaking always falls within the scope of art. 19 par. 2 b) of the RSTP, which concerns transfers taking place within the territory of the EU or EEA.

According to the now extensive jurisprudence of the PSC, confirmed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)[4], in the interests of maintaining the principle of equal treatment, the international transfer from outside the EU/EEA to the EU/EEA of a minor player who has the nationality of an EU/EEA member state should be treated the same as a transfer within the EU/EEA of a minor player who is a national of an EU/EEA member state, and, as such, benefit from the provisions in art. 19 par. 2 b) of the RSTP.

For the sake of good order, if the country of a member association has a bilateral agreement on the free movement of workers with the EU and/or the EEA, said member association could potentially also benefit from the exception in art. 19 par. 2 b). The association concerned must provide a copy of the relevant law/the applicable provisions of the law granting it such right.

17. With respect to art. 19 par. 2 b) i. of the RSTP, how can it be demonstrated/ established that the football education provided is "in line with the highest national standards"?

In accordance with the relevant jurisprudence of the PSC, football education and/or training "in line with the highest national standards" is, as a general rule, established on the basis of the financial investment of each club concerned in training young players.

[3] The approval of the PSC prior to the first registration of the minor player is, however, only required if the latter does not have the nationality of the EU/EEA country where they wish to be registered for the first time (see also question 2 supra)

[4] CAS 2012/A/2862 FC Girondins de Bordeaux v. FIFA and CAS 2016/A/4903 Club Atlético Vélez Sarsfield v. The FA & Manchester City & FIFA

With regard to men's football, the assessment of whether a club provides an adequate football education and/or training "in line with the highest national standards" is mainly made taking into consideration the association's annual classification of clubs into training categories I to IV (cf. art. 4 of Annexe 4 to the RSTP and FIFA circular no. 1936).

It is important to mention that, unlike associations, the PSC do not have any information on clubs' financial investments in the training of young players, or any way of comparing the training sessions of the individual clubs of an association in order to determine the highest national standards. In this context, the well-established jurisprudence of the PSC confirm the importance of a uniform and consistent application of the club's training categories in all areas of the RSTP in order to safeguard the principle of equal treatment and legal certainty for the clubs affected by the provisions regarding the protection of minors and training compensation[5].

With regard to women's football as well as futsal, as such classification does not exist, a statement from the association concerned confirming that the applicant club is in "line with the highest national standards" of women's football education / futsal education in that country (along with any relevant documentary evidence in support of said statement) must be provided in lieu of the training category.

18. With respect to art. 19 par. 2 b) i. of the RSTP, is there a minimum amount of football education and/or training to be provided per week by the player's club?

To date, the PSC has not established a minimum requirement.

The relevant assessment is made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account various criteria, such as the team with which the player is training, and the type and frequency of training provided.

19. With respect to art. 19 par. 2 b) ii. of the RSTP, how many hours of academic education are considered sufficient?

According to the well-established jurisprudence of the PSC, and as a matter of principle, an academic load of eight hours per week has been considered the minimum requirement in order to allow a player to pursue a career other than football should they cease their playing career. This assessment is however conducted on a case-by-case basis due to the various existing academic courses and subjects.

[5] CAS 2024/A/10795 Fodboldalliancen AC Horsens A/S & Tudor-Stefan Cocu v. FIFA

20. With respect to art. 19 par. 2 b) ii. of the RSTP, are distance learning and/or online classes accepted by the PSC?

Distance learning and/or online classes have been accepted by the PSC in cases where:

a. the academic institution providing distance learning and/or online classes confirms the player's enrolment in the relevant academic course;

b. said academic course is considered to enable the player to pursue another career should they cease to play football;

c. the academic load meets, at the very least, the requirements set out above (cf. question 19 supra); and

d. the player's new club appoints a mentor to the player in charge of ensuring that the latter duly attends their distance learning courses/online classes.

Having said that, it needs to be emphasised that, in any event, such situations are analysed on a case-by-case basis by the PSC taking into account the nature of the academic course in which the player is enrolled.

It is important to note that, in line with the well-established jurisprudence of the PSC and confirmed by the CAS[6], academic education is considered particularly critical in cases involving the international transfer of young players. This is because a minor must adapt to a new cultural, linguistic and social environment while ensuring continuous academic progress. Accordingly, pre-recorded online classes shall be deemed inadequate and inappropriate within the strict framework of exceptions for the transfer of minors. Virtual education may only serve as a complementary measure in exceptional circumstances, as it deprives the minor of essential elements such as direct interaction with classmates, teachers and members of the wider community. The significance of education extends beyond immediate academic achievement; it is fundamental to a minor's future prospects, providing a pathway to alternative professional opportunities

[6] CAS 2024/A/10795 Fodboldalliancen AC Horsens A/S & Tudor-Stefan Cocu v. FIFA

21. With respect to art. 19 par. 2 b) ii. of the RSTP, is a minor player still required to go to school in situations where, in the new country where they wish to be registered, minors from 16 to 18 are no longer obliged to follow an academic education?

Yes.

The RSTP establish provisions for the minor player to follow either an academic course at a school, or undertake vocational education and/or training in addition to their football training that will allow them to pursue a career other than football should they cease to play professional football.

In accordance with the jurisprudence of the PSC, the member association applying for the registration of the minor player needs to provide evidence that the educational pathway the player is engaged in will allow them to pursue another career should they cease to play football.

22. With respect to art. 19 par. 2 b) ii. of the RSTP, is a minor player still required to follow an academic course if (i) they have already graduated from high school or from the relevant course they were following in their former country, or (ii) they have already completed mandatory education in their home country?

In accordance with the spirit of the RSTP and the jurisprudence of the PSC, the player will be required to follow an academic course, vocational education and/or training (cf. questions 19, 20 and 21 supra) that would allow them to pursue a career other than football.

ART. 19 PAR. 2 C) OF THE RSTP

23. What is considered to be "the player's domicile"?

In accordance with the relevant jurisprudence of the PSC, the player's domicile (or home) is always considered to be the main address where the player's parent(s) reside.

In other words, any secondary residence of the player's parent(s) or the place of residence of a relative/third person cannot be considered "the player's domicile".

The PSC has always held that such interpretation is necessary in order to uphold the ratio legis of the provisions concerning the protection of minors.

24. Can the club's training facilities be considered "the club's headquarters"?

As a general rule, the distance requirements are measured from and to the club's headquarters, i.e. where the club has its registered seat.

Having said that, on some occasions, the PSC considered that the club's training facilities or the club's stadium could be taken into account for the purpose of the relevant calculations, provided that the relevant distance requirements are complied with.

25. How are the distance requirements calculated?

Art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP clearly sets out the following cumulative requirements:

a. the distance between the player's home and the common border must not exceed 50km;

b. similarly, the distance between the club's headquarters and the common border must not exceed 50km; and

c. the total distance between the player's home and the club's headquarters must not be more than 100km.

However, the RSTP do not expressly state how the aforementioned distance should be calculated.

In this regard, and in accordance with the relevant jurisprudence of the PSC, the distance requirements are calculated as follows:

i) The calculation of the 50km distance between the player's home and the (closest) common border is based on the straight, point-to-point distance (aka "as the crow flies") between the two respective locations;

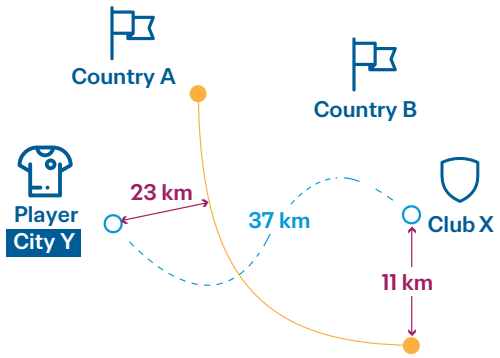
ii) The calculation of the 50km distance between the club's headquarters and the (closest) common border is based on the straight, point-to-point distance (aka "as the crow flies") between the two respective locations;

iii) The calculation of the 100km distance between the player's home and the club's headquarters is based on the distance of the "route of travel" between the two respective locations.

Such calculations can be made with various websites (such as Google Maps). The relevant printouts can be provided as supporting evidence.

Please find below a few calculation examples:

Situation 1



The player lives in city Y of country A.

The player wants to be registered with club X located in neighbouring country B.

The player's address in city Y is located 23km (point-to-point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

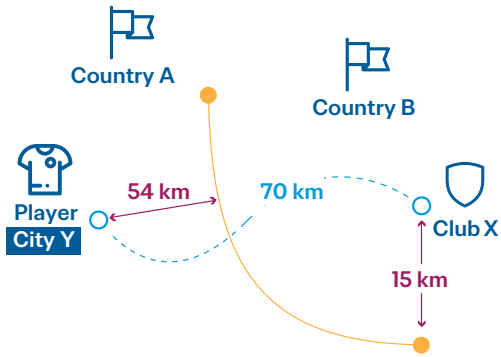
Club X's seat is located 11km (point-to-point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

The "route travel" between the player's address and the club's seat is 37km.

Assessment

✓ The distance requirements of art. 19 par. 2 c) **are cumulatively met**.

Situation 2



The player lives in city Y of country A.

The player wants to be registered with club X located in theneighbouring country B.

The player's address in city Y is located 54km (point to point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

Club X's seat is located 15km (point to point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

The "route travel" between the player's address and the club's seat is 70km.

Assessment

⊗ The distance requirements of art. 19 par. 2 c) **are not cumulatively met**, **since the player's address is located more than 50 km from the nearest shared border.**

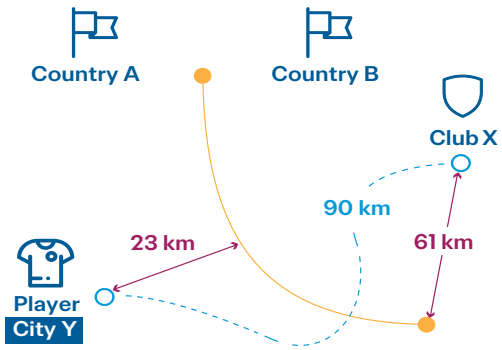
Border

Road from Player's address to Club x's seat

Such calculations can be made with various websites (such as Google Maps). The relevant printouts can be provided as supporting evidence.

Please find below a few calculation examples:

Situation 3



The player lives in city Y of country A.

The player wants to be registered with club X located in neighbouring country B.

The player's address in city Y is located 23km (point-to-point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

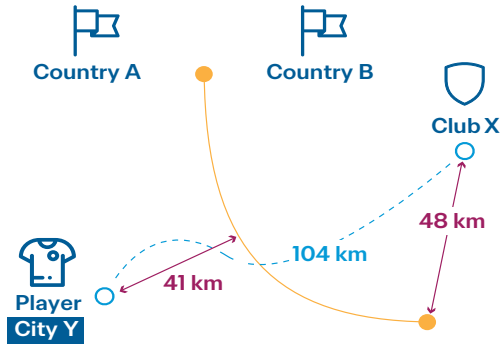
Club X's seat is located 61km (point-to-point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

The "route travel" between the player's address and the club's seat is 90km.

Assessment

⊗ The distance requirements of art. 19 par. 2 c) **are not cumulatively met** since the club's seat is located more than 50km from the (closest) common border.

Situation 4



The player lives in city Y of country A.

The player wants to be registered with club X located in neighbouring country B.

The player's address in city Y is located 41km (point-to-point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

Club X's seat is located 48km (point-to-point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

The "route travel" between the player's address and the club's seat is 104km.

Assessment

⊗ The distance requirements of art. 19 par. 2 c) **are not cumulatively met** since the "route travel" from the player's address to the club's seat is more than 100km.

Border

Road from Player's address to Club x's seat

ART. 19 PAR. 2 C) OF THE RSTP – SPECIFIC SITUATIONS

26. The player's parent(s) moved to a new country for reasons not linked to football and the player wishes to be registered with a club located in a neighbouring country of the new country of residence of their parent(s). How should such a case be processed?

The member association wishing to submit an application on the basis of such circumstances must apply the exception outlined in art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP.

In the case of an international transfer, it will have to select in TMS the association where the player was previously registered as the player's former association (and not the country where the player (now) resides with their parent(s).

In such cases, the new association will have to provide – together with the documentation already listed in the Minor Application Guide (cf. page 9) – the relevant proof that the move of one or both of the player's parents to their new country of residence was not motivated by the player's football career, namely an explanatory statement from the player's parent(s) as to the reason for the move, along with documents corroborating the reason invoked. Said documentation would have to be uploaded in TMS under the category "Other".

In line with the jurisprudence of the PSC, and although the member association would request the PSC's approval on the basis of the exception outlined in art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP, the requirements of both art. 19 par. 2 c) and art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP must be cumulatively fulfilled.

Please find below a practical example:

Situation	Application to be submitted
The player was registered for a club in country A and moved with their parents to country B for reasons not linked to football. The player's parents take up residence in city Z of country B. The player wishes to be registered with a club located in city X of country C. The player and their parents' address in city Z is located less than 50km from the (closest) common border between countries B and C, and less than 100km from the seat of the club where the player intends to be registered in country C. In addition, the club in city X is located less than 50km from the (closest) common border between countries B and C.	The member association of country C will have to request the approval of the PSC prior to the request of the International Transfer Certificate of the player from country A, on the basis of the exception outlined in art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP and will have to provide: i) the documentation listed in the Minor Application Guide (page 8); and ii) documentary evidence demonstrating that the player's parents' move to country B was not motivated by the player's football career (to be uploaded under the category "Other").

ART. 19 PAR. 2 D) OF THE RSTP

27. Is the decision from a national authority granting the player the status of refugee or "protected person" always needed for the minor application?

If the player has been granted refugee status, i.e. the player has a residence permit unequivocally stating that the player is a refugee, a decision from the national authorities granting the player said status is, in principle, not needed. A copy of the player's residence permit is in this case, in principle, sufficient.

If the player has been granted any status other than refugee status, the member association concerned must provide:

a. a copy of the decision taken by the relevant national authorities confirming that the player is "a protected person" that left their country in order to protect their life or freedom that was at threat in their former country or country of origin; or

b. official documentation regarding the player's immigration status in the new country that would corroborate that the player is "a protected person" that left their country in order to protect their life or freedom that was at threat in their former country or country of origin (e.g. residence permit, along with a copy of the applicable law on the basis of which the player was granted said permit, etc.).

It is important to clarify that, regardless of the player being recognised as an unaccompanied minor authorised to remain in the relevant country, for this exception to apply it is also necessary to provide official documentation confirming that the player is a 'protected person' who left their country in order to safeguard their life or freedom, which was under threat in their former country or country of origin. In the same vein, this concept would not apply to players who can freely visit their home country while residing alone as an unaccompanied minor.

ART. 19 PAR. 2 E) OF THE RSTP

28. Does the PSC recognise exchange programmes privately organised by the player's family and that does not involve an exchange programme organiser and/or the player's previous school?

The PSC has accepted such applications on limited occasions, provided that all other requirements of the exception were also met.

29. Is a minor player obliged to follow an academic education abroad if they have already graduated from high school or from the relevant course they were following in their former country?

In accordance with the wording of art. 19 par. 2 e) of the RSTP, said exception is applicable to a player (i) who is a student, and (ii) who moves without their parents to another country temporarily (iii) for academic reasons in order to undertake an exchange programme.

As such, the PSC has so far considered that the academic education of the player has to be the primary reason of their move. In other words, it needs to be established that the player will be enrolled in an academic course abroad in order to be able to possibly benefit from the exception in question.

30. What happens if the duration of the player's registration for the new club reaches one year and the player still has not turned 18 years old?

In cases where the player's registration was authorised under the exception of article 19.2(e), and the player does not turn 18 years old before one year of registration, it shall be the sole responsibility of the relevant association to proceed with the deregistration of the player in the relevant national electronic player registration system before the registration exceeds one year. Failure to act in this regard shall be considered a violation of the RSTP.

ART. 19 PAR. 3 AND 4 OF THE RSTP

31. How are the five years of continuous residence calculated?

The PSC has always held that the member association applying for the registration of a foreign minor player on the basis of art. 19 par. 3 of the RSTP must prove that the player has lived **without interruption** in the country of intended registration **for the last five years**.

The five years are counted (back) from the date on which the minor application is submitted in TMS by the association wishing to register the minor player.

32. What if a minor player has been residing for a considerable amount of time in the new country of intended registration but less than 5 years?

Although a case-by-case assessment is conducted by the PSC, the requirements regarding the player's continuous residence in the country of intended registration for the last five years are very strictly applied.

As such, if a member association cannot provide evidence that the player has been continuously residing for the last five years in its country, it must look into the other exceptions and apply on the basis of the one that corresponds most closely to the player's situation (e.g. art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP, if the player's parents also moved to the country of intended registration and if their move was not linked to the player's football career, etc.), along with submitting the relevant documentation listed in the Minor Application Guide for said exception.

05.
Reference Materials



Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

- Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players including interim regulatory framework – July 2025.
- Commentary on the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players – 2023 Edition

Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal

- Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal – January 2026 Edition

FIFA Circular Letters

- Circular no. 1936 - Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players – categorisation of clubs and registration periods
- Circular no. 1893 – FIFA International Player Transfer Guide
- Circular no. 1816 – Amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players concerning the international transfer of minors [...]
- Circular no. 1763 - Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players – categorisation of clubs, registration periods, and international transfers of minor players
- Circular no. 1743 – Amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and to the Rules Governing the Procedures of the Players' Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber
- Circular no. 1709 – Amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players
- Circular no. 1635 – International transfer of players
- Circular no. 1587 – International transfer of professional minor players
- Circular no. 1576 – Limited minor exemption

TMS

- TMS Help Centre: Minors

CAS Awards

- CAS 2024/A/10982 A. v. FIFA & RFEF
- CAS 2024/A/10795 Fodboldalliancen AC Horsens A/S & T. v. FIFA
- CAS 2023/A/10032 Wolverhampton Wanderers FC v FIFA
- CAS 2023/A/9501 Dansk Boldspil-Union, FC Nordsjaelland & B. v. FIFA
- CAS 2022/A/9199 W. & AZ Alkmaar v. FIFA
- CAS 2022/A/8592 USD Lavagnese 1919 v. FIFA
- TAS 2021/A/8233 Real Federación Española de Fútbol c. FIFA
- CAS 2021/A/7807 Sport Lisboa e Benfica v. FIFA
- CAS 2020/A/7503 N. v. FIFA
- TAS 2020/A/7150 Ryoga Fujita c. FIFA
- CAS 2019/A/6432 The FA v. FIFA
- CAS 2019/A/6301 Chelsea Football Club Limited v. FIFA
- CAS 2017/A/5244 Oscar Bobb & Associação Juvenil Escola de Futebol Hernâni Gonçalves v. FIFA
- CAS 2016/A/4903 Club Atlético Vélez Sarsfield v. The FA & Manchester City & FIFA
- CAS 2016/A/4805 Atlético Madrid v. FIFA
- CAS 2016/A/4785 Real Madrid v. FIFA
- CAS 2015/A/4312 John Kenneth Hilton v. FIFA
- CAS 2015/A/4178 Zorhan Ludovic Bassong & RSC Anderlecht v. FIFA
- CAS 2014/A/3793 Barcelona v. FIFA
- CAS 2014/A/3611 Real Madrid FC v. FIFA
- CAS 2013/A/3140 A. v. Atlético Madrid & RFEF & FIFA
- CAS 2012/A/2862 FC Girondins de Bordeaux v. FIFA
- CAS 2011/A/2494 FC Girondins de Bordeaux v. FIFA
- CAS 2011/A/2354 E. v. FIFA
- CAS 2008/A/1485 FC Midtjylland v. FIFA
- CAS 2005/A/9955 & 956 Cadiz & Acuña Caballero v. FIFA

06.
Contact



FIFA is fully committed to answering any questions or enquiries concerning the content of this document and/or any regulatory matters regarding the protection of minors that member associations, clubs, players and their families, and football stakeholders around the world may have.

This document was produced by the FIFA general secretariat and is not binding on any decision-making body of FIFA. In the event of any discrepancies between this guide and the applicable FIFA regulations, the latter take precedence.

As such, please feel free to contact us at any time at: regulatory@fifa.org.

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Explanatory Notes

Interim Regulatory Framework

- Contractual stability, in particular article 17 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players
- Sporting sanctions
- International Transfer Certificates
- Coaches
- Cases pending before the Football Tribunal

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I. Final remarks

A. Introduction

1. On 4 October 2024, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) rendered its judgment in case C-650/22 concerning the football player Lassana Diarra ("Diarra Judgment").

2. The Diarra Judgment contains critical considerations in relation to specific elements of the regulatory framework concerning contractual stability and the procedure related to the issuance and delivery of an International Transfer Certificate (ITC). The relevant rules are contained in the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP). The Diarra Judgment primarily concerns article 17 of the RSTP and Annexe 3 to the RSTP (in relation to ITCs) and also indirectly affects Annexe 2 to the RSTP (in relation to coaches).

3. Immediately upon the issuance of the Diarra Judgment, FIFA opened a global dialogue regarding possible changes to the RSTP. FIFA has since received substantial feedback from football stakeholders from across the world.

4. FIFA will continue this inclusive process to develop, jointly with its stakeholders, a new, long-term, robust and globally uniform regulatory framework for professional football, through an open, objective, transparent and non-discriminatory process.

5. However, discussions with key stakeholders have also shown that there is a pressing need for stability and regulatory clarity on an interim basis, while these broader discussions continue. In particular, in January 2025, many FIFA member associations will open their registration periods (so-called transfer windows). This entails a degree of urgency for stakeholders to have clarity about the applicable regulatory framework in these upcoming registration periods, in relation to both contractual stability and the execution of international transfers of players.

6. For this reason, FIFA engaged separately with its key stakeholders[1] to develop an interim regulatory framework to be put in place.

7. That interim regulatory framework was adopted by a decision of the Bureau of the FIFA Council dated 22 December 2024. It is a direct result of the close consultation between FIFA and its key stakeholders. The interim regulatory framework will apply until the broader discussions on the long-term content of the RSTP have concluded. It will also apply immediately to cases that are currently pending for a decision on the merits by the Football Tribunal.

[1] In this context, FIFA reached out to the World Players' Union (FIFPRO), the European Club Association (ECA), the World Leagues Association (WLA), and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

8. These explanatory notes set out all the relevant details of the interim regulatory framework. FIFA is thankful to all its stakeholders for their constructive and collaborative approach during this consultation phase.

B. Stakeholder consultation

9. Between 28 November 2024 and 22 December 2024, FIFA engaged in several rounds of consultation with the aforementioned key stakeholders.

10. Immediately following the issuance of the Diarra Judgment and in parallel to opening the global dialogue, FIFA made immediate, good-faith efforts to seek the views of these stakeholders on the possible need for an interim regulatory framework, and on the possible content of such a solution.

11. In reaching the final version of the interim regulatory framework, FIFA duly took account of all views and positions of the stakeholders that actively participated in the substantive discussions regarding a provisional solution of this nature. FIFA has sought to reflect the positions expressed and the various legitimate interests of each stakeholder concerned.

12. As is only natural for such a consultation process, it was difficult to reach a consensus on every single detail of this interim regulatory framework, in particular given its provisional nature and the urgency at which it needed to be developed. However, FIFA is convinced that the regulatory approach adopted strikes a very reasonable balance between all the views expressed.

13. Most, though not all, stakeholders agreed that introducing an interim regulatory framework was a necessary step to be taken. Nevertheless, they expressed differing views as to what exactly it should comprise. FIFA also considers that it has the responsibility, as world football's recognised governing body, to provide as much regulatory stability and clarity as possible in the current circumstances. FIFA remains convinced that an open, inclusive dialogue with all its stakeholders is the best way forward to develop a robust, objective, transparent, non-discriminatory and proportionate regulatory framework for football at global level.

14. Accordingly, the interim regulatory framework strikes a balanced compromise between the different views expressed by the stakeholders who actively participated in the discussions on the substance of the interim regulatory framework.

15. The Bureau of the FIFA Council adopted the interim regulatory framework on 22 December 2024. It enters into effect on 1 January 2025.

C. Purpose and nature

16. FIFA is aware that, following the issuance of the Diarra Judgment, many questions arose with regard to the legality, validity and/or applicability of specific elements of the RSTP.

17. Against this background, the purpose of the interim regulatory framework is to ensure that all football stakeholders benefit from stability and regulatory certainty, in particular for the upcoming registration periods and more generally for as long as the broader consultation on possible long-term changes to the RSTP is ongoing. With this interim regulatory framework, FIFA can ensure that a globally uniform set of rules continues to apply and that all clubs worldwide are subject to consistent regulatory standards in relation to squad composition, the stability of contracts and international transfers of players.

18. It is important to underline that this interim regulatory solution does not condition any element of the ongoing discussions related to the prospective long-term changes to the RSTP. Some elements of this interim regulatory framework may be reflected in the wording of a future version of the RSTP whilst others may not. The fact that some elements have been included in this interim regulatory framework does not mean that they will, or will not, be part of the eventual long-term solution contained in a new version of the RSTP.

D. Regulatory concepts unaffected by the Diarra Judgment

19. At the outset, it is important to note that the Diarra Judgment does not call into question the RSTP in its entirety, nor does it cast any doubt over certain basic regulatory concepts related to contractual stability. These concepts are, therefore, fully maintained. Before addressing the changes contained in the interim regulatory framework, it is appropriate to recall the regulatory concepts related to contractual stability that continue to apply without modification under this interim regulatory framework.

20. These are the following:

    - FIFA's legitimacy to issue globally uniform, binding rules in relation to contractual stability: The Diarra Judgment confirms the need for uniform regulatory standards for all clubs worldwide, including in relation to contractual stability. The Diarra Judgment also confirms that FIFA, as world football's recognised governing body, has the legitimacy to issue such globally uniform rules.

    - The principle of contractual stability: Contracts between players or coaches, on the one hand, and clubs or member associations, on the other hand, must be respected. They terminate only upon expiry of the agreed term, or by

mutual agreement.[2] They may be unilaterally terminated only in the existence of just cause.[3]

- The principle of a protected period: Contracts continue to be subject to a protected period, within which a breach of contract may lead to sporting sanctions against the party in breach of contract.[4]

- Sporting sanctions against a club for a breach of contract during the protected period: A club that breaches a contract within the protected period may be subject to sporting sanctions, as defined in the RSTP.[5]

- Sporting sanctions against a player for a breach of contract during the protected period: A player who breaches a contract within the protected period may be subject to sporting sanctions, as defined in the RSTP.[6]

- Ability to contractually agree on the compensation for a breach of contract: Parties are free to contractually agree on the compensation that shall be payable in the event of a breach of contract,[7] subject to the requirements and a review by the Football Tribunal based on existing jurisprudence.

- Existence of, and need for, an ITC: An ITC is still required in order for players to be transferred internationally.[8]

21. Further, it must be noted that all other regulatory principles and requirements contained in the RSTP continue to apply without modification, unless specifically addressed in these explanatory notes or the interim regulatory framework.

E. The interim regulatory framework

1. Overview

22. In summary, the interim regulatory framework affects the following rules and principles:

- the calculation of compensation payable in the event of a breach of contract by a player or coach;[9]

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2 Art. 13 of the RSTP.
3 Art. 14 par. 1 of the RSTP.
4 RSTP, Definitions section, no. 7.
5 Art. 17 par. 4 of the RSTP.
6 Art. 17 par. 3 of the RSTP.
7 Art. 17 par. 1 of the RSTP.
8 Art. 11 of Annexe 3 to the RSTP.
9 See par. 29 et seq.

- the burden of proof in relation to joint and several liability for compensation payable for a breach of contract;[10]

- the burden of proof in relation to an inducement to breach a contract (and the related sporting sanction against the new club of a player);[11] and

- the procedure regarding the issuance of an ITC.[12]

23. Further, the interim regulatory framework contains a more detailed definition of the term "just cause"[13] and provides certain clarifications in relation to the burden of proof and evidentiary requests,[14] by introducing amendments to the corresponding article of the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal ("Procedural Rules").[15]

24. Finally, these explanatory notes contain clarifications regarding certain disciplinary measures and set out when the interim regulatory framework enters into force and how it will apply to cases that are currently pending before the Football Tribunal.

2. The notion of "just cause"

25. As indicated, valid contracts may still be prematurely and unilaterally terminated in the existence of "just cause".[16]

26. In order to provide more clarity and predictability, the interim regulatory framework introduces a general definition of "just cause" to article 14 paragraph 1 of the RSTP:

> *"A contract may be terminated by either party without consequences of any kind (either payment of compensation or imposition of sporting sanctions) where there is just cause. In general, just cause shall exist in any circumstance in which a party can no longer reasonably and in good faith be expected to continue a contractual relationship."*

27. This amendment represents no change in practice. Rather, it codifies the established jurisprudence of the Football Tribunal and its precursors. Adding this wording will give stakeholders that may not be familiar with this practice more clarity and predictability, and it will reinforce the fact-specific approach of the Football Tribunal when determining whether there is just cause in a particular case.

28. Under this approach, the Football Tribunal will continue to analyse the existence of just cause on a case-by-case basis, taking into account all the factual specificities of each case. Examples of just cause, and of the existing jurisprudence of the Football

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10 See par. 38 et seq.
11 See par. 42 et seq.
12 See par. 55 et seq.
13 See par. 25 et seq.
14 See par. 48 et seq.
15 Art. 13 of the Procedural Rules.
16 Art. 14 par. 1 of the RSTP.

Tribunal, can be found in the freely accessible FIFA Commentary on the RSTP, specifically in the section concerning articles 14 and 17 of the RSTP.

3. The calculation of compensation for breach of contract

29. Article 17 paragraph 1 of the RSTP specifies how the compensation payable in the event of a breach of contract shall be calculated. The Diarra Judgment contains critical considerations in relation to some of the calculation criteria. Accordingly, without recognising the illegality of any of these aspects, FIFA wishes to provide as much clarity and stability as possible. Certain aspects have therefore been removed from the interim regulatory framework in order to clarify the approach to calculating compensation.

30. The amended wording of article 17 paragraph 1 of the RSTP reads as follows:

> *"In all cases, the party that has suffered as a result of a breach of contract by the counterparty shall be entitled to receive compensation. Subject to the provisions of article 20 and Annexe 4 in relation to training compensation, and unless otherwise provided for in the contract, compensation for the breach shall be calculated taking into account the damage suffered, according to the 'positive interest' principle, having regard to the individual facts and circumstances of each case, and with due consideration for the law of the country concerned."*

31. Under this amended wording, certain key principles remain unaffected:

    - the principle that a party that has suffered damage as a result of a breach is entitled to request financial compensation to restore it to the position in which it would have found itself had the breach of contract not occurred, in line with the "positive interest" principle;

    - the principle that the starting point for the calculation of damages is to quantify the damage suffered;

    - the principle that the party claiming compensation bears the burden of quantifying, substantiating and proving the damage suffered;

    - the fact that the individual facts and circumstances of each case must always be considered when calculating the amount of compensation to be awarded; and

    - the principle that parties may contractually agree in advance on the amount payable in the event of a breach of contract.

32. The interim regulatory framework is no longer based on the specific calculation criteria that were deemed problematic by the CJEU in the Diarra Judgment. Instead, compensation shall be calculated in an objective and transparent way and at a level required to restore the party that has suffered damage as a result of a breach of

contract to the position in which that party would have been had the breach not occurred. The Football Tribunal will apply this "positive interest" principle, which is an established mechanism under contract law, as a basis for calculating compensation for breach of contract.

33. Where there is a dispute, it will always be up to the claimant to quantify, substantiate and prove the damage that it allegedly suffered as a result of a breach of contract. Provided that the party can satisfy this burden of proof, it shall, in principle, be fully compensated for the damage suffered, in line with the calculation criteria outlined above (subject to the obligation to mitigate damage suffered, in accordance with the case law of the Football Tribunal). It is to be noted that where compensation is due to a player, the additional calculation mechanism established in article 17 paragraph 1 subparagraph 2 of the RSTP remains unchanged.

34. If a party wishes FIFA to treat the law of the country concerned as one of the factors to be considered within the overall calculation as per the "positive interest" principle, that party shall have the burden of demonstrating the relevance of a particular national law, its exact content and to what precise effect it should be considered by the Football Tribunal.

35. Essentially, identical amendments have been made to the rules applicable to disputes involving coaches. Specifically, article 6 paragraph 2 d) of Annexe 2 to the RSTP has been amended as follows:

> *"Compensation shall be calculated taking into account the damage suffered, according to the 'positive interest' principle, having regard to the individual facts and circumstances of each case, and with due consideration for the law of the country concerned."*

36. The application of this provision will follow the principles outlined above in relation to article 17 paragraph 1 of the RSTP.

37. Finally, it is worth reiterating that the content of this interim regulatory framework regarding this specific aspect of calculation, as with all other aspects, is entirely without prejudice to the outcome of the ongoing consultation in relation to the long-term regulatory approach to the RSTP, to the contents of a possible new version of the RSTP and to the positions that stakeholders may express in the ongoing (and/or any potential future) consultation on these topics.

4. The burden of proof in relation to joint and several liability

38. Under the interim regulatory framework, article 17 paragraph 2 of the RSTP reads as follows:

> *"Entitlement to compensation cannot be assigned to a third party. A player's new club shall be held jointly liable to pay compensation if, having regard to the*

individual facts and circumstances of each case, it can be established that the new club induced the player to breach their contract."

39. The rationale for, and purpose of, this rule is to ensure that all decisions on joint and several liability can be rendered with full regard to the individual facts and circumstances of each case, and that joint and several liability will only apply if it can be established that a player's new club induced the player to breach their contract.

40. Accordingly, the interim regulatory framework reverses the burden of proof in relation to the joint and several liability of a player's new club. New clubs may only be held jointly liable to pay compensation if a claiming club can prove that a new club induced a player to breach their contract.

41. In this context, reference needs to be made to the clarifications of the parties' duty to collaborate to establish the facts and the ability to draw an adverse inference from the parties' behaviour in this context. These clarifications will be explained in paragraph 47 et seq. below.

5. The burden of proof in relation to inducement to breach of contract

42. The interim version of article 17 paragraph 4 of the RSTP reads as follows:

> "*A sporting sanction shall be imposed (i) on any club found to be in breach of contract during the protected period or (ii) on a player's new club if, having regard to the individual facts and circumstances of each case, it can be established that the new club induced the player to breach the contract during the protected period. The club shall be banned from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, for two entire and consecutive registration periods. The club shall be able to register new players, either nationally or internationally, only as of the next registration period following the complete serving of the relevant sporting sanction. In particular, it may not make use of the exceptions stipulated in article 6 paragraph 3 of these regulations in order to register players at an earlier stage.*"

43. First, the principle remains that any club found to be in breach of contract during the protected period may, as before, face a sporting sanction.

44. In addition to this, the rationale for, and purpose of, the amended wording of this rule is to ensure that decisions on a possible sporting sanction against a new club for inducement to breach of contract are always rendered with full regard to the individual facts and circumstances of each case. Accordingly, a sporting sanction may only be imposed against a new club if the claiming club can establish that a player's new club induced the player to breach the relevant contract.

45. The interim regulatory framework therefore reverses the burden of proof in relation to the inducement to breach of contract.

46. In all such cases, the nature and extent of the sporting sanction remain unchanged.

47. Finally, it is also important in this context to mention the clarifications of the parties' duty to collaborate to establish the facts and the Football Tribunal's ability to draw an adverse inference from the parties' behaviour in this context. The following paragraphs will explain these clarifications that will be introduced to the Procedural Rules.

6. The burden of proof: duty to collaborate

48. The general principles regarding the burden of proof are established in article 13 paragraph 5 of the Procedural Rules:

> *"A party that asserts a fact has the burden of proving it."*

49. This principle remains unchanged. Any party asserting the existence of a specific fact or circumstance must prove to the Football Tribunal that this fact or circumstance exists.

50. However, with the introduction of the interim regulatory framework, a new paragraph 6 has been added to this article:

> "*Parties have the duty to collaborate to establish the facts and shall respond in good faith to any evidentiary request from a chamber, the FIFA general secretariat or a party. A party submitting an evidentiary request shall demonstrate that the evidence requested is likely to exist and is relevant. An adverse inference may be drawn from a party's reaction to an evidentiary request.*"

51. The background to this new rule is that, with the reversal of the burden of proof in article 17 paragraphs 2 and 4 of the RSTP and given the inherent evidentiary difficulties that parties in international football proceedings may face, it seems appropriate to clarify: (1) the duty of parties to collaborate by providing evidence; and (2) the Football Tribunal's entitlement to draw an adverse inference, depending on the reaction of a party to an evidentiary request.

52. More specifically, this new paragraph clarifies that parties have a duty to collaborate in the establishment of the facts in a specific case. When asked to provide information or documentation that is relevant to a case, they must, in principle, comply with such a request. This will ensure that the decision-making process of the Football Tribunal takes account, to the fullest extent possible, of all the relevant factual circumstances of an individual case.

53. Under this new rule, the relevant chamber of the Football Tribunal, the FIFA general secretariat or a party may make a specific evidentiary request. For example, a party may be asked to provide a particular document or piece of information. If such an evidentiary request is made by a party to the proceedings (i.e. not by the Football Tribunal or the FIFA general secretariat), that party must demonstrate that the

evidence requested is likely to exist and is relevant. It is for the Football Tribunal to determine whether an evidentiary request meets these requirements.

54. This new rule also clarifies that the Football Tribunal is entitled to draw an adverse inference from a party's reaction to such an evidentiary request (for example, if a party refuses to disclose a document or piece of information that seems relevant and is likely to exist, without a valid explanation or justification).

7. International Transfer Certificates (ITCs)

55. The amended version of article 11 of Annexe 3 to the RSTP under the interim regulatory framework establishes a modified mechanism related to the issuance of an ITC. This new mechanism can be summarised as follows:

- When a player's new association makes a request for the delivery of an ITC ("ITC Request"), the former association shall, within 72 hours, deliver the ITC to the new association.

- It is no longer possible for the former association to reject an ITC Request.

- If the former association fails to respond to the ITC Request within 72 hours, the new association will be able to register the player with the new club and enter the relevant player registration information in TMS.

- In exceptional circumstances, the player, the former association or the new association may request FIFA's intervention by emailing regulatory@fifa.org.

  For the avoidance of doubt, such an intervention may never be used to block the issuance of a player's ITC solely due, for example, to an ongoing contractual dispute. The ability to request such an intervention is designed only for scenarios where, for example, an ITC Request is made without a player's knowledge, in a way that is abusive towards a player, or if there is a technical error related to an ITC Request.

- In all cases, the issuance of an ITC is without prejudice to any contractual dispute between the player, their former club and/or their new club. In other words, even if a former association immediately confirms the issuance of an ITC, this has no effect whatsoever on an affected club's right to file a contractual claim against the player in question and/or their new club.

  This corroborates the notion that the existence of such a contractual dispute can never be used to block the issuance of a player's ITC. A player may always – irrespective of such a dispute – move to a new association and continue their career with a new club, as long as due consideration is given to sporting integrity and the transfer is made during the applicable registration periods.

56. A contractual dispute between a player and a former club has never been a reason for an ITC not to be issued and FIFA has consistently and unreservedly ensured that ITCs are delivered for players who wish to continue their careers in other parts of the world. Nevertheless, the rationale for, and purpose of, this new procedure is to clarify the applicable mechanism through the interim regulatory framework. Under this new mechanism, no association can ever invoke the existence of a purely contractual dispute in order to block the issuance of an ITC. All of this will further facilitate player movement, in line with requirements established in the Diarra Judgment.

F. Pending cases before the Football Tribunal

57. Several cases to which the rules affected by the Diarra Judgment are potentially relevant are pending before the Football Tribunal. In particular, these include cases involving claims based on article 17 paragraphs 1, 2 and/or 4 of the RSTP.

58. Under article 29 of the RSTP (as amended under the interim regulatory framework), the amended rules of the RSTP will also apply directly to these pending cases.

59. It is clear that, before the Football Tribunal renders any decision, the parties concerned will be granted the right to be heard in relation to the possible consequences and impact of the interim regulatory framework on the merits of a case.

G. Disciplinary measures

60. On 25 November 2024, the chairman of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee issued a letter containing clarifications in relation to sporting sanctions that may have been issued and/or requested based on provisions contained in the RSTP, which are affected by the Diarra Judgment.

61. In this letter, the chairman of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee made the following clarifications:

> *"A. The following disciplinary measures are to be temporarily suspended with immediate effect:*
>
> *1. Any disciplinary measures against players related to the enforcement of financial entitlements awarded based on article 17 RSTP.*
>
> *2. Any disciplinary measures against coaches related to the enforcement of financial entitlements awarded based on article 6 Annexe 2 RSTP.*
>
> *3. Any disciplinary measures against clubs based on the joint and several liability foreseen in article 17 para. 2 RSTP.*
>
> *4. The above includes cases where, following a decision of the Football Tribunal, a subsequent decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee has been rendered based on art. 21 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC), ed. 2023 or on art. 15 FDC, ed. 2019.*

5. The above is without prejudice to a possible later reinstatement of such measures and does not constitute any admission of [the] illegality of such disciplinary measures.

B. The FIFA general secretariat is hereby appointed to implement these temporary suspensions."

62. This excerpt from the letter clarifies that the relevant sporting sanctions are only temporarily suspended. These are sanctions that may have been requested or imposed on the basis of the provisions affected by the Diarra Judgment, as mentioned above.

63. Importantly, this letter does not call into question either the existence of a protected period or the threat of a sporting sanction against a club or player for a breach of contract during the protected period.[17] Furthermore, this letter does not affect existing registration bans imposed on clubs for breach of contract during the protected period or suspensions imposed on players for breach of contract during the protected period.

H. Next steps

64. As indicated, the interim regulatory framework enters into force on 1 January 2025.

65. Irrespective of this, FIFA is continuing its extensive and open consultation process and global dialogue with all stakeholders on the long-term future of the RSTP. In particular, FIFA is continuing to engage with all stakeholders that have expressed an interest in being part of this dialogue and that have submitted their observations about the impact of the Diarra Judgment on the existing regulatory framework.

66. FIFA's overall aim remains to work with its stakeholders to develop a robust and uniform global regulatory framework in an objective, transparent, non-discriminatory and proportionate way. This will guarantee the integrity of competitions, competitive balance and contractual stability, whilst taking account of the legitimate views and interests of all affected parties.

[17] See par. 20.

I. Final remarks

67. All stakeholders are kindly encouraged to regularly consult these explanatory notes since they may be updated from time to time.

68. For the avoidance of doubt, this document was produced by the FIFA general secretariat and is not binding on any decision-making body of FIFA. In the event of any discrepancies between these explanatory notes and the applicable FIFA regulations, the latter take precedence.

69. Any questions or remarks may be directed to the FIFA general secretariat by emailing regulatory@fifa.org.

* * *

FIFA CLEARING HOUSE

Explanatory notes on the FIFA Clearing House Regulations

October 2024

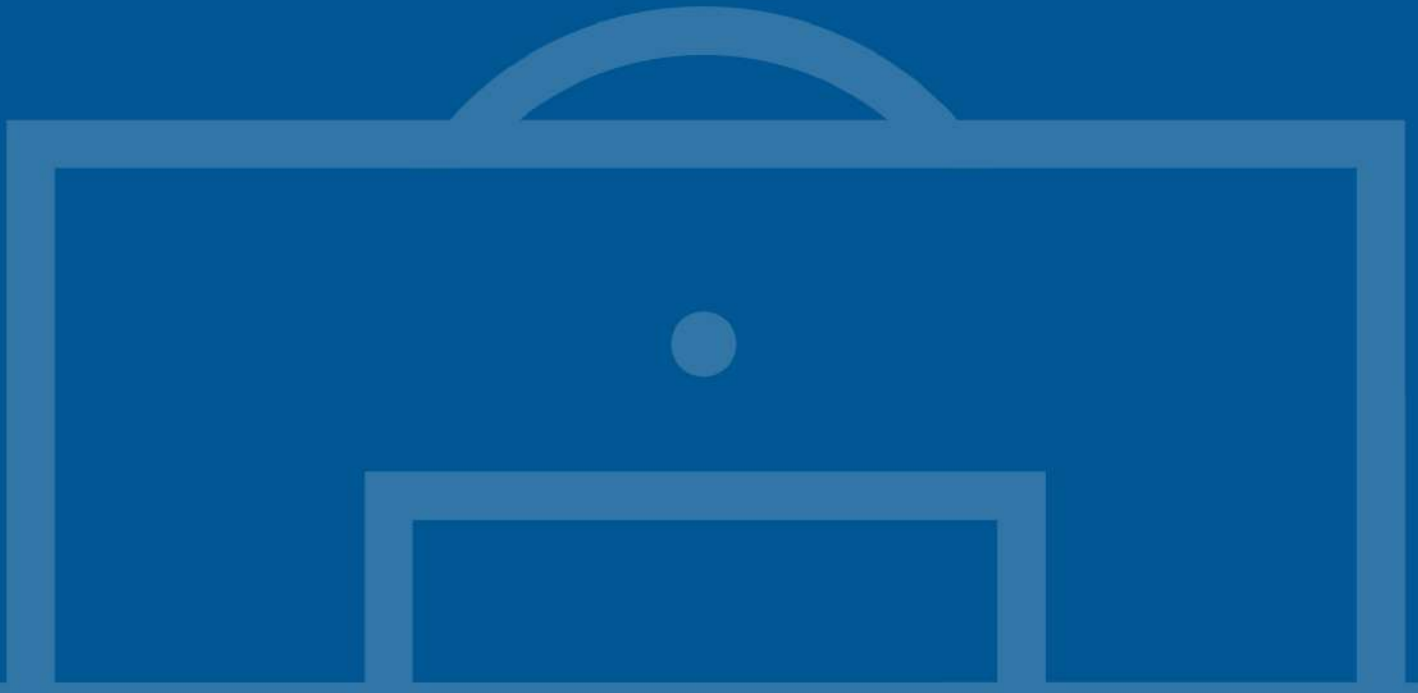


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Explanatory Notes on the FIFA Clearing House Regulations

This document aims to provide additional and appropriate guidance to FIFA member associations (MAs) and their stakeholders, including all potential clients of the FIFA Clearing House, in relation to the amendments and additions to FIFA regulations for operation of the FIFA Clearing House, in particular by the introduction of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

1. Introduction and objectives

The FIFA Clearing House is a central aspect of FIFA's ongoing commitment to introducing fundamental changes to the football transfer system. The idea of establishing a clearing house came from the FIFA Football Stakeholders Committee and was then endorsed by the FIFA Council back in October 2018, as part of the first reform package of the transfer system.

In the following months and years, the FIFA Clearing House project was taking shape with the main goals of centralising, processing and automating payments between clubs, initially relating to training rewards (training compensation and solidarity contributions), and of promoting financial transparency and integrity, via the establishment of an external entity, the FIFA Clearing House (FCH), to process those payments and ensure compliance with international financial regulations.

The process of distribution of training rewards through the FIFA Clearing House consists of three steps: (1) the identification of entitlement to training rewards, (2) the completion of the Electronic Player Passport (EPP) and (3) the payments between clubs through the FCH. This process is regulated through the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

The FIFA Clearing House Regulations have the following structure:

- **Section I – Introductory provisions** (articles 1-3): objectives, scope and description of the FCH entity
- **Section II - Identification and calculation of training rewards** (articles 4-11): registration and transfer of players; training rewards trigger (first professional registration, international transfer, domestic transfer with an international dimension); EPP and review process; and FIFA determination
- **Section III - FIFA Clearing House payment process** (articles 12-14): allocation statement; payment by the new club; payments by the FCH to the training club(s)
- **Section IV – Compliance assessment** (articles 15-16): compliance assessment; consequences of compliance assessment failures
- **Section V – Sanctions and disputes** (articles 17-18)
- **Section VI – Final provisions** (articles 19-26): applicability in time; transitory provisions; references; matters not provided for; official languages; inconsistency; operational management; enforcement

2. General questions

2.a. What is a training rewards trigger?

A training rewards trigger is an event related to the registration of a player that may give entitlement to training rewards to the clubs having trained the player in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP). Examples of training rewards triggers are international transfers, domestic transfers with transfer compensation or the first registration of a player as a professional.

2.b. As from when will payments of training rewards be processed through the FIFA Clearing House?

Any payment of training compensation or solidarity contribution within the regulatory framework of FIFA in accordance with the RSTP, and arising from a trigger of training rewards occurring as from 16 November 2022, will be processed through the FIFA Clearing House.

It is worth noting that transfers or registrations of players having occurred before go-live of the FIFA Clearing House (16 November 2022) will be paid and processed with the current claims system. Accordingly, training rewards related to instalments falling due after 16 November 2022, but which still result from transfers concluded before the entry into force of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations (CHR), will be paid and processed with the current claims system.

3. Registration and transfer of players - Article 4, FIFA Clearing House Regulations

3.a. What role do clubs play in ensuring that reliable, accurate and complete player registration information is made available to FIFA (art. 4 par. 1)?

Clubs shall ensure that:

- players are always correctly registered in the national registration system of their member association, including the status (amateur / professional) and the type of registration (permanent / on loan);
- the International Transfer Certificate (ITC) process is followed, in accordance with the RSTP for players that were previously registered at clubs affiliated to other member associations; and
- the usage of the correct FIFA ID for the player is respected when entering any instruction in FIFA TMS or in a domestic electronic system, or when registering the player in the national registration system.

3.b. What are the requirements for an electronic player registration system and an electronic domestic transfer system (art. 4 par. 3)?

It is worth reminding that, in accordance with the RSTP and as stated in FIFA circulars no. 1654 (26 November 2018) and no. 1679 (1 July 2019), member associations must implement electronic domestic transfer and registration systems and integrate them with TMS, the FIFA Connect ID Service and the FIFA Connect Interface. These provisions have been mandatory since 1 July 2020.

Domestic electronic systems (national registration systems and domestic transfer systems) shall be integrated with FIFA Connect ID, for the assignment of FIFA IDs to players and clubs, and for the electronic exchange of registration and domestic transfer information, where required.

Moreover, domestic transfer systems must have a matching mechanism for ensuring that the correct information is entered and verified when declaring a domestic transfer.

3.c. How shall member associations ensure that the same FIFA ID is used for a player across member associations and TMS?

It is very important that member associations make sure not to assign a new FIFA ID to a player that already exists in FIFA Connect ID.

Member associations shall use the functionality provided by FIFA Connect ID to identify possible existing registrations of the player in other electronic systems and shall assign the corresponding existing FIFA ID to the player in their electronic systems, where applicable.

This functionality is also integrated in TMS in the process of deduplication of players.

3.d. Where shall member associations categorise their clubs for training compensation (art. 4 par. 5 and 6)?

Member associations shall categorise their clubs in accordance with the RSTP and relevant information provided by FIFA through circulars.

The categorisation of their clubs must be entered by the member association into their national registration systems, communicated by the system to the FIFA Connect ID Service and manually entered or confirmed in TMS.

4. Training rewards triggers – Articles 5, 6 and 7

4.a. Which training rewards triggers or events shall member associations communicate to FIFA in relation to the distribution of payments of training rewards and how?

a) First registrations as a professional at domestic level: all change of status from amateur to professional of male players shall be communicated to FIFA through the FIFA Connect interface from the National Registration System of the member association (article 5

CHR), or shall be manually declared in TMS, if an exception has been granted in writing by FIFA (article 5.4 CHR), within 30 days of the registration of the player.

b) First registrations as a professional arising from an international transfer: these registrations shall be declared as part of an international transfer instruction in TMS and shall not be declared separately via an automatic or manually declaration (article 5.9 CHR).

c) National transfers of players with transfer compensation: all transfers of a player with transfer compensation (i.e. release/buy-out fee, fixed fees, conditional fees and/or a sell-on fee) between clubs affiliated to the same member association shall be communicated to FIFA through the FIFA Connect interface from the domestic transfer system of the member association (article 7.5 CHR), or shall be manually declared in TMS if an exception has been granted by FIFA (article 7.7 CHR), within 30 days of the registration of the player. It is important to point out that if a transfer of a player between clubs affiliated to the same member association does not include any transfer compensation, it shall not be declared to FIFA.

d) Payments of transfer compensation in national transfers of players: all proof of payments related to the transfer compensation of the transfer of a player within the same member association shall be communicated to FIFA through the FIFA Connect interface from the domestic transfer system of the member association (article 7.5 CHR), or shall be manually declared in TMS if an exception has been granted by FIFA (article 7.7 CHR), within 30 days of the registration of the player.

e) International transfers: shall be declared in TMS in accordance with RSTP and its annexe 3 (article 6 CHR).

4.b. In cases where a player reacquires professional status, should the member association only declare the first registration as a professional if the reacquisition happens within 30 months of the player re-registering as a professional (article 5 CHR)?

No, all cases where a player changes status from amateur to professional must be declared.

4.c. Shall member associations communicate or declare all first registrations as a professional or domestic transfers involving transfer compensation, or may they filter out those without international dimension (articles 5 and 6 CHR)?

Member associations need to declare all first professional registrations of players and domestic transfers involving transfer compensation irrespective of whether there is an international dimension, i.e. of whether the player has been trained at clubs affiliated to other member associations or not.

In cases where the member association has been granted an exception by FIFA (art. 7 par. 9 CHR), they may declare only domestic transfers involving transfer compensation of players where they determine there is an international dimension.

All trigger events shall be communicated by member associations as they could potentially give raise to training rewards. If it is showed at the beginning of the EPP process that first professional registrations or domestic transfers do not have an international dimension, the case will be discarded (see section 5).

4.d. How should a club declare a training compensation payment to a former club when it is included in the transfer compensation (art. 6 par. 2 and art. 7)?

In cases where a player registers at a new club for which payment of training compensation shall be due to the former club and there is a transfer agreement between the former and the new club of the player with transfer compensation, an EPP will be generated.

Where applicable, the new club may upload the transfer agreement in the corresponding EPP demonstrating that there is no clause assigning the payment of training compensation in addition to the transfer compensation, which implies that training compensation was included as part of the transfer compensation. Within the EPP review process (section 5) in TMS, these agreements should be declared within the "waiver" section.

4.e. What is the process for a member association to request to declare first registrations as a professional and/or domestic transfers with transfer compensation manually in TMS (art. 5 par. 4 and art. 7 par. 5)?

Request for declaring domestic transfers with transfer compensation and/or first registrations as a professional, manually in TMS instead of electronically through the FIFA Connect interface, must be made in written form by the relevant member association's TMS manager.

Such request shall be sent via email to tmshelpdesk@fifa.org.

4.f. What is the process for a member association to request an exception for declaration of domestic transfers only with international dimension?

Request for an exception to declare only domestic transfers with international dimension shall be made following the requirements and in accordance with art. 7 paragraph 9 of the CHR, after prior written approval of the FIFA general secretariat.

Such request shall be sent via email to tmshelpdesk@fifa.org including the number of domestic transfers with transfer compensation that took place at the member association during the calendar year prior to sending the request.

5. Electronic Player Passport – Articles 8, 9 and 10

5.a. What is the Electronic Player Passport (EPP)?

An Electronic Player Passport (EPP) is an electronic document containing the consolidated registration information of a player throughout their career, including the relevant member association, their status (amateur or professional), the type of registration (permanent or loan),

and the club(s) (including training category) with which they have been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday.

The EPP is generated by FIFA whenever a training rewards trigger is identified. A review process will guarantee that all interested member associations and clubs can provide the relevant registration information and documents, so that the EPP is complete.

This electronic document is generated by and stored in FIFA TMS. It can be found in the "Player Passports" area.

5.b. Which registration information shall member associations provide to FIFA for the generation of the EPP of the player?

All registration information of a player throughout their career, including the relevant member association, their status (amateur or professional), the type of registration (permanent or loan), and the club(s) (including training category) with which they have been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday.

5.c. When is the provisional EPP generated by TMS?

The provisional EPP for the relevant player is generated in TMS when a training rewards trigger is identified as defined in the aforementioned Section 3.

5.d. Which are the training rewards?

As per art. 20 and 21 & Annexe 4 and 5 of the RSTP, the training rewards are the following:

- Training compensation, which is payable until the player's 23rd birthday for training incurred up to the calendar year of their 21st birthday when:
    - the player is registered for the first time as a professional (change of status from amateur to professional) before the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday, and has been trained at a club affiliated to different MA to where he is being registered; or
    - the player is transferred between clubs of two different associations before the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday, during or at the end of their contract.
- Solidarity contribution, which is payable during the player's entire career to clubs that trained the player up to the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday when:
    - the player is transferred internationally (or nationally and there is an international dimension) before the expiry of their current contract; and
    - there are payments in the context of the transfer of the player with the objective of transferring the player to the new club (transfer compensation).

5.e. How are the training rewards calculated?

In line with art. 20 and 21 & Annexe 4 and 5 of the RSTP:

- Training compensation is proportional to the amount of training cost that would have been incurred by the new club if it had trained the player itself (calculated by category of club and confederation as per the relevant FIFA Circular);
- Solidarity contribution amounts to a maximum of 5% of any transfer compensation paid for the purpose of transferring the player (excluding training compensation).

5.f. Who can access a provisional EPP in TMS?

The provisional EPP is available for inspection to all member associations and clubs for ten (10) days in TMS after generation. All TMS managers (of clubs and member associations) are advised to check the "Player Passports" area in TMS regularly.

5.g. How is a member association able to participate in the review of an EPP and how will it be notified about this?

There are three options:

- Added automatically when providing information through FIFA Connect interface
- Invited to participate by FIFA general secretariat
- Requests to participate and accepted by FIFA general secretariat

In all these cases, the member association will be notified of its participation by email and in the TMS dashboard.

5.h. How may a club request that a registration of the player at their club is added in the EPP of the player?

A club that is not listed in the provisional EPP and believes that it should be included in the final EPP may request its member association to be included in the EPP review process and to provide pertinent registration information.

5.i. Which member associations and clubs participate in the review process of an EPP?

There are five possibilities:

- The member associations that have provided registration information relating to the player through the FIFA Connect interface;
- Their relevant affiliated club(s);
- The new club and its member association;

- Any member association that has requested to be included (cf. article 8 paragraph 3) and their relevant affiliated club(s), at the discretion of the FIFA general secretariat; and
- Other member association(s) deemed relevant by the FIFA general secretariat, at its discretion.

5.j. How long does the EPP review process last?

The review process opened by FIFA lasts for ten (10) days and may be exceptionally extended by the FIFA general secretariat, at its discretion.

5.k. Which amendments can a participating member association request in the EPP review process?

Participating member associations may request to amend: registration information, training category, the status of a player (professional/amateur) or the type of registration (permanent/loan).

Likewise, a new registration can be requested to be added (Club FIFA ID is required; if not existing yet, it must be generated in the national registration system), and existing registration can be requested to be removed.

5.l. How can a participating member association request the amendment of registration information in the EPP review process?

The member association shall submit its request to amend registration information directly in the EPP of relevance, in TMS, along the following documents, without limitation:

- Proof of registration
- Employment contract (if permanent)
- ITC (optional)

5.m. Which documents can be provided by participating clubs in the EPP review process?

Participating clubs can provide relevant information and documents during the EPP review process. These include waivers (to be provided by the new club of the player) and contract offers (by former club of the player), among others.

5.n. How may a training club challenge a waiver provided by the new club of the player in an EPP?

The respective training club may challenge the validity of the waiver provided by the new club by submitting its position in TMS along the documentation it deems relevant in support of its challenge.

5.o. How may a new club challenge a contract offer provided by the former club of the player in an EPP?

The new club may challenge the validity or content of the contract offer provided by the training club (or prove that the training club is not able to provide a contract offer) by submitting its position in TMS along the documentation it deems relevant in support of its challenge.

5.p. What happens if the provided information within the context of a document (or its challenge) is unclear?

The FIFA general secretariat may request any party involved in an EPP review process to provide further information at any time.

5.q. How will FIFA contact the parties involved in an EPP for requesting further information (art. 10.2 CHR)?

FIFA will contact the parties via a communication tool directly available in the relevant EPP in TMS, under the tab "Messages". Parties will be notified in TMS and via email of new messages from FIFA in an EPP.

5.r. What can a member association do in cases where the EPP review process has been started, or the EPP has become final, and they did not participate in the EPP, despite the player having been registered at their member association?

A member association that has failed to request its participation during the inspection period (art. 8.3 CHR) may not participate to the EPP review process unless being requested to do so by the FIFA general secretariat (art. 9.1 e)).

5.s. For which complex matters may an EPP be referred to the DRC for decision?

The FIFA general secretariat may recognise situations of legal or factual complexity in an EPP and refer them to the DRC, such as, but not limited to, the alleged registration of a player or the validity of a waiver or a contract offer (art. 10.3 CHR).

5.t. How does the adjudication work in cases of referral of the matter to the DRC for decision?

The EPP review process will be paused pending the DRC decision and the status in TMS in the EPP of relevance will indicate that the EPP has been referred to the DRC. The DRC will decide on the case(s) of legal and/or factual complexity contained in the EPP, following art. 28bis of the Procedural Rules of the Football Tribunal (Procedural Rules) and in line with art. 22 par. 1 lit. f) of the RSTP.

5.u. Can the EPP and the Allocation Statement be appealed by the parties in an EPP process?

Yes. The final EPP (containing the grounds of the decision of the DRC) and the Allocation Statement will be notified to the clubs and member association participating in the EPP review process via TMS (art. 10.5 CHR). There is a period of 21 days for any party of the EPP review process to appeal at CAS the final EPP and/or the Allocation Statement.

Once the EPP is final and binding, the FIFA Clearing House procedure (compliance assessment and payment) can start.

5.v. What happens if one of the notified documents is timely appealed at CAS?

A valid and timely appeal to CAS suspends the legal effects of an EPP and of the corresponding Allocation Statement for the duration of the respective proceedings before CAS (art. 10.5 lit. d)).

5.w. Where and how long will the final EPP be available for member associations and clubs?

A final EPP for each training rewards trigger will be permanently available in TMS for inspection by all member associations and clubs (art. 10.6 CHR).

5.x. What happens if a member association fails to provide accurate registration information during an EPP review process or whose electronic player registration system and/or electronic domestic transfer system is not integrated with the FIFA Connect Interface?

The member association in question may face the following sanction(s) (art. 17.3 CHR):

- A fine; and
- An order to pay to its affiliated club the training rewards that it did not receive as a consequence of the wrong or missing information provided, or as a consequence of the failure to communicate/manually declare a trigger.

5.y. What happens if a member association fails to automatically communicate or manually declare a training rewards trigger to FIFA?

The member association in question may face the following sanction(s) (art. 17.4 CHR):

- A fine; and
- An order to pay restitution to the training club, an amount equivalent to the training reward that should have been paid, if there had been no failure by the relevant member association.

6. Proof of payment – Article 11

6.a. How will the declaration of the proof of payment of transfer compensation trigger the distribution of payments of solidarity contribution?

When an international or domestic transfer with payments is declared, a corresponding EPP is generated in TMS for review by the clubs and member associations.

Once the EPP has been finalized, each proof of payment declared or uploaded in relation to the transfer of the player in question will trigger the generation of an allocation statement for distribution of the corresponding solidarity contribution. If the proof of payment is declared or uploaded before the EPP becomes final, the corresponding allocation statement will be generated once the EPP is finalized.

6.b. Which amount must be retained in the payment of transfer compensation for the purpose of solidarity contribution?

The proof of payment declared to FIFA plays a crucial role in the calculation of training rewards.

Following article 1 of Annexe 5 to the RSTP, 5% of any transfer compensation shall be deducted for payment of solidarity contribution; consequently, the amount declared in the proof of payment within TMS will be considered to always reflect the 95% of the respective transfer compensation.

Member associations and clubs shall consider this when making and declaring payments of transfer compensation that trigger payment of solidarity contribution through the FIFA Clearing House.

7. FIFA Clearing House: compliance and payment process – Articles 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16

7.a. Which payments will be processed and which will not be processed through the FIFA Clearing House?

The FIFA Clearing House will only process payments based on Allocation Statements received from FIFA. The FIFA Clearing House will not process any other transactions, and clubs or member associations are not able to request any payments to be made.

In addition, payments will only be processed once the relevant clubs involved in the transaction have passed a compliance assessment.

7.b. Who bears the banking fees when payments are made to or from the FIFA Clearing House?

When a new club makes a payment to the FIFA Clearing House all costs charged by the bank of the new club to make the payment are to be borne by the new club. This is the same for any

charges to convert funds when the new club does not hold an account in the currency being requested by the FIFA Clearing House. It is essential that the FIFA Clearing House receives the full amount requested in the correct currency. Any shortfall can lead to sanction for a payment failure according to article 17.6.

The FIFA Clearing House will bear banking fees for payment out to the training club(s) in the currency stipulated in the allocation statement. If the training club does not hold an account in that currency the training club's bank may charge fees to convert to the local currency. These fees will be the responsibility of the training club.

7.c. How will the levy of 2.5% be paid to the training clubs in cases where the new club fails to pay the requested amount to the FIFA Clearing House by the specified deadline (art. 13 par. 4)?

When a new club fails to pay the full amount to the FIFA Clearing House within the 30-day deadline, the FIFA Clearing House will issue a dunning notification to the club with the 2.5% levy applied and giving the club further 7 days to make the full payment.

If the new club makes the full payment after the 30-day deadline and before the further 7-day deadline, including the 2.5% levy, then the payment will be made to the training club, including the corresponding 2.5% levy, as per the normal payment process through the FIFA Clearing House.

7.d. How will the FIFA Clearing House contact clubs and member associations for processing of payments?

The contact information available in TMS will be used for the primary contact at the club or member association.

i. Where the club or member association is active in TMS, then the TMS manager will be the primary contact.

ii. Where the club is not active in TMS but some contact information is available, this will be used as the primary contact.

iii. Where no club contact information is available, the contact details of the member association TMS manager will be provided. The FIFA Clearing House will then contact the member association TMS manager to provide contact details of the club.

7.e. Why is the transitory measure in article 16 par. 1 lit. f) applicable until 31 December 2023? What is the purpose of this transitory measure?

FIFA understands that the FIFA Clearing House processes will be new to many clubs. To ensure that the payment of training rewards is not unduly affected by the implementation of the FIFA Clearing House, this measure will ensure that, where a Training Club has passed a compliance assessment and should receive funds, this entitlement will not be delayed due to a failure of a new club to pass a compliance assessment in the first year of operations.

7.f. Is a bank account required to pass the compliance assessment of the FIFA Clearing House?

Yes, each club or member association that is due to pay or receive training rewards must have a bank account in its own name. As part of the compliance assessment, the club will be required to provide evidence that the account is in its own name.

For the avoidance of doubt, if funds are received from a different account to that which was identified in the compliance assessment, the funds will be rejected.

7.g. Which information do clubs need to provide to the FIFA Clearing House for their compliance assessment?

The information to be provided to the FIFA Clearing House will vary depending on the risk rating of the party. It is at the FIFA Clearing House's discretion as to what documents need to be provided. The original copy of the documents needs to be provided, together with a translation into one of the three FIFA official languages (English, Spanish or French) if not originally issued in one of those languages. At a minimum, the club will be required to provide:

i. For the legal entity

   a. Certified copy of trade register, or equivalent

   b. Articles of association, or equivalent

   c. Bank statement for account to be used in the transaction in the name of the club

ii. For the legal representatives and Ultimate Beneficial Owners (UBOs)

   a. Certified copy of valid passport or ID

7.h. How will clubs or member associations be informed if they fail to pass a compliance assessment by the FIFA Clearing House?

Once a decision has been taken by the FIFA Clearing House it will be communicated to the relevant party via email to the primary club contact.

7.i. What can a club or member association do if they fail to pass a compliance assessment by the FIFA Clearing House?

Any decision of the FIFA Clearing House is final and binding; however, clubs have an opportunity to provide any missing documentation as part of the second compliance assessment. The allocation statement will be resubmitted to perform a second compliance assessment automatically 6 months after the notification of the first compliance failure, or before if the club requests it to the FIFA Administration at tmshelpdesk@fifa.org.

Any compliance failure will be subject to disciplinary proceedings according to article 17 of the regulations. If the cause for the failure is beyond the parties' control, this will be taken into account in the disciplinary process.

7.j. What does a club have to do in the 6-month window before a second compliance assessment?

Where a club has failed a first compliance assessment, the club should use the 6-month period to address the issue(s) which contributed to the failure. Once the club believes they have resolved the situation which caused the failure, they can request the FIFA administration to resubmit the allocation statement to the FIFA Clearing House to trigger the second compliance assessment. If no request is made by the club, then the allocation statement will be resubmitted automatically 6 months after the notification of the first compliance failure to the club.

7.k. What if a club has a second transaction with the FIFA Clearing House after having failed a first compliance assessment but before the expiry of the 6-month deadline for the second compliance assessment?

It is important to note that each transaction is treated individually, so a pass or failure for one transaction does not impact on whether the club will pass or fail for a different transaction.

8. Sanctions, disputes and procedures – Articles 17 and 18

8.a. Can training clubs still lodge claims at FIFA for the payment of solidarity contribution or training compensation?

For transfers/registrations that occurred up until 15 November 2022, a training club may lodge a claim for training rewards against the new club in TMS, in accordance with art. 27 and 28 of the Procedural Rules. Training rewards relating to instalments falling due after 16 November 2022 that nevertheless result from transfers concluded before the entering into force of the CHR will be also paid and processed via the current claims system.

For transfers/registrations occurred as from 16 November 2022, claims are no longer possible, and they are substituted by the EPP review process (see section 5).

As an exception to the previous, and only for training clubs that did not take part in the EPP review process and comply with the rest of the requirements of art. 18.2 of the CHR (see questions 8.b), a claim may be lodged for training rewards against the relevant clubs.

8.b. How may a training club claim training rewards payments once the EPP is final, if it was excluded but believes it should have been included in the EPP?

As per art. 18.2 of the CHR, a club that:

a) did not take part in the relevant EPP review process; and

b) considers, as a result of a bridge transfer (cf. article 5bis of the RSTP), exchange of players or information declared by the new club or its member association (including the training category of the club), that:

i. it was incorrectly not entitled to any training rewards, or entitled to a lesser amount than should have been calculated; or

ii. an EPP review process should have taken place; and

c) considers that it is entitled to receive training rewards,

may lodge a claim against the relevant clubs in accordance with article 27 of the Procedural Rules.

8.c. Which FIFA body will adjudicate on such cases?

The Dispute Resolution Chamber is competent to hear such disputes in accordance with art. 22 par. 1 lit. d), e) and f) of the RSTP.

8.d. Will such a claim be processed within the EPP of reference?

No, such a claim will be processed in TMS in accordance with art. 27 and 28 of the Procedural Rules.

8.e. How can a club lift a ban on registering players imposed under articles 17.6 and 17.8?

To lift the registration ban due to a second compliance failure or failure to make a payment to either the FIFA Clearing House or a training club, the club must either pass the subsequent compliance assessment, or make the full payment, providing the relevant proof of payment to the FIFA administration.



FIFA®

INTERNATIONAL PLAYER TRANSFER GUIDE

JULY 2024

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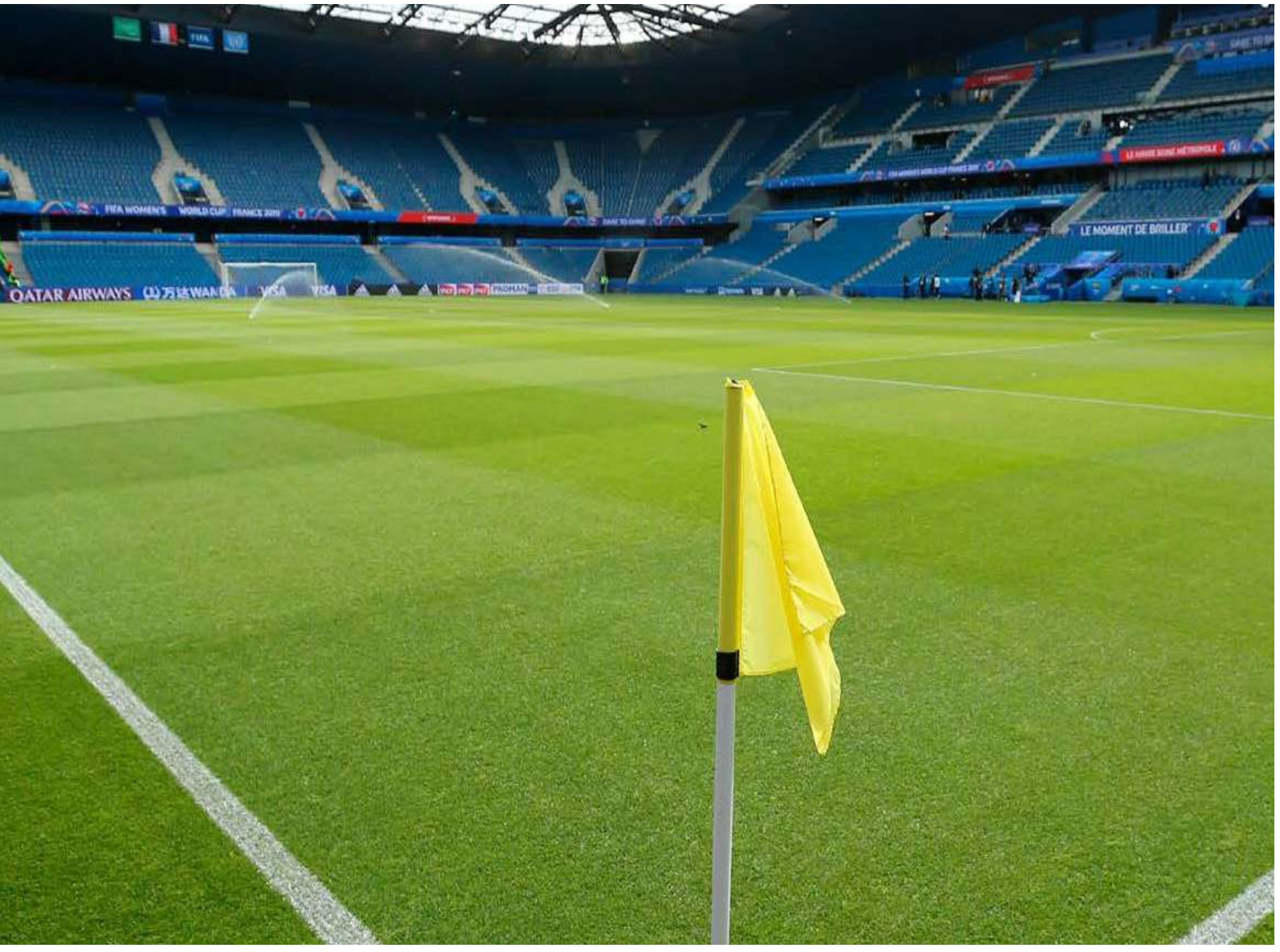
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Note: This guide does not represent the formal position of FIFA or its decision-making bodies on specific matters or any future cases. All regulatory references are to the June 2024 edition of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players ("RSTP") and the October 2022 edition of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations ("FCHR"). In addition, all technical references to the Transfer Matching System ("TMS") correspond to TMS release 11.4 of June 2024.

More detailed information on the international player transfer process is available to TMS users in the online Help Centre, accessible via TMS.

FOREWORD

We are delighted to present our first-ever **International Player Transfer Guide,** which collates all practical information and best practices on how to get ready to process international player transfers while complying with the relevant regulatory and technical requirements as set out in the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players **(RSTP)** and in the Transfer Matching System **(TMS)**.

Specifically, we will dig into topics such as the use of TMS, give you some insights on the international transfer process, registration periods and deadline days, outline the importance of uploading proofs of payment, and explain how to prevent a transfer being halted by the system and what to do if and when that happens.

We will also share information on best practices and the latest updates on the international player transfer process.

As you surely know, TMS is a mandatory tool for international transfers involving professional and amateur players in 11-a-side football. Most notably, TMS must be used for all international transfers of male, female, professional, amateur and minor football players, emphasizing its universal application across the footballing spectrum. In addition, minor applications of football (and futsal) players must also be processed through TMS. The procedural guidelines for using TMS are outlined in Annexe 3 of the RSTP, providing a structured framework for adherence.

Following the introduction of the FIFA Clearing House, entering information accurately in TMS has become paramount for the effective operation of the FIFA Clearing House and the accurate distribution of training rewards. This underscores the critical role of precision and diligence in the international transfer process, highlighting the importance of meticulous attention to detail and transparency.

In order to provide a comprehensive understanding of the intricacies surrounding international player transfers, this guide offers an overview and explains the procedures to be followed when navigating an international player transfer. By going through the necessary steps and considerations, this guide aims to facilitate smooth and compliant player transfers across borders, fostering integrity and transparency within the global football community.

We hope that you find this guide helpful and that you use it as an opportunity to enhance your knowledge of the international player transfer process, in compliance with the relevant regulatory and technical requirements.

We thank you for your support and hope you enjoy reading the guide.

If you have any questions or comments, please visit us at legal.fifa.com or contact us at legal@fifa.org.



Emilio García Silvero

Chief Legal & Compliance Officer

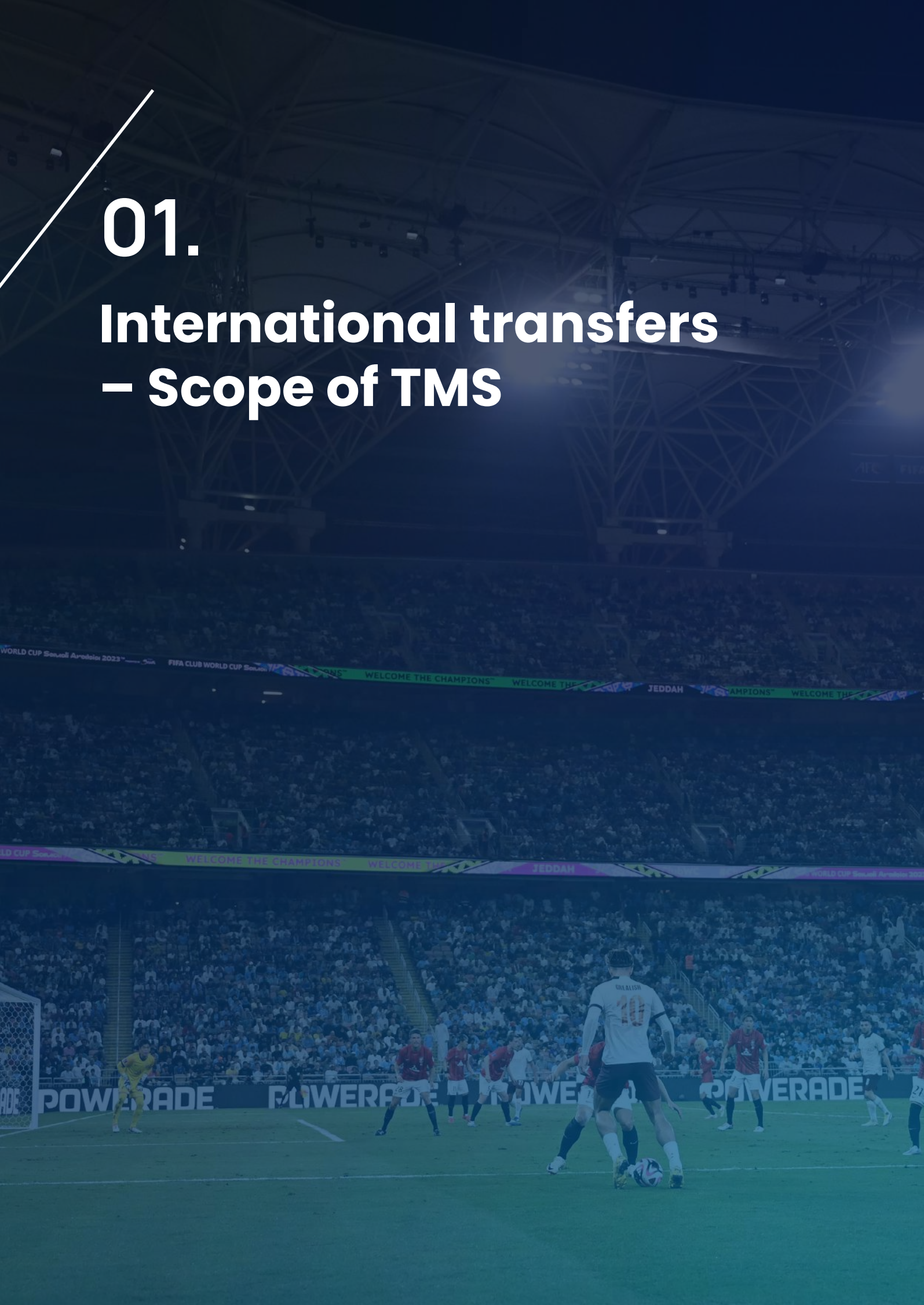


Jan Kleiner

Director of Football Regulatory

01.

International transfers – Scope of TMS



INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS
SCOPE OF TMS

To start with the intricate landscape of football transfers, making a distinction between national and international transfers holds significant importance. An international transfer, as per definition no. 21 of the RSTP, entails the movement of a player's registration from one association to another. This is in contrast to a national transfer, as explained under definition no. 22 of the RSTP, which involves a player's registration at an association moving from one club to another within the same association.

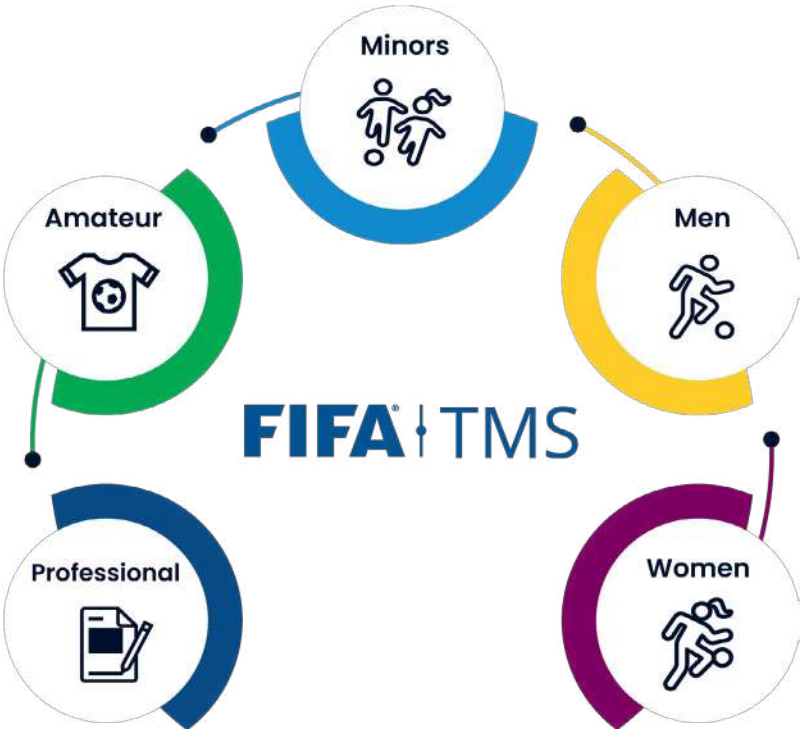
TMS	Domestic transfer system
/ Mandatory for all international transfers of male and female, amateur and professional players (and minors) in 11-a-side football. Also mandatory for minor applications of futsal players	/ Used for domestic transfers
/ Governed by FIFA	/ Governed by the domestic regulations of the specific association that has adopted them
/ All international transfers must adhere to the RSTP	/ The regulating body is the national association

While national transfers are generally subject to the regulations issued by the respective member association[1], international transfers follow a distinct set of guidelines outlined in Annexe 3 of the RSTP. Our focus in this guide lies specifically on international transfers, which are processed through TMS. By navigating the complexities of international transfers within the framework of TMS, clubs and associations ensure compliance with FIFA regulations and facilitate smooth player movements across borders.

Before taking a closer look at the international transfer process, it is imperative to recognise the nuances that govern each transfer. TMS serves as the central hub for processing these transfers, but clubs correctly entering information and selecting the appropriate transfer instruction type is also pivotal for seamless transactions.

[1] | It is important to highlight that national transfers with an international dimension may trigger training rewards through the FIFA Clearing House, in accordance with the RSTP and the FCHR.

Which international transfers must be entered in TMS? [2]



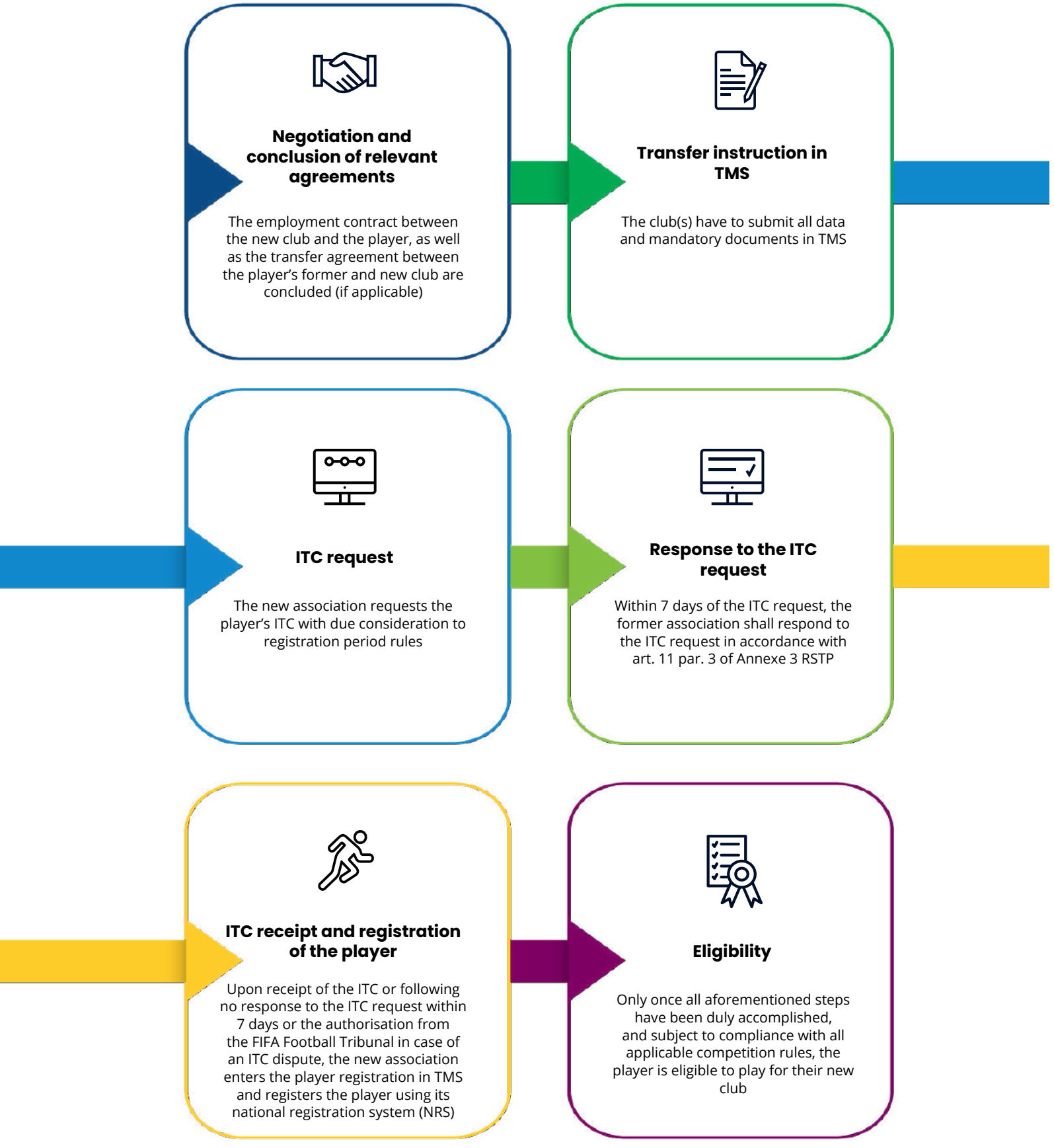
To navigate this process effectively, clubs must consider key questions tailored to the specifics of each transfer, such as:

- Am I **engaging** or **releasing** a player?
- Will the player be a **professional** or an **amateur** with their new club?
- When will the **registration period** of the new association open?
- Is it a **permanent** transfer or a **loan**?
- Has a **transfer agreement** been concluded between the player's former club and new club, or is the player being **engaged out of contract** (a so-called free agent)?
- Are any **club-to-club payments** involved?
- Does my club and the counter club have a **TMS account**?

Addressing these questions proactively will ensure clarity and accuracy in the transfer instructions entered in TMS, as well as the success of the transfer, streamlining the process for all parties involved. By methodically assessing the nature of the transfer and gathering the relevant supporting documents, clubs can confidently align with the appropriate TMS procedures, facilitating smooth and compliant international player transfers.

[2] | International transfers of players as of the age of 10 (cf. article 9 paragraph 4 of the RSTP).

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER PROCESS



CONCLUSION OF RELEVANT AGREEMENTS

Contractual negotiations usually mark the beginning of any international player transfer. At this stage, clubs, players and possibly agents engage in discussions to outline the terms and conditions of the proposed transfer. These negotiations usually focus on various aspects, such as the player's contract, duration, salary, bonuses, release clauses, and any other stipulations pertinent to the transfer. These discussions aim to find an agreement or a compromise between the interests of both parties, always adhering to the relevant applicable law and to the regulations set forth by governing bodies such as FIFA. Successful negotiations pave the way for the subsequent steps in the transfer process, laying the groundwork for the player's move to a new club and new association (if applicable).

IMPORTANT NOTE



TMS must not be used for contractual negotiations. All relevant information shall only be entered in TMS once the necessary agreements have been concluded. If a player is being registered as a professional with their new association, TMS should be used as soon as the relevant transfer or loan agreement has been concluded between the new club and the former club or, if no transfer or loan agreement exists, after the player has concluded an employment contract with the new club.

GETTING READY TO PROCESS AN INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER IN TMS

As explained later in this guide, it is essential to ensure that you are ready before initiating the transfer process in TMS. For example, both clubs involved (if applicable) must have an active TMS account. Additionally, it is imperative to have all documentation required by the system readily available. Moreover, it is crucial to confirm that the registration period of the new association is open, unless a specific exception to this rule applies.

It is highly recommended for all parties to diligently prepare all these steps as well as the required material and documentation, so that they do not to face any possible complications once the transfer process has been initiated in TMS.

HAVING A TMS ACCOUNT

It is very important to note that only TMS users have access to TMS[3]. In other words, to access TMS for the first time, a club must appoint at least one TMS user, who must undergo the training required by FIFA. Only once this training has been completed, will an association be able to submit a new user request via TMS, which will be reviewed by FIFA to ensure that the newly appointed individual fulfils the user requirements and is eligible to become a TMS user. To be eligible as a TMS user, an individual shall among the other requirements set out in article 5 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP, be a direct employee of the relevant club or association.

[3] | As stated under definition 37 of the RSTP, a TMS user is an individual trained and authorised to access TMS on behalf of a club or association. All TMS users have their own unique login credentials.

If a club wishes to engage a player, it must ensure that it has a TMS account as well as the necessary equipment, training and know-how to fulfil its obligations. If a transfer agreement has been signed, the same applies for the releasing club from which you are engaging the player. In this case, both clubs will need a TMS account.

WHO HAS A TMS ACCOUNT AND WHAT ARE THEIR MAIN ROLES?

A designated employee of each club and association, duly trained and authorised by FIFA can have access to TMS, as well as the FIFA administration. Their man responsibilities are summarized below:

Member associations

- Carry out the ITC procedure
- Enter transfers of amateur players on behalf of affiliated clubs that do not have access to TMS
- Enter dates of competition periods, seasons and registration periods
- Process minor applications
- Process Electronic Player Passports (EPPs)

Clubs

- Enter and confirm transfer instructions and (where applicable) ensure that the required information matches
- Upload all required agreements
- Declare all payments made in the context of an international transfer

FIFA

- Manage access of TMS users
- Provide regulatory & technical assistance
- Manage intervention in cases of a “validation exception”
- Enter sanctions against clubs and associations

Did you know? If a player is being registered as an amateur for a club that does not have a TMS account, the new association may enter the transfer on behalf of an affiliated club that does not have access to TMS (cf. art. 8 par. 1 j. and art. 10 par. 9 of Annexe 3 RSTP).

HAVING ALL THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION AT HAND

TMS requires the club(s) to enter the player's details as well as all relevant agreements. In addition, all payment terms between the club and the player on the one hand, and between both clubs in case of a transfer agreement on the other hand, must be accurately disclosed, together with agent details (if applicable).

It is therefore of utmost importance for clubs to have all relevant information and documentation related to the transfer at hand. In this regard, entering the payment terms correctly in TMS, and the subsequent uploading of the relevant proof of payment, will be crucial for the correct calculation of training rewards by the FIFA Clearing House.

Payment terms may include various types (cf. art. 10 par. 4 of Annexe 3 RSTP) such as fixed transfer fees, release (buy-out) fees, conditional transfer fees and sell-on fees. It is important to note, in consideration of the FIFA Clearing House and for the avoidance of doubt, that **any transfer agreement with the former club** must be declared in TMS.

This declaration encompasses any agreement under which the former club waives its rights to receive training rewards in exchange for another payment type mentioned in the previous paragraph including in exchange for a sell-on fee. For the sake of completeness, please remember that a sell-on fee constitutes a percentage of a future transfer fee agreed upon between the two clubs involved in a transfer. Therefore, if the new club transfers the player to a third club, the former club is entitled to a percentage of the new transfer fee if it has a sell-one fee.



If a club wishes to engage a player, it must ensure that it has all the necessary documentation at hand. In cases where a player is engaged out of contract, this includes the player's proof of last contract end date as well as the reason for termination of their former contract. The club wishing to engage a player must ensure to obtain this document from the player's former club directly.

DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THE PLAYER WITH THEIR NEW CLUB

Article 2 of the RSTP establishes that only two specific categories of players exist in organised football (amateurs or professionals), and it defines the criteria according to which players fall into either of these two categories.

A player must meet two cumulative conditions in order to qualify as a professional, namely a player must have entered into a written contract with their club and must be paid more for the footballing activity than the expenses they effectively incur.

Any player who does not qualify as a professional would in turn be deemed an amateur.



When engaging a player, it is crucial to correctly identify the status (amateur or professional) that the player will have with the new club in order to ensure that the correct instruction type is selected in TMS and in order to have the required documents ready to be submitted through the system.

TMS AS A COMPLIANCE TOOL FOR REGISTRATION PERIODS

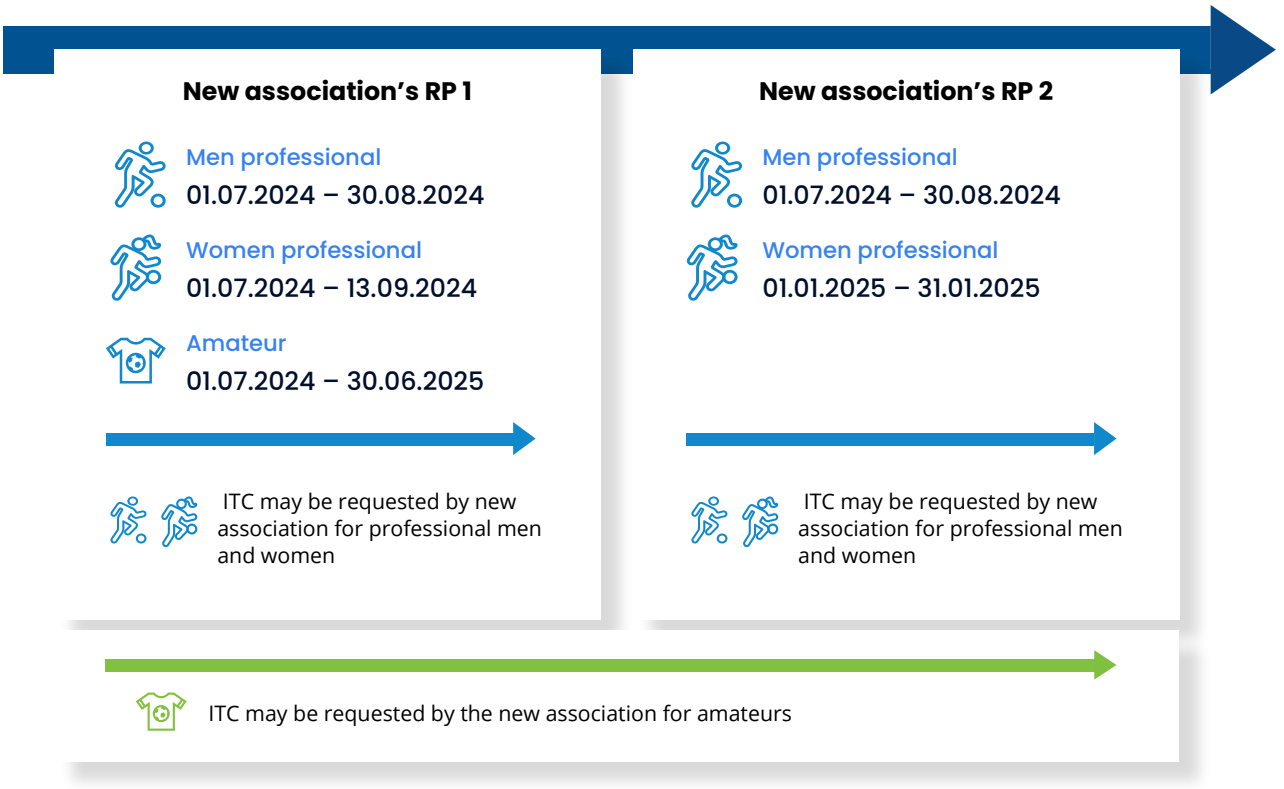
TMS is an essential compliance tool designed to ensure the integrity and transparency of international player transfers within the applicable registration periods. By mandating that all international transfers be entered and validated through TMS, FIFA ensures that transfers comply with the regulatory requirements and deadlines. The main objectives of registration periods are to enhance contractual stability between professional players and clubs as well as to protect the sporting integrity of competitions.

TMS considers the status of the player (amateur or professional) selected by the clubs in TMS, as well as the applicable registration period dates entered by the relevant member association. Consequently, any transfer that does not meet the registration period requirements of article 6 of the RSTP will be automatically detected by the system and will not be able to proceed.

In accordance with article 6 of the RSTP, each FIFA member association has to define two official registration periods for each season of professional men's and women's football and enter those dates in TMS. Member associations may, however, set different registration periods (i.e. different dates) for their men's and women's professional competitions, as well as for competitions in which only amateur players (men and/or women) participate.

The rule in article 6 paragraph 1 of the RSTP further stipulates that players may only be registered during one of the two annual registration periods set by the new association to which the engaging (new) club is affiliated. Consequently, the International Transfer Certificate ("ITC") must be requested by the new association during these registration periods. More precisely, the ITC shall be requested by the new association by no later than the last day of its registration period for the transfer to occur during that registration period. Indeed, as set out below, an ITC requested after the closure of the relevant registration period of the new association (subject to the exceptions in article 6 of the RSTP) will not proceed and will go into validation exception status.

Example



Once a club has determined a player's status, whether amateur or professional, it must register the player according to the registration periods for the competitions in which they will participate. This means that if, for instance, a club intends to register a professional female player for competitions in which professional female player participate, they will generally only be able to register her during one of the two annual registration periods designated for professional female players by the association to which the new club is affiliated (subject to the exceptions in art. 6 RSTP).

The following is a specific example based on the illustration above: during the European summer of 2024, a club wants to conclude an international transfer for a professional female player and has signed a transfer agreement with the player's former club. In this case, the association to which the engaging (new) club is affiliated would have to request the player's ITC at any point between 01 July 2024 and 13 September 2024 at the very latest.

Finally, please note that a player who is registered with a club to play in a competition in which only amateurs participate will only be eligible to play for that club in a professional competition during the course of one sporting season if the player was initially registered during one of the two registration periods fixed for professional competitions (cf. FIFA circular no. 1693).

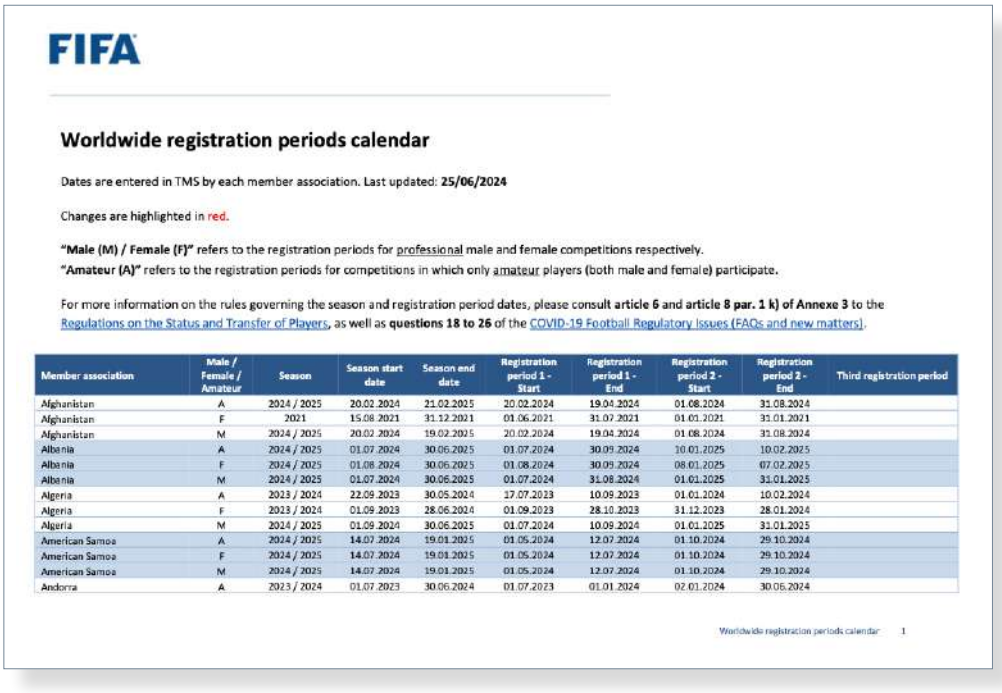
The new association must request the ITC in TMS before its registration period closes (unless an exception to the rule applies).

Considering registration periods when transferring a player is crucial for a smooth and compliant transfer. Therefore, please remember to plan ahead of time. Clubs need to be aware, in advance, of the seasons and registration period dates of all associations worldwide in order to plan their transfer and contractual arrangements appropriately.

THE TRANSFER WINDOW CALENDAR

Each FIFA member association has to define two official registration periods (also known as "transfer windows") for each season of professional men's and women's football and enter those dates in TMS. For TMS users, all registration periods are visible in TMS.

In order for all our stakeholders to have up-to-date information and access to the registration period dates of all FIFA member associations worldwide, FIFA publishes a **calendar which can be found here.**



FIFA

Worldwide registration periods calendar

Dates are entered in TMS by each member association. Last updated: **25/06/2024**

Changes are highlighted in red.

"Male (M) / Female (F)" refers to the registration periods for professional male and female competitions respectively.
"Amateur (A)" refers to the registration periods for competitions in which only amateur players (both male and female) participate.

For more information on the rules governing the season and registration period dates, please consult **article 6 and article 8 par. 1 k) of Annexe 3** to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, as well as **questions 18 to 26** of the COVID-19 Football Regulatory Issues (FAQs and new matters).

Member association	Male / Female / Amateur	Season	Season start date	Season end date	Registration period 1 - Start	Registration period 1 - End	Registration period 2 - Start	Registration period 2 - End	Third registration period
Afghanistan	A	2024 / 2025	20.02.2024	21.02.2025	20.02.2024	19.04.2024	01.08.2024	31.08.2024	
Afghanistan	F	2021	15.08.2021	31.12.2021	01.06.2021	31.07.2021	01.01.2021	31.01.2021	
Afghanistan	M	2024 / 2025	20.02.2024	19.02.2025	20.02.2024	19.04.2024	01.08.2024	31.08.2024	
Albania	A	2024 / 2025	01.07.2024	30.06.2025	01.07.2024	30.09.2024	10.01.2025	10.02.2025	
Albania	F	2024 / 2025	01.08.2024	30.06.2025	01.08.2024	30.09.2024	08.01.2025	07.02.2025	
Albania	M	2024 / 2025	01.07.2024	30.06.2025	01.07.2024	31.08.2024	01.01.2025	31.01.2025	
Algeria	A	2023 / 2024	22.09.2023	30.05.2024	17.07.2023	10.09.2023	01.01.2024	10.02.2024	
Algeria	F	2023 / 2024	01.09.2023	28.06.2024	01.09.2023	28.10.2023	31.12.2023	28.01.2024	
Algeria	M	2024 / 2025	01.09.2024	30.06.2025	01.07.2024	10.09.2024	01.01.2025	31.01.2025	
American Samoa	A	2024 / 2025	14.07.2024	19.01.2025	01.05.2024	12.07.2024	01.10.2024	29.10.2024	
American Samoa	F	2024 / 2025	14.07.2024	19.01.2025	01.05.2024	12.07.2024	01.10.2024	29.10.2024	
American Samoa	M	2024 / 2025	14.07.2024	19.01.2025	01.05.2024	12.07.2024	01.10.2024	29.10.2024	
Andorra	A	2023 / 2024	01.07.2023	30.06.2024	01.07.2023	01.01.2024	02.01.2024	30.06.2024	

Worldwide registration periods calendar 1

Worldwide registration periods calendar

EXCEPTIONS TO REGISTRATION PERIOD RULES

Article 6 paragraph 3 of the RSTP provides for limited exceptions to the rule that players may only be registered during a registration period fixed by the relevant member association. This means that, regardless of the registration period dates, certain transfers can still be completed in TMS. These exceptions to the registration period dates are the following:

a. A professional who has unilaterally terminated their contract with just cause, or whose contract has been unilaterally terminated without just cause by their club, may be registered outside a registration period. Upon receipt of the ITC request, the FIFA general secretariat shall expeditiously assess on a prima facie basis whether the unilateral termination occurred with or without just cause and permit or deny the registration accordingly. Such prima facie assessment is without prejudice to a decision of the Football Tribunal about the consequences of the termination of contract.

b. A professional whose contract has naturally expired or has been mutually terminated prior to the end of the registration period applicable to the engaging club may be registered with the engaging club also after expiry of the respective registration period.

c. A female player may be registered outside a registration period to temporarily replace another female player that has exercised her rights linked to pregnancy, adoption or family leave. The period of the contract of the temporary replacement player shall, unless otherwise mutually agreed, be from the date of registration until the day prior to the start of the first registration period after the return of the female player that has taken maternity leave.

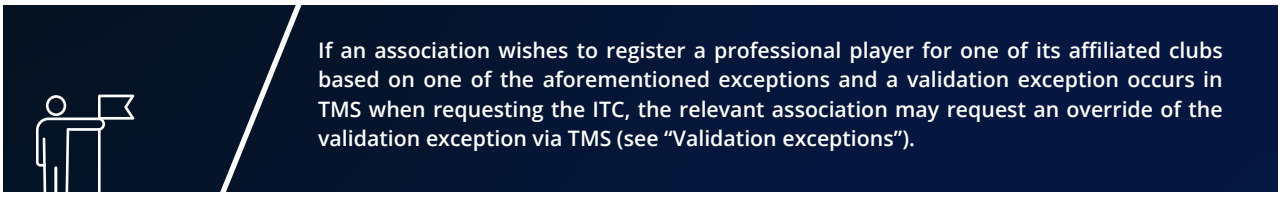
d. A female player may be registered outside a registration period upon completion of her family, adoption or maternity leave or recovery related to her pregnancy (cf. art. 18 par. 7 and article 18quater) subject to her contractual status.

e. A professional whose contract has expired or been terminated as a result of COVID-19 has the right to be registered outside a registration period, regardless of the date of expiry or termination.

For further details on article 6 of the RSTP, please refer to the Commentary on the RSTP also available at legal.fifa.com

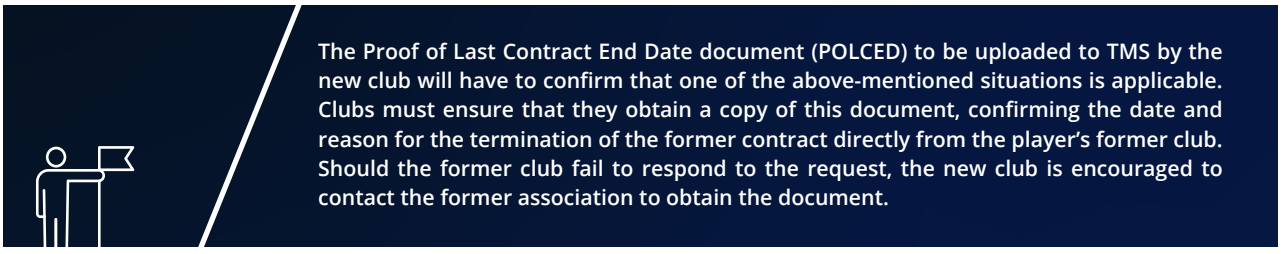
HOW DOES TMS WORK?

In principle, if an association attempts to request an ITC outside of their registration period, the transfer will be automatically halted with a "validation exception". Only upon request for intervention through TMS from the association wishing to register the player, the FIFA administration will assess each individual situation to make sure that the abovementioned exceptions to article 6 apply and, if so, it may grant an authorisation to allow the new association to register the player. It is important to emphasise that only member associations (as opposed to clubs) are able to request FIFA administration intervention through TMS.

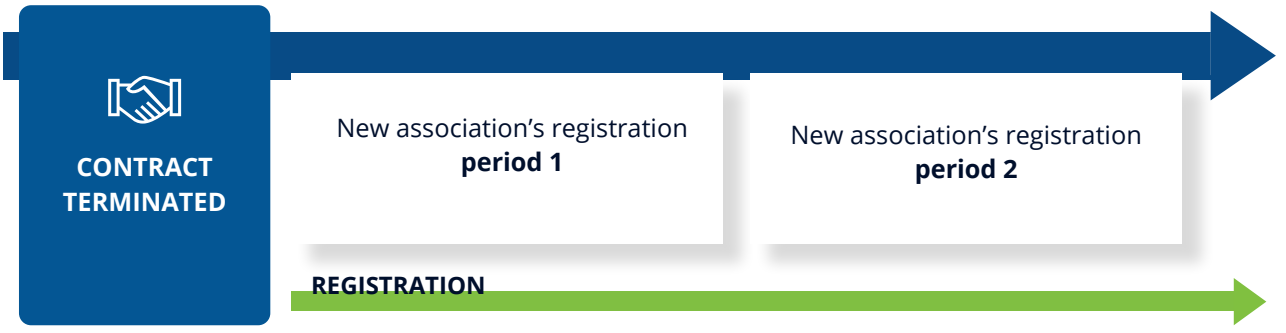


There are, however, two cases provided for under article 6 paragraph 3 b) of the RSTP, under which a player who was registered as a professional with their former club may be able to be registered with the new association outside of its own registration period without a validation exception being triggered by TMS and without an intervention from FIFA. For these cases, the following cumulative conditions need to be met:

- The reason for the termination of the contract with the former club is either: "The contract with the former club has expired" or "The player and their former club mutually agreed on an early termination of the employment contract between them"; and
- The date of termination of the player's employment contract with their former club is prior to the end of the new association's last registration period.



The Proof of Last Contract End Date document (POLCED) to be uploaded to TMS by the new club will have to confirm that one of the above-mentioned situations is applicable. Clubs must ensure that they obtain a copy of this document, confirming the date and reason for the termination of the former contract directly from the player's former club. Should the former club fail to respond to the request, the new club is encouraged to contact the former association to obtain the document.



DEADLINE DAY – ENSURING A SMOOTH TRANSFER WINDOW

FIFA fosters enhanced collaboration with and between our stakeholders and reinforces the importance of planning ahead and not leaving transfers until the last minute.

We strongly encourage early planning, as it is crucial to ensure a smooth transfer process and achieve the desired outcome for clubs and players alike.

We particularly encourage clubs and players to engage in early communications and be aligned on the key aspects of the transfer process, including all necessary documentation and regulatory requirements, as well as anticipating any potential pitfalls. In this regard, it is vital to implement best practices and learn from the experience of previous transfer windows.

This being said, we acknowledge that the reality of football often means that many transfers happen at

the last-minute. In recognition of this fact, and in order to speed up the transfer process and support our community of stakeholders, FIFA has a dedicated team that meticulously plans ahead and provides immediate regulatory and technical support to clubs and associations worldwide throughout the entire year at TMSHelpdesk@fifa.org.

As deadline day approaches and time becomes even more critical, FIFA's dedicated team also plays a pivotal role in supporting flawless transfers and providing stand-by services on those critical dates when most member associations' registration periods are closing, in order to make sure that all tasks are performed smoothly.

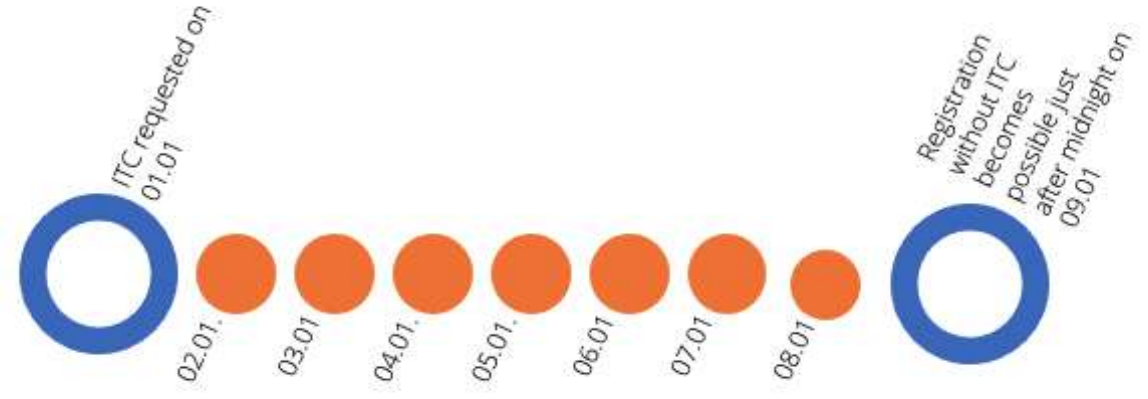
We encourage all our stakeholders to plan ahead with enough time and be aligned on the key aspects of the transfer process.

TMS AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATE (ITC)

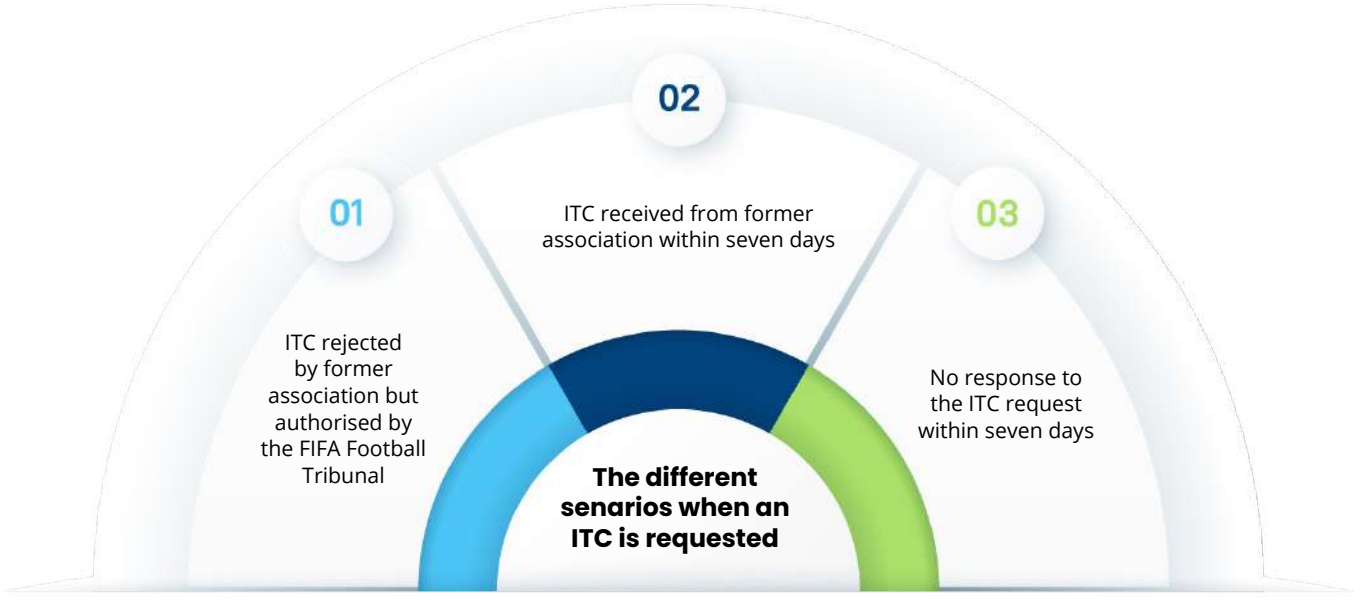
Players registered at one association may only be registered at a new and different association once the latter has received an ITC from the former association through TMS. This procedure, which must be carried out free of charge and without any conditions or time limit, is the responsibility of the member associations involved. It is crucial for all parties to maintain communication throughout this process. Once the new club has uploaded all required information and documentation into TMS, the new member association proceeds to request the ITC. The former association must respond to the ITC request within seven days, as specified in article 11 paragraph 3 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP.

These seven days are consecutive and are calculated as of the day after the ITC has been requested.

Example



In the ideal scenario, the association releasing the player will deliver the ITC through TMS immediately or, at the latest, within seven days, allowing the new association to confirm receipt of the ITC and register the player. However, other possible scenarios in TMS may include a lack of response by the former association and even the rejection of the ITC request, which could lead to an ITC dispute. The different scenarios are further illustrated in the chart below.

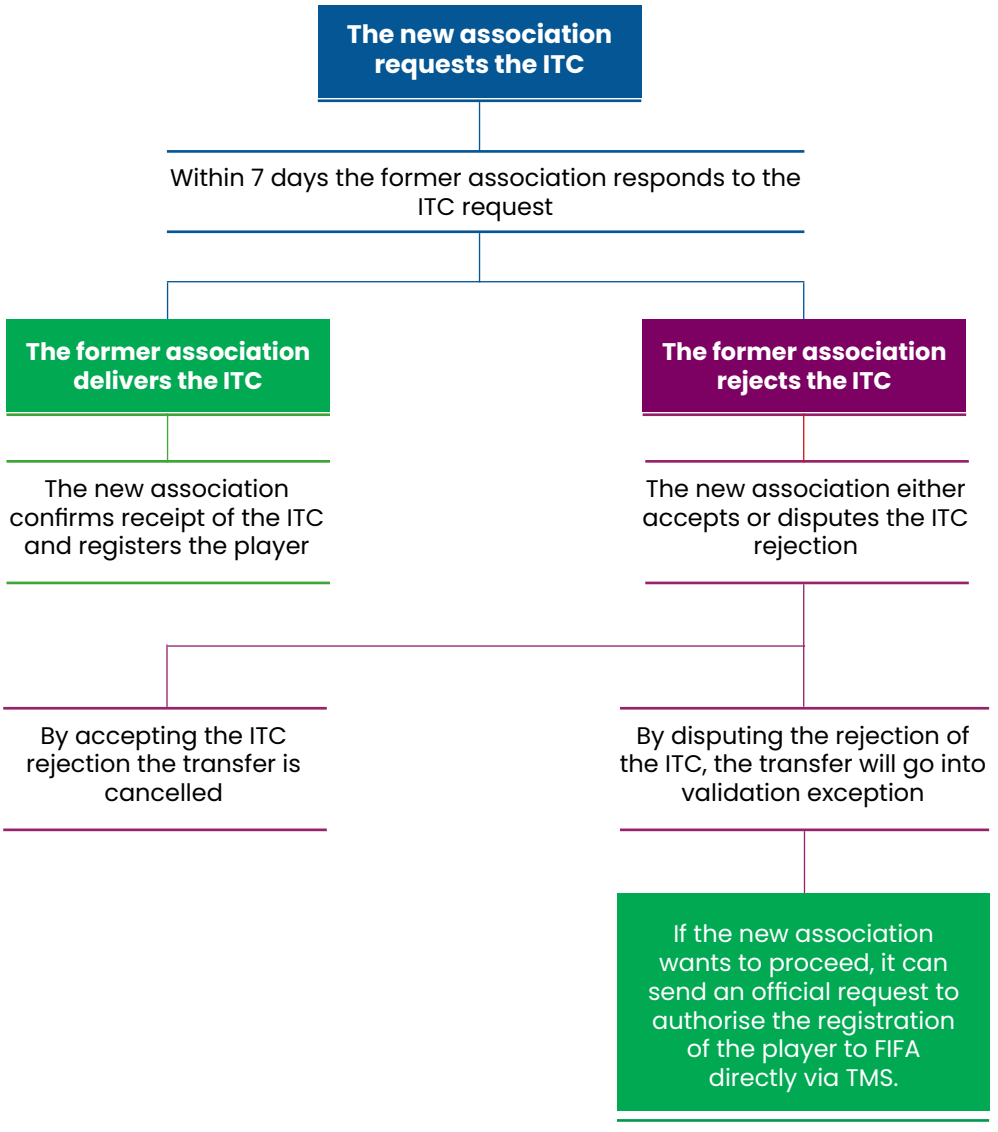


It is important to note that the registration of a player by the new association following receipt of the ITC, following the absence of a response to the ITC request within seven days, or following authorisation from the FIFA Football Tribunal to register the player all have the same effect and are equally valid.

If the former association fails to respond to the ITC request within seven days, the new association will be able to register the player with the new club and enter the relevant player registration information in TMS.

What happens if an ITC request is rejected by the former association?

In this case, if the new association wishes to register the player, the rejection of the ITC request will have to be disputed and the new association will need to request FIFA's intervention in order to resolve the dispute.[4]





The former association can only reject an ITC request if one of the reasons under article 11 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP applies, i.e. only if an employment contract between the former club and the player is considered to still be in force or if there has been no mutual agreement regarding its early termination.

[4] | It is important to point out that, in line with the jurisprudence of the FIFA Football Tribunal and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), even if a contractual dispute over an ITC arises, FIFA cannot compel players to remain employed with a particular employer. In this sense, in case of an ITC dispute and, upon request of the new association, the FIFA Football Tribunal will authorise the player registration with their new association, without prejudice to any claim being lodged with FIFA in accordance with article 22 of the RSTP.

ISSUES THAT PREVENT INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS FROM PROCEEDING IN TMS ("VALIDATION EXCEPTIONS")

International transfers may encounter certain issues that prevent them from proceeding in TMS and that need to be resolved in order for the transfer to move forward.

As mentioned above, the former association rejecting an ITC request and the new association disputing the rejection is one of the reasons why a transfer could go into such a status. Another possible reason is an ITC request being made outside of a registration period and no exception to the rule of article 6 of the RSTP being applicable.

Validation exceptions need to be resolved by FIFA. The new association needs to submit a request for FIFA to override the validation exception via TMS. However, any such overrides are only granted in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of FIFA.

Example

A club wants to register a professional male player but its association's registration period for professional men's competitions is currently closed.

What would happen if the new association were to go ahead and request the player's ITC?

- The transfer would be halted in TMS due to the new association requesting the player's ITC outside of the relevant registration period.
- In this case and if the new association wishes to register the player and believes that one the exceptions to the registration period rules is applicable or that the delay in requesting the player's ITC is due to reasons not attributable to the new association or its affiliated club, the **new association may ask FIFA through TMS to grant authorisation for the transfer to proceed.**



BEST PRACTICES

/ Ensure compliance

The engaging club must comply with all obligations on time and in full. This includes entering all required data and uploading all documents into TMS.

/ Address non-cooperation

If the releasing club fails to enter its data or cooperate to resolve discrepancies, the engaging club should avoid delays where possible and continue to comply with all TMS requirements at its disposal to avoid being disadvantaged.

How to proceed if a validation exception is still triggered?

FIFA Intervention

An association can ask FIFA to override the validation exception halting the transfer in TMS. FIFA will assess the request and decide whether the circumstances justify an override.

Criteria for a possible override

To ensure that an engaging club is not disadvantaged if the releasing club fails to fulfil its obligations in TMS an override generally occurs if:

- The engaging club entered and approved its transfer instruction and uploaded all mandatory documents correctly before the end of the registration period; and
- The new association requested the ITC in TMS after the registration period closed, but through no fault of its own or that of its affiliated club.

Outcome

If these conditions are met, FIFA may authorize an override of the validation exception, allowing the transfer to proceed.

If FIFA does NOT authorise an override of the validation exception, the player will not be able to be registered for their new club until the next registration period of the new association opens. Consequently, the player will also be ineligible to participate in organised football for their new club until this occurs.

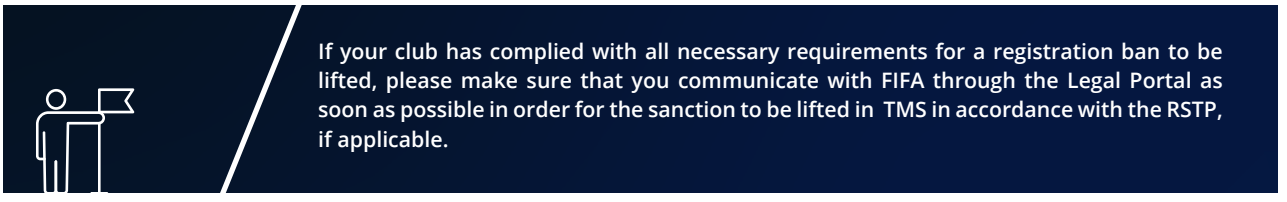
If a transfer is unsuccessful due to a lack of cooperation from the counterparty, we recommend that the parties involved communicate with each other to resolve the issue prior to the closure of the applicable registration period. The contact details of all TMS users are accessible to each other via the "Stakeholders" tab in their TMS account.

REGISTRATION BANS AND TMS

A registration ban is one of the potential disciplinary measures that may be imposed on clubs by the FIFA judicial bodies or by the Football Tribunal and that may prevent a transfer in TMS from proceeding. Once a registration ban has been imposed on a club it will also be reflected in TMS. Keeping in mind that TMS works as a compliance tool, the club serving a registration ban will be prevented from **registering new players,** either nationally or internationally and whether as amateurs or as professionals, for the full duration of the measure and in accordance with articles 12 bis, 17, 24 and article 8 of Annexe 2 of the RSTP. The club will therefore only be able to register new players again after serving the ban in its entirety or in the event that the ban is lifted by the FIFA administration upon fulfilment of the relevant requirements.

This means that a club serving a registration ban will be prevented from completing any new incoming transfers in TMS.

A ban at international level will be implemented directly by FIFA in TMS for all clubs existing in the system. However, it is the responsibility of the association concerned to ensure that the ban is also correctly implemented at national level within its own registration platform and at international level for those clubs that are not in TMS. For more details about the implementation of the ban at national level please refer to FIFA circular no. 1843.



ACTIONS THAT DO NOT CONTRAVENE A REGISTRATION BAN AND TMS

As mentioned above, a club serving a registration ban will be prevented from completing any new incoming transfers in TMS.

However, if a club is serving a registration ban, it is in principle not prevented from releasing players in TMS, which means that a third club could still engage a player from a club that is serving a registration ban.

In addition, there are other scenarios that do not contravene a registration ban (cf. arts. 12bis, 17, 18quater and 24 of the RSTP) and which are set out in article 25 paragraph 3 of the RSTP:

a. The return from loan of a professional, solely where the loan agreement expires naturally;
b. The extension of the loan of a professional, beyond the natural expiry of the loan agreement;
c. The definitive engagement of a professional who was temporarily registered for the club directly prior to the registration ban being imposed; and
d. The registration of a professional who was already registered with the club as an amateur directly prior to the registration ban being imposed.

If a club serving a registration ban enters one of the above-mentioned transfers in TMS (i.e. a "return from loan", a "loan extension" or a "loan to permanent"), the system will at first instance trigger a validation exception and prevent the transfers from moving forward. It is only after the FIFA administration has effectively confirmed, upon request from the association concerned, that the conditions required by the RSTP have been met, that the system will authorise the transfers.

As mentioned above, article 25 paragraph 3 of the RSTP refers to one last scenario which does not contravene a registration ban, namely the registration of a professional who was already registered with the club as an amateur directly prior to the registration ban being imposed. As TMS is a mandatory tool for international player transfers, this scenario - where the player is not transferring internationally - will not be reflected through TMS.

Finally, and in accordance with FIFA circular no. 1843, in order not to hinder the development of young football players, and unless otherwise specified within the relevant decision imposing the sanction, a club subject to a registration ban may register players for its youth teams, such possibility being, however, limited to players until the age of 15. Players newly registered with a youth team during a registration ban cannot play for the club's first team or any other professional team of the club until the registration ban has elapsed. If this occurs, the player(s) concerned shall be declared ineligible, and any match in which the player(s) featured must be declared forfeited.

There are further scenarios that can lead to a transfer being prevented from proceeding and requiring an intervention from FIFA, such as if the new club has exceeded the loan cap or if a player is under 18 years of age and a minor application has not been accepted (cf. article 14 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP). These scenarios will also be explained below in this guide.

For more details on registration bans please refer to FIFA circular no. 1843.

Actions which do not contravene a registration ban in TMS



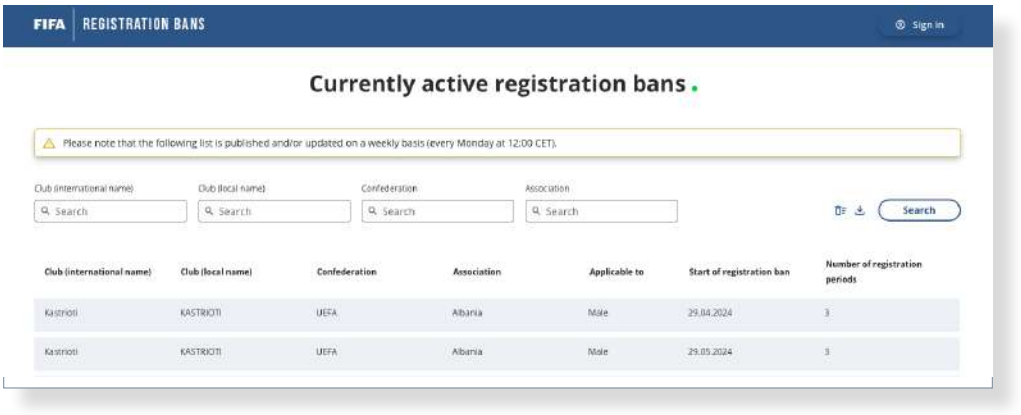
THE REGISTRATION BAN TOOL IN THE FIFA LEGAL PORTAL

In line with its continued efforts to promote transparency and maintain full disclosure in relation to the activities of the FIFA judicial bodies, FIFA has launched a digital tool that lists the clubs subject to registration bans.

The primary objective of this new tool is to provide stakeholders, including players and clubs, as well as the general public, with an overview of all clubs currently prevented from registering new players.

The digital tool is regularly updated in order to reflect the situation of the clubs subject to registration bans imposed by FIFA.

You can access here and on legal.fifa.com a list of the clubs that are currently serving a registration ban imposed by FIFA.

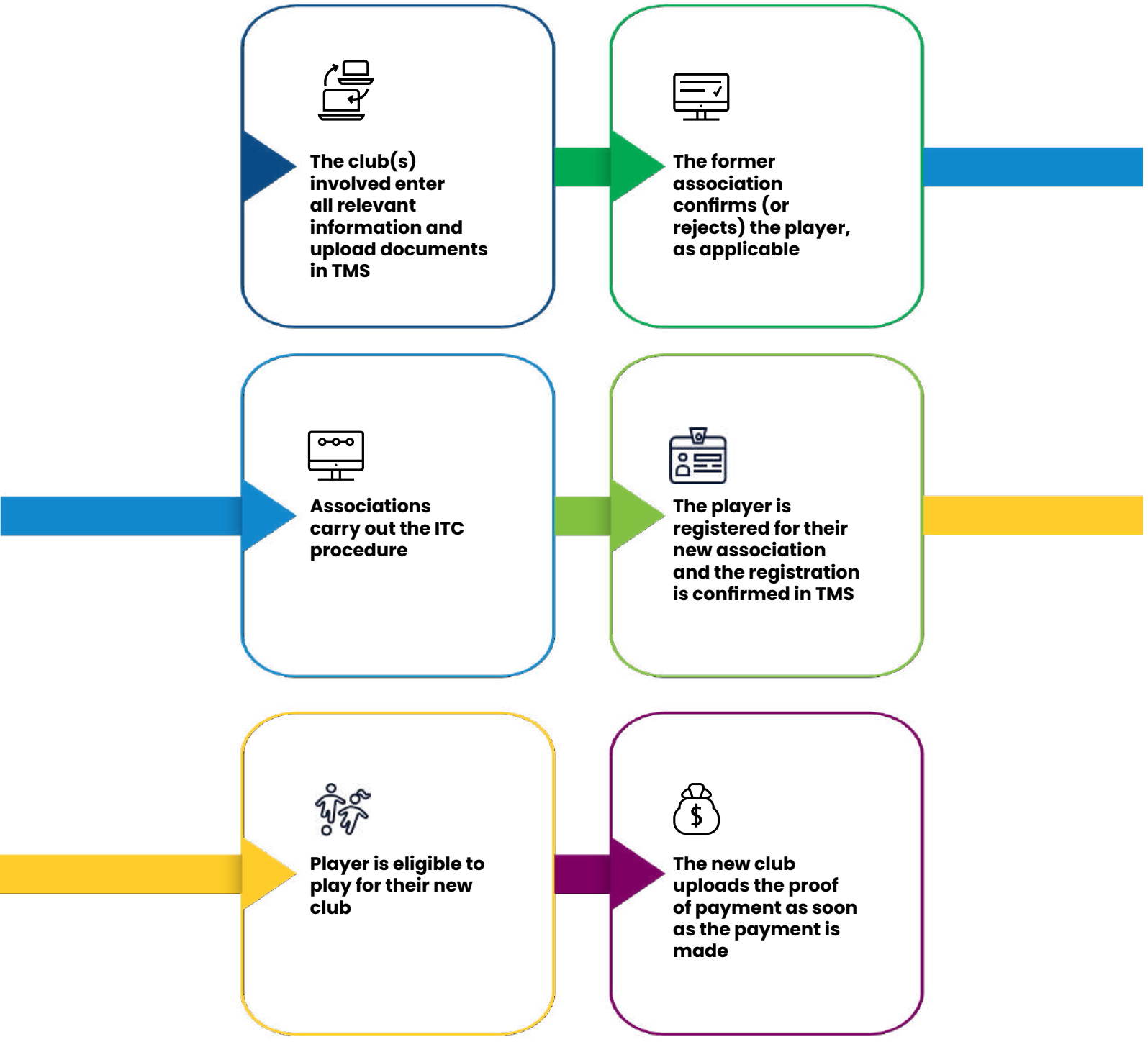


Currently active registration bans

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER PROCESS – PLAYER'S ELIGIBILITY

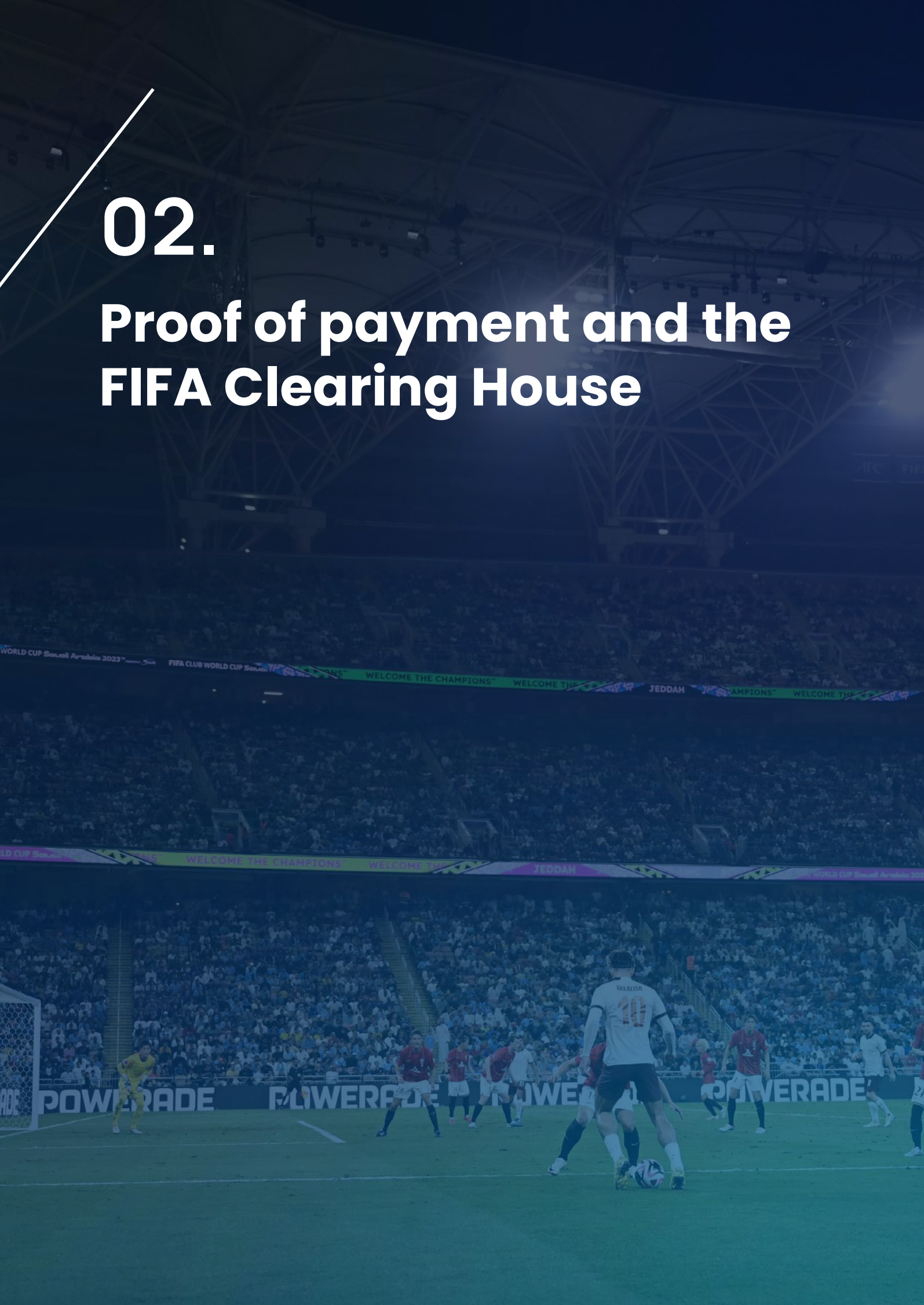
Once an international transfer has been entered in TMS, the ITC procedure has been successfully completed and any possible issues preventing the transfer from proceeding have been resolved, the new association will be able to register the player and the latter will be, in principle, eligible to play for their new club, subject to the applicable competition regulations.

However, please note that following an international transfer, a player will still remain ineligible to participate in organized football until the member association to which their new club is affiliated **has confirmed the player registration date in TMS**. It is only once the registration process has been concluded that a player becomes eligible to showcase their talent and play for their new team.


The club(s) involved enter all relevant information and upload documents in TMS
The former association confirms (or rejects) the player, as applicable
Associations carry out the ITC procedure
The player is registered for their new association and the registration is confirmed in TMS
Player is eligible to play for their new club
The new club uploads the proof of payment as soon as the payment is made

02.

Proof of payment and the FIFA Clearing House



PROOF OF PAYMENT AND THE FIFA CLEARING HOUSE

Following the introduction of the FIFA Clearing House[5], entering accurate information in TMS has become paramount for its effective operation and the accurate distribution of training rewards.

Consequently, once a transfer has been successfully completed in TMS and if payments have been agreed, clubs are obliged to declare them in TMS and to upload the relevant proofs of payment **within 30 days of the date of each payment** (cf. article 12 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP).

The proof of payment declared to FIFA by the new club plays a crucial role in the calculation and distribution of training rewards through the FIFA Clearing House because, in accordance with the FCHR, the proof of payment triggers the generation of an allocation statement for the payment of solidarity contribution (cf. article 12 paragraph 3 of the FCHR) and allows the calculation of solidarity contribution based on the amount declared in the proof of payment, as established in the RSTP.

In accordance with article 1 of Annexe 5 of the RSTP, 5% of any transfer compensation must be deducted for payment of the solidarity contribution. Colloquially, this method of calculating and paying solidarity contributions is known as "95+5".

As a general rule and to ensure the proper functioning of the FIFA Clearing House process, member associations and clubs must declare transfer compensation payments as follows:

1. Member associations and their clubs must declare the full amount of payments agreed between the clubs for the transfer of the player in the corresponding transfer instruction (international transfers in TMS, domestic transfers in DTMS or the system used by the member association).
2. Clubs must then make these payments while withholding 5% of the total amount, in all cases unless agreed otherwise (see below), and declare this amount with 5% withheld for the solidarity contribution in the proof of payment declaration.
3. Once the final solidarity contribution payment has been processed and paid through the Clearing House, if applicable and in accordance with the final EPP and all applicable conditions, in cases where there is a remaining balance of the transfer compensation to be paid, the new club should pay the remaining transfer compensation amount directly to the former club, following existing jurisprudence.

This will ensure the proper calculation of training rewards and consideration of all registrations of the player for the distribution of the solidarity contribution.

More detailed information on how to declare payments in TMS in cases where special agreements between clubs have been concluded (such as solidarity contribution included in the transfer compensation or the former club waiving its entitlement to solidarity contribution, is available to TMS users in the TMS Help Centre).

[5] | The FIFA Clearing House (FCH) is an integral part of FIFA's ongoing commitment to introducing fundamental changes to the football transfer system. The main objectives of the FCH are to centralize, process and automate payments between clubs, initially relating to training rewards (training compensation and solidarity contribution) and to promote financial transparency and integrity, and avoid fraudulent conduct in the transfer system. More information about the FCH can be found here and is also available at legal.fifa.com

An example of how to correctly declare payments in TMS is further illustrated below:

Example



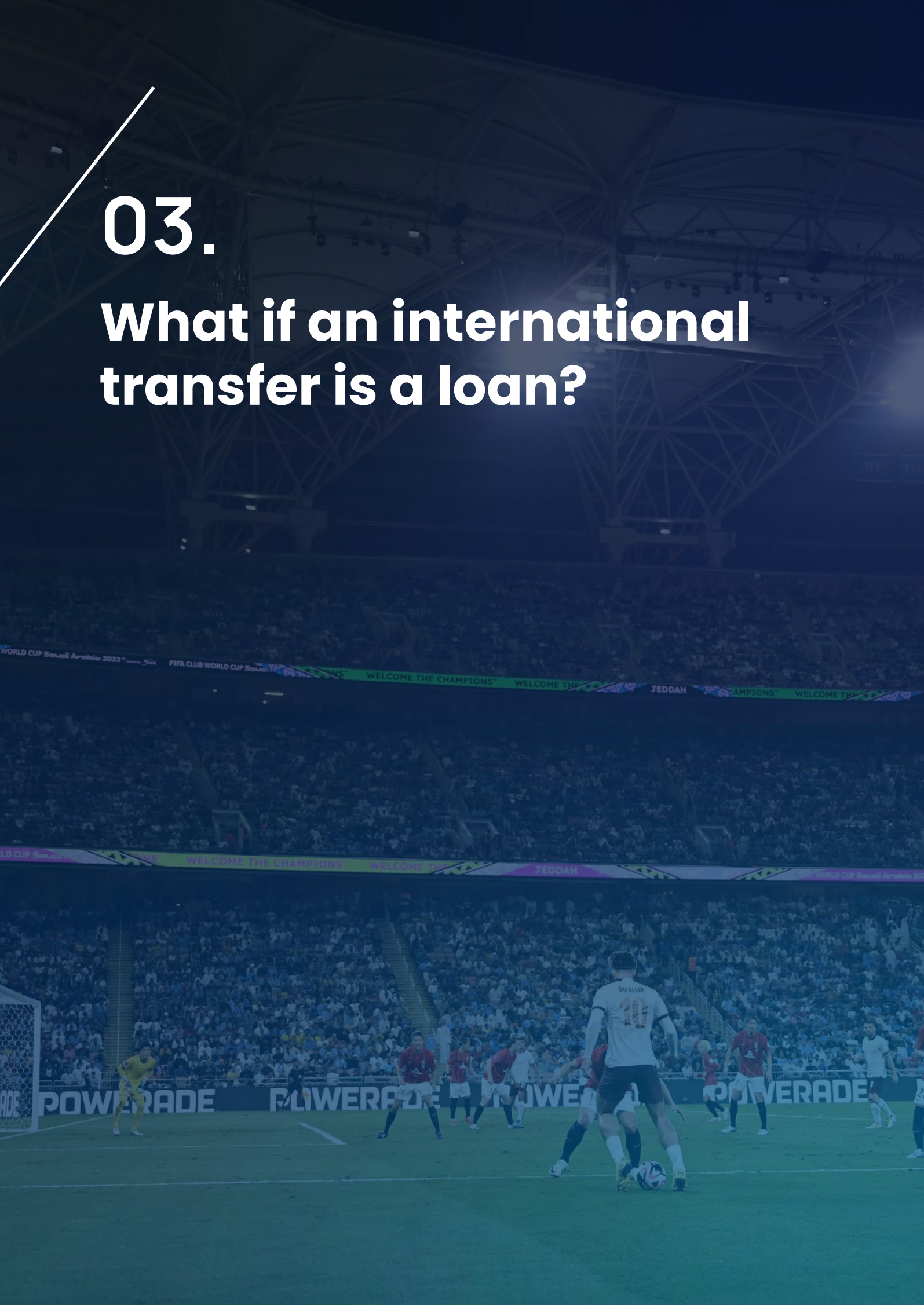
Payment terms may include various types (cf. article 10 paragraph 4 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP) such as fixed transfer fees, release (buy-out) fees, conditional transfer fees and sell-on fees. It is important to note, in consideration of the FIFA Clearing House and for the avoidance of doubt, that any transfer agreement with the former club must be declared in TMS. This declaration encompasses any agreement under which the former club waives its rights to receive training rewards in exchange for another payment type mentioned above, including in exchange for a sell-on fee. This means that any such payments shall also be declared by both clubs in TMS, in accordance with Annexe 3 of the RSTP.

It is also important to highlight that any amendments to the payment terms shall also be declared in TMS as soon as the amended terms have been agreed upon, and the corresponding proof of payment shall be uploaded to TMS accordingly.

Finally, it must be noted that precision and diligence in the international transfer process, as well as meticulous attention to detail and transparency are crucial for the proper functioning of the FIFA Clearing House and the equitable distribution of training rewards. To fulfil this goal, FIFA has a dedicated team whose role is to provide technical and regulatory assistance, as well as to ensure compliance with Annexe 3 of the RSTP and the FIFA Clearing House Regulations. You can contact the team at TMShelpdesk@fifa.org.

03.

What if an international transfer is a loan?



WHAT IF AN INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER IS A LOAN?

A professional player may be loaned to another club on the basis of a written agreement between the player and the clubs concerned. Any such loan is subject to the same rules as those that apply to international player transfers, including the obligation to duly reflect the loan transfer in TMS and to carry out the ITC procedure (cf. article 10 of the RSTP).



Loans, like permanent transfers are subject to respecting registration periods. Therefore, it is essential to consider registration periods when negotiating the duration of a loan.

On 1 July 2022, the additional provisions relating to international loans came into force. These provisions apply to international loans and loan extensions for professional male and female players. One key element of these provisions is a cap on the number of permissible loans. In addition, the RSTP now contains clear rules on the permissible maximum duration of a loan.

To ensure the smooth implementation on the loan cap for all stakeholders, there has been a three-year transition period under which the number of international loans started with a maximum of eight players in the first year (from 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2023), a restriction that has gradually become stricter by decreasing to a maximum of seven players on loan in the second year (from 1 July 2023 until 30 June 2024) and finally to a maximum number of six players on loan (from 1 July 2024 onwards).

HOW DOES THE LOAN CAP WORK IN TMS?

General loan cap 6 players

The loan cap applies to men and women separately, which means that a club can loan out and/or in a maximum of six male players and six female players.

- Outgoing (releasing): A club can loan out six players
- Incoming (engaging): A club can loan in six players

Club-to-club Loan Cap 3 players between the same clubs

The club-to-club loan cap (i.e. between the same clubs) applies to men and women separately. If the clubs use some of the club-to-club cap for one gender, they will not be able to increase the cap for the other gender, e.g. if they only have two incoming loans of female players, they cannot have four incoming loans of male players. This is not permitted.

- Outgoing (releasing): Club A can loan Club B three players
- Incoming (engaging): Club B can loan Club A three players

Loan Cap Exemption (club-trained player)

The definition of a club-trained player does not require the player to be in one particular team of the club to be considered a club-trained player, as long as the player is registered for the club for three seasons or 36 months (continuous or not)

- Loan can be exempt from overall cap if
  - it occurs before the end of former club's season when the professional turns 21
  - the professional is a club trained player (cf. definition 31 RSTP) with the former club
- The former club shall upload evidence thereof in TMS

Maximum Loan Duration

- The maximum duration allowed for loans and loan extensions is one year



TMS is a compliance tool designed to enforce the provisions on loans. Failure by a club to respect the loan cap will result in the transfer being halted by a validation exception.

For more detailed information on loan provisions, please consult the following document, which is also available at legal.fifa.com:



Explanatory Notes on the New Loan Provisions in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

END OF A LOAN

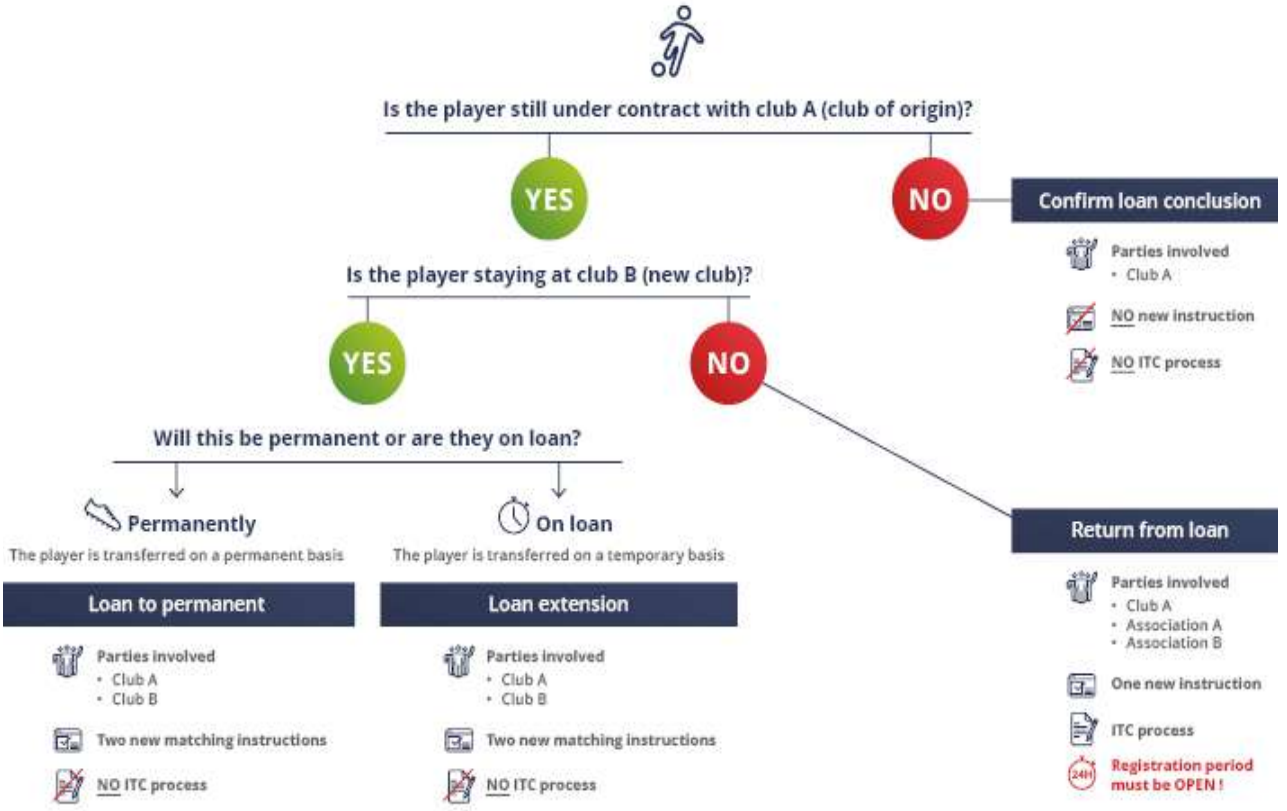
What happens at the end of a loan? Once the loan period has ended (this includes situations under which a loan has been terminated early), the necessary action must be taken in TMS to reflect the player's next move. This should be performed by the club that released the player on loan (club A) and/or the club to which the player is on loan (club B), depending on the situation.



At the end of the loan the two clubs should speak to each other to make sure that the necessary steps are correctly taken in TMS without delay so that they can both benefit from an additional loan within the cap.

Failure to reflect the end of a loan in TMS affects the club's cap on loans!

The options available at the end of a loan are:

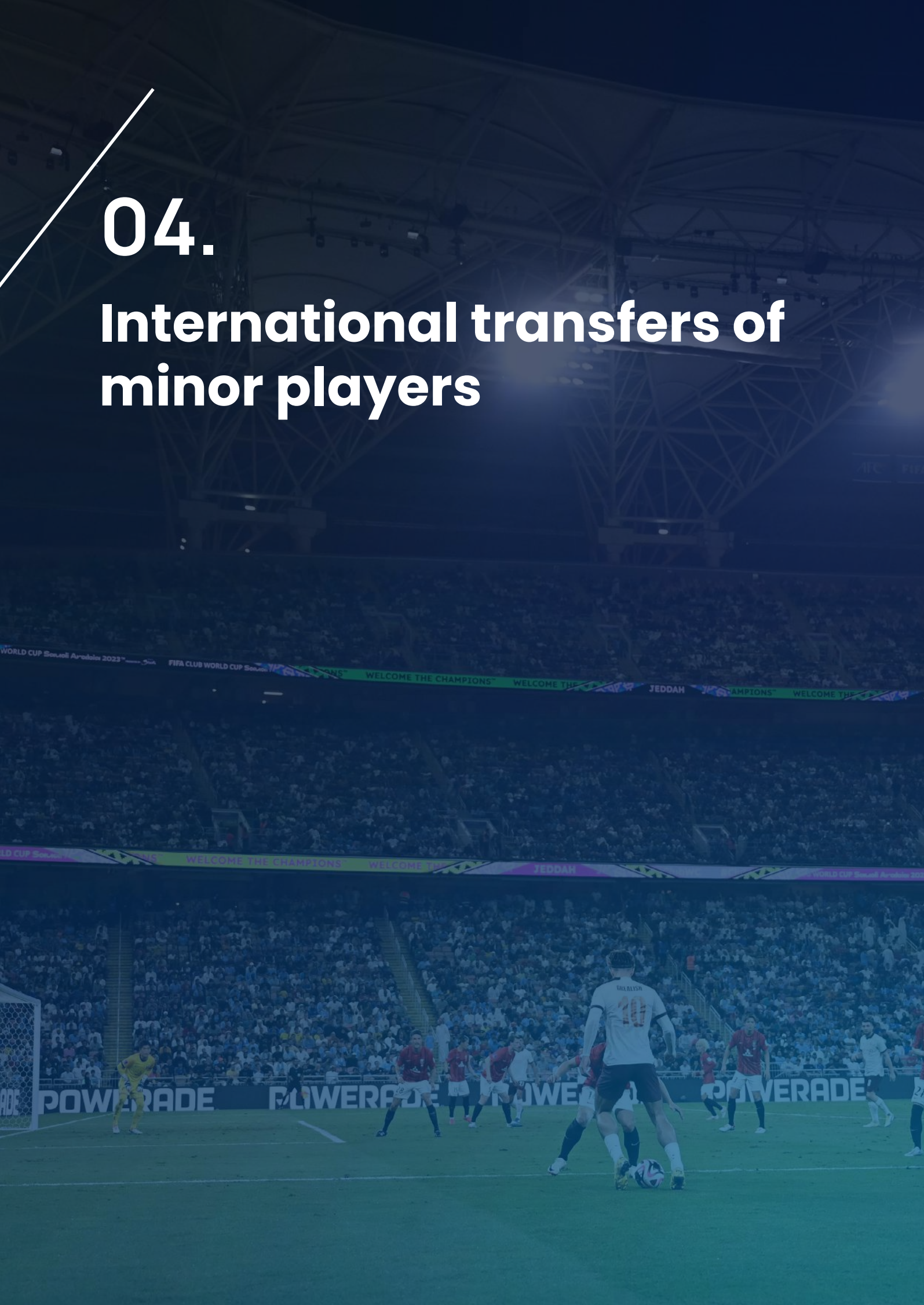




If a loan has ended and the player is returning to their club of origin, this return from loan is considered as a permanent transfer and must be reflected in TMS. Additionally, the registration period of the association to which the player is returning must be open.

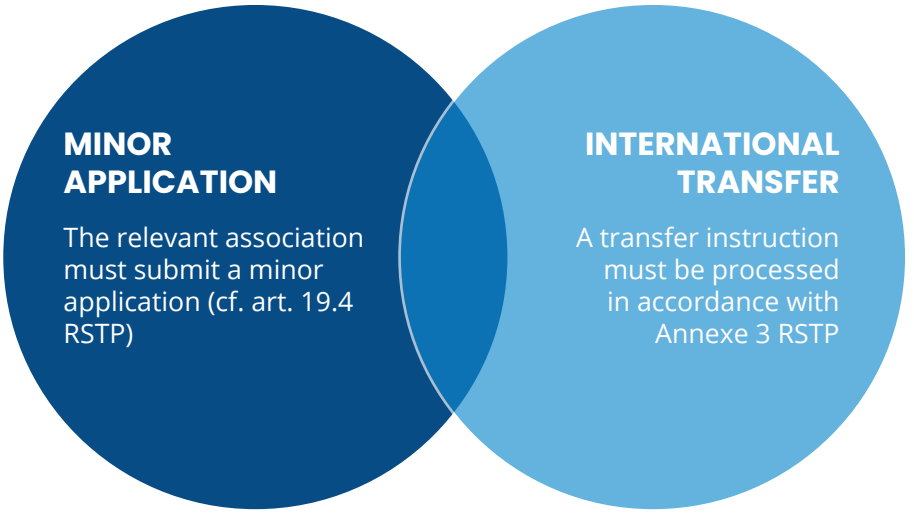
04.

International transfers of minor players



INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS OF MINOR PLAYERS

If an international transfer of a minor player[6] is due to take place, two separate and cumulative processes must be conducted in TMS (2-step process).



This means that, even if a minor application has been approved by FIFA, if the player is transferring internationally (i.e., if the player was previously registered with another association), an ITC still has to be requested through TMS in order for the new association to register the player. Consequently, and in addition to a minor application, the relevant transfer shall also be entered in TMS.

All international transfers involving minor players (amateurs, professionals, men, women and futsal players) require FIFA's approval (cf. article 19 of the RSTP).[7]

If a club is intending to register a minor player it is important to remember that it must comply with all obligations prior to the end of the applicable registration period (subject to the exceptions under article 6 paragraph 1 of the RSTP), as per the applicable provisions of Annexe 3 of the RSTP[8]. This means that, independently from the relevant minor application, the new club must enter a transfer instruction in TMS, provide all compulsory data, upload all mandatory documents to support the information entered and confirm the transfer prior to the end of the applicable registration period.

Upon notification of a decision approving a minor application, the new association will be able to request the ITC in TMS. Should this fall after the end of the applicable registration period, as soon as the ITC has been requested, the transfer will be halted by a validation exception and the new association may request intervention from the FIFA administration for an override, given that the transfer was only delayed due to the minor application being approved. However, such a validation exception will only be overridden if all the obligations related to the transfer were met before the end of the registration period, as described above.

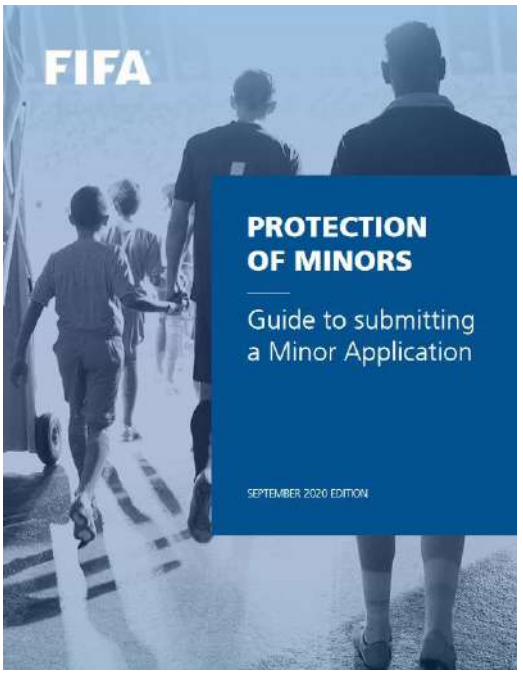
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[6] | As per definition no. 11 of the RSTP, a minor is a player who has not yet reached the age of 18.
[7] | The first registration of a player that is not a national of the country where the association at which he wishes to be registered for the first time is domiciled is also subject to a minor application and the provisions on minors, in accordance with article 19 of the RSTP.
[8] | See FIFA circular no. 1763

For full details on minor players and art. 19 of the RSTP, please refer to the Commentary to the RSTP also available at legal.fifa.com.

A club engaging a player needs to pay special attention if the player it wishes to engage is a minor (i.e. a player who has not yet reached the age of 18) and must follow the additional steps to request FIFA's approval.

If a player is transferring internationally, both the submission of the minor application, as well as the player's international transfer, must be entered correctly and fully in TMS before the end of the registration period.



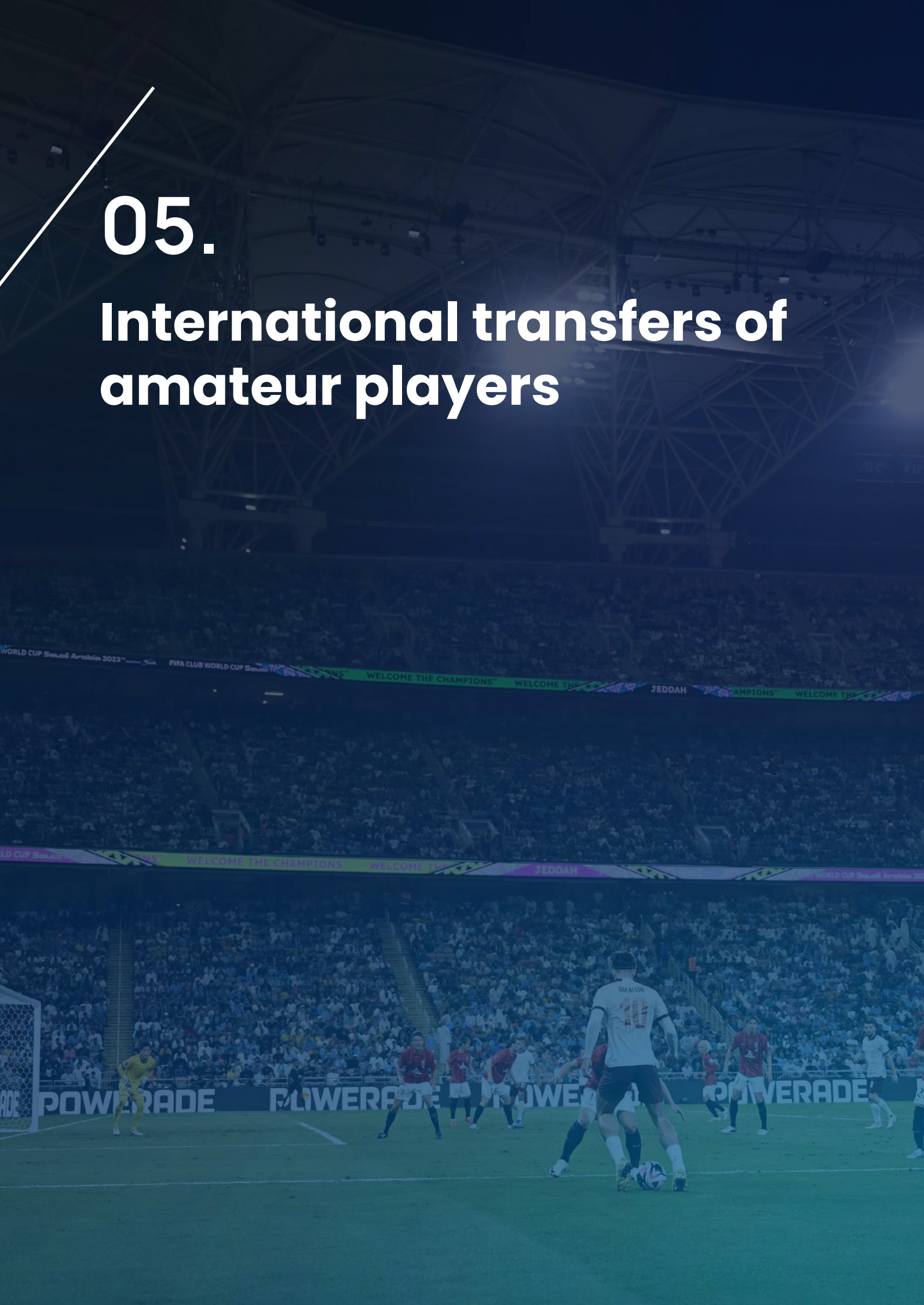
GUIDE TO SUBMITTING A MINOR APPLICATION

In line with its continued efforts to promote transparency, FIFA published all the details on how to process a minor application which can be found in the Guide to submitting a Minor Application also available at legal.fifa.com

Guide to submitting a Minor Application

05.

International transfers of amateur players



INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS OF AMATEUR PLAYERS

As mentioned throughout this guide, TMS is a mandatory tool for all international transfers involving women, men, professional, amateur and minor football players, emphasising its universal application across the footballing spectrum.

While international transfers of amateur players are also governed by Annexe 3 of the RSTP and it is mandatory for such transfers to be processed through TMS, these transfers are subject to fewer requirements compared to those of professional players.

On the one hand, and in accordance with article 6 paragraph 8 of the RSTP, the provisions concerning the duration of registration periods do not apply to competitions in which only amateurs participate. In this sense, the relevant association shall specify the periods when players may be registered for such competitions provided that due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition.

Although nothing prevents associations from setting the same registration periods for both professional and amateur competitions, in general, the registration periods fixed by member associations for amateur competitions typically tend to be longer and, in such cases, international movements of amateur players tend to be less time-sensitive regarding registration period deadlines and rarely lead to a validation exception that may halt the transfer of an amateur player.

In addition, an amateur player is by definition not contractually bound to their club. Consequently, if a club is engaging a player as an amateur, TMS does not require that club to upload an employment or transfer agreement, making the transfer process faster and less complex, due to the status of the player.

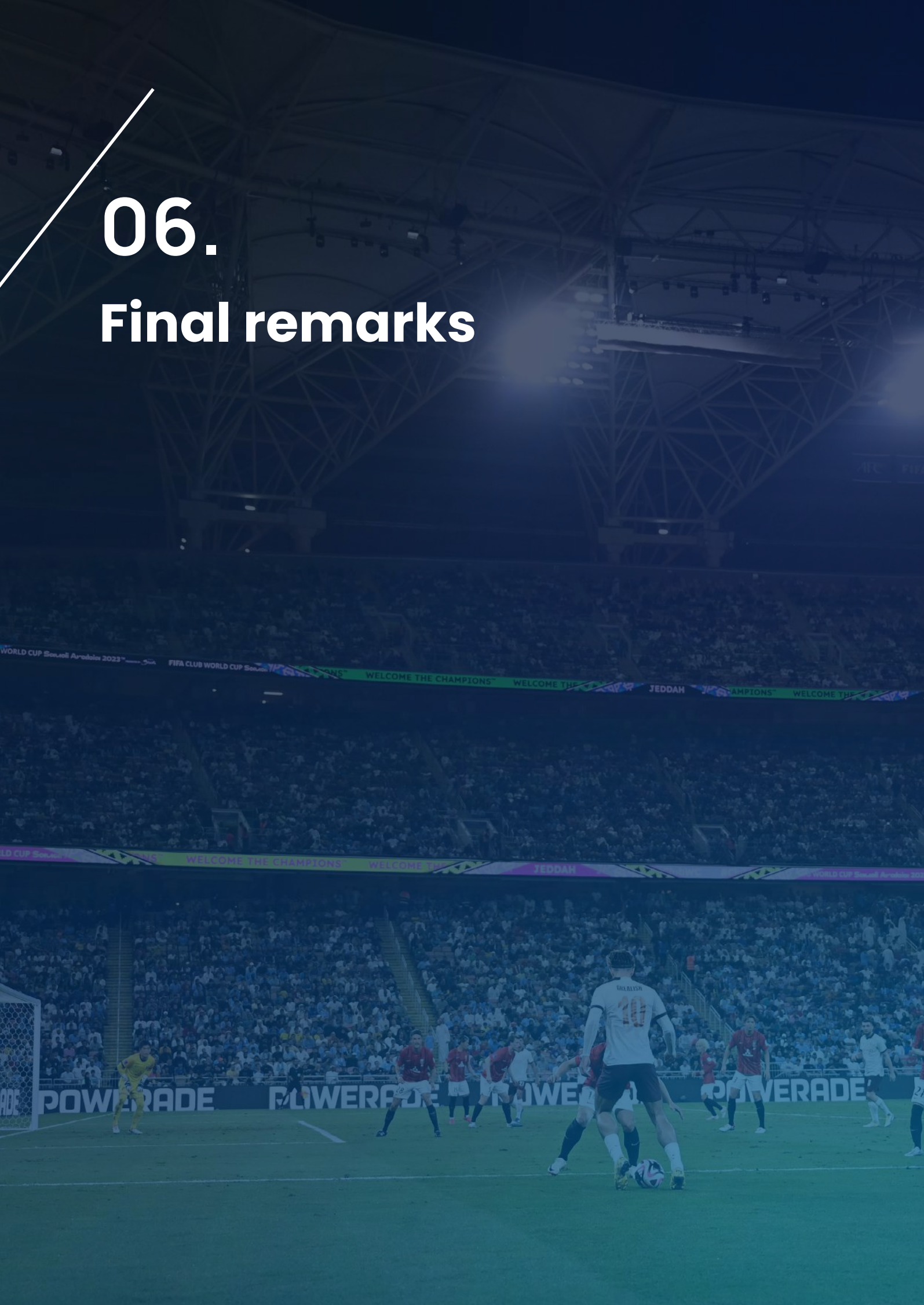
This being said, an international transfer involving an amateur player is still subject to the ITC and registration procedure being completed by both associations in TMS and the new club still has to enter a certain amount of information in TMS, in accordance with the RSTP.

It is worth highlighting that, in accordance with the RSTP, only professional players can be loaned. Therefore, as TMS is a regulatory tool, it does not provide for the possibility to loan amateur players internationally. This means that any international loan must be reflected in TMS as the loan of a professional player and will therefore be subject to the relevant applicable rules outlined throughout this guide.

Finally, an international transfer of an amateur player under the age of 18 also requires the submission of a minor application through TMS and is subject to the same rules on minors as for professional players[9].

[9] | The same applies to the first registration of an amateur player that is not a national of the country where the association at which they wish to be registered for the first time is domiciled (cf. article 19 of the RSTP).

06.
Final remarks



FINAL REMARKS

As explained throughout this guide, the international player transfer process and its ever-growing complexity require advanced preparation and good knowledge of the transfer process and best practices.

The football transfer system is constantly evolving and TMS is a powerful tool that fosters compliance and transparency and facilitates the international transfer process, enhancing worldwide communication among the community of stakeholders.

Understanding the practices involved, from regulatory compliance to navigating potential pitfalls, is crucial for the dynamics of football and to ensure smoother transactions between stakeholders.

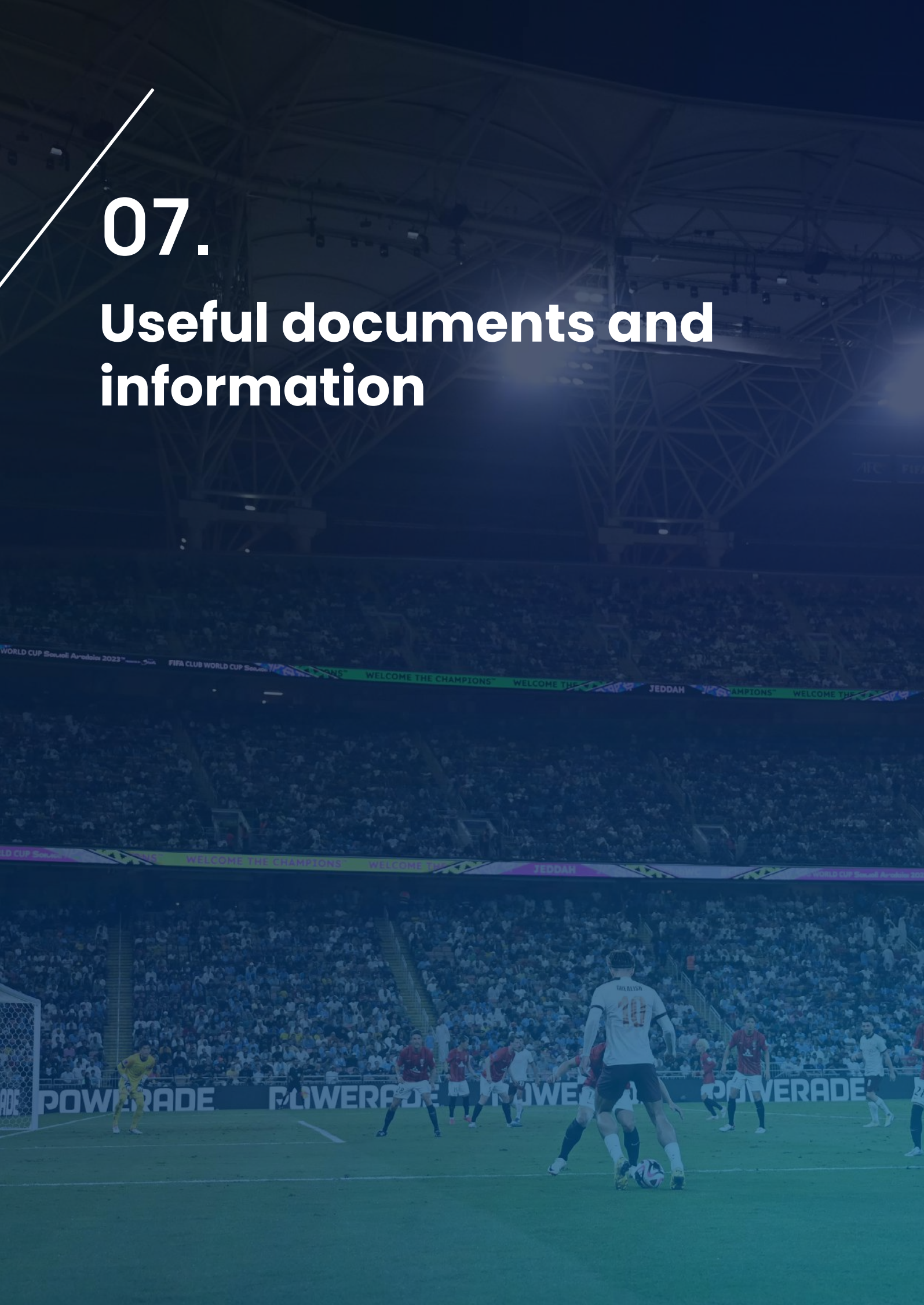
With this guide, we trust that we have provided you with a summary of the most up-to-date information in the field. FIFA will continue to help the community of stakeholders to benefit from the most innovative tools to facilitate player transfers while complying with the required international standards.

If you have any doubts or questions, please do not hesitate to visit us at legal.fifa.com or contact us at legal@fifa.org.

Our dedicated team is also at your disposal at TMSHelpdesk@fifa.org.

07.

Useful documents and information



USEFUL DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION

In line with our continued efforts to promote transparency, the following information is also available at legal.fifa.com.

RSTP

- FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players
- Commentary on the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

Registration Periods

- Explanatory Notes on the New Provisions in the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players Regarding Registration Periods (Transfer Windows)

Clearing House

- https://inside.fifa.com/legal/football-regulatory/clearing-house
- https://fifaclearinghouse.org/
- FIFA Clearing House Regulations
- Explanatory Notes on the FIFA Clearing House Regulations

Loans

- Explanatory Notes on the New Loan Provisions in the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

Minors

- Explanatory Notes on the New Provisions in the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players Regarding the International Transfer of Minors
- Guide to submitting a Minor Application



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK
FOR THE PROTECTION OF FEMALE PLAYERS AND COACHES

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Before 2021

Although the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) applied to both male and female players, the RSTP did not provide specific provisions in relation to maternity or other specific provisions to protect female players or coaches.



TIMELINE OF THE FIFA REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF FEMALE PLAYERS AND COACHES



Mar. 23

mandates the FIFA to explore further ps to protect the emale players and aches.

2023 2024

FIFA undertakes a detailed assessment and consultation process with its stakeholders to explore and define additional regulatory measures.

15 May. 2024

The FIFA Council approves RSTP amendments, which extend rights to adoptive parents and non-biological mothers, encourages member associations to support female players' family connections during international duty, and extends maternity protections to female coaches.

1 Jun. 2024

The amendments to the RSTP enter into force.





Leave entitlements for female players and coaches

(ARTICLE 18 PARAGRAPH 7 OF THE RSTP)

Who is entitled to take leave?

- Female players/coaches as biological mothers, adoptive parents and non-biological mothers during the term of their contract.

Salary during leave:

- Two-thirds of the contracted salary.

Types of leave and duration:

MATERNITY LEAVE:

- 14 weeks of paid absence.
- At least eight weeks must be after the baby is born.

ADOPTION LEAVE:

- For adopting a child under 2 years: eight weeks of paid absence.
- For a child aged 2 to 4 years: four weeks of paid absence.
- For adopting a child over 4 years: two weeks of paid absence.
- Must be taken within six months of adoption.

FAMILY LEAVE:

- Non-biological mothers: eight weeks of paid absence.
- Must be taken within six months of the child's birth.

Important notes:

- Adoption and family leave cannot be taken by the same person for the same child.
- If a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with related provisions exists, the terms of the CBA take precedence.
- If national law offers better conditions, those will apply instead.

Special protections for female players and coaches

(ARTICLE 18QUATER PARAGRAPHS 1, 2 AND 3 OF THE RSTP)

Contractual stability:

AS A PRINCIPLE, EVERY CONTRACT REMAINS VALID REGARDLESS OF:

- pregnancy tests or results;
- being or becoming pregnant;
- taking maternity, adoption or family leave; and
- using any leave rights in general.

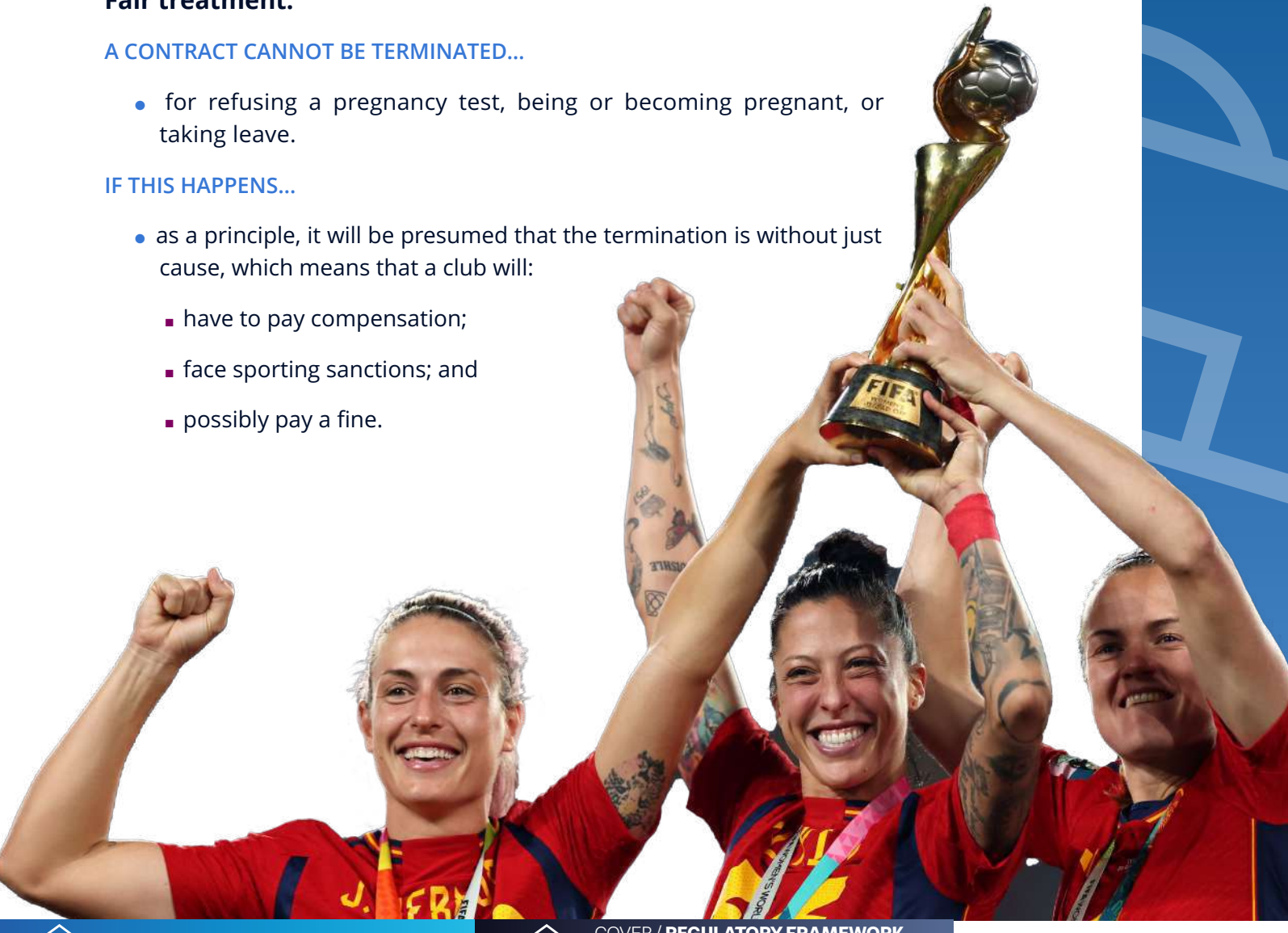
Fair treatment:

A CONTRACT CANNOT BE TERMINATED...

- for refusing a pregnancy test, being or becoming pregnant, or taking leave.

IF THIS HAPPENS...

- as a principle, it will be presumed that the termination is without just cause, which means that a club will:
  - have to pay compensation;
  - face sporting sanctions; and
  - possibly pay a fine.



Basic rights and options for a player who becomes pregnant

(ARTICLE 18QUATER PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE RSTP)

Keep playing:

- As a principle, a player can decide that she wishes to continue to play and train, and the club must then support that decision.

Alternative work:

- If the player does not feel safe to play or train, the club must offer another type of work.

Medical leave:

- If the player cannot play or work in an alternative manner for health-related reasons, the player can take medical leave (upon presentation of a valid medical certificate).
- Medical leave applies to female coaches as well.



Flexible leave and return to work

(ARTICLE 18QUATER PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE RSTP)

Flexible leave start:

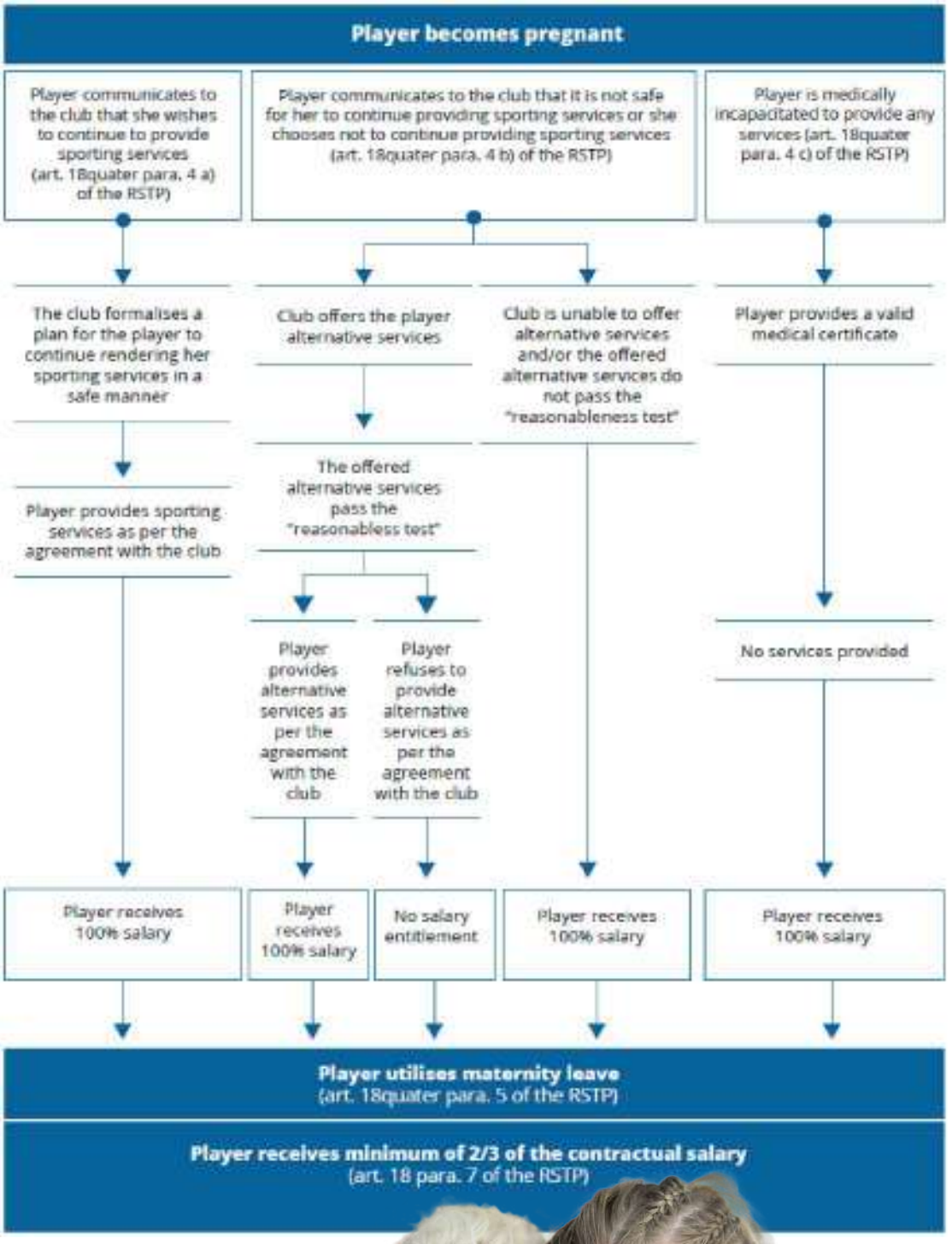
- As a principle, players and coaches are free to choose when their leave starts and when they wish to return to football.

Full pay when back:

- Full salary once player/coach is back to football activity.

Support after maternity leave:

- After maternity leave, the club must help the player get back into football, work with her on a postpartum plan and provide medical support.


Player becomes pregnant
Player communicates to the club that she wishes to continue to provide sporting services (art. 18quater para. 4 a) of the RSTP)
Player communicates to the club that it is not safe for her to continue providing sporting services or she chooses not to continue providing sporting services (art. 18quater para. 4 b) of the RSTP)
Player is medically incapacitated to provide any services (art. 18quater para. 4 c) of the RSTP)
The club formalises a plan for the player to continue rendering her sporting services in a safe manner
Player provides sporting services as per the agreement with the club
Club offers the player alternative services
The offered alternative services pass the "reasonableness test"
Player provides alternative services as per the agreement with the club
Player refuses to provide alternative services as per the agreement with the club
Club is unable to offer alternative services and/or the offered alternative services do not pass the "reasonableness test"
Player provides a valid medical certificate
No services provided
Player receives 100% salary
Player receives 100% salary
No salary entitlement
Player receives 100% salary
Player receives 100% salary
Player utilises maternity leave
(art. 18quater para. 5 of the RSTP)
Player receives minimum of 2/3 of the contractual salary
(art. 18 para. 7 of the RSTP)

Breastfeeding
(ARTICLE 18QUATER PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE RSTP)

Breastfeeding rights:

- A player/coach is allowed to breastfeed and/or express milk as required.

Suitable facilities:

- Clubs must provide suitable facilities for breastfeeding/expressing milk, in line with national laws or agreements.

Full pay for reduced hours:

- If the player/coach can only work fewer hours because of breastfeeding/expressing milk, the salary remains the same.



Menstrual health
(ARTICLE 18QUINQUIES OF THE RSTP)

Approved absence:

- A female player or coach can take time off from training or matches whenever needed for reasons of menstrual health, with a valid medical certificate.

Full pay guaranteed:

- Absence for reasons of menstrual health have no impact on the salary of a player or coach.

Special registration rules for female players

(ARTICLE 6 PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE RSTP)

Temporary replacements:

- Clubs are allowed to register a female player outside of a registration period if she is replacing another player who is on maternity, adoption or family leave.

Return from leave:

- A player who returns from maternity, adoption or family leave can also be registered outside of the registration periods.

Supporting national-team players and their families

(ARTICLE 1BIS PARAGRAPH 11 OF ANNEXE 1 TO THE RSTP)

Member associations are encouraged to provide a family-friendly environment during final competitions, for example by:

- ensuring that families can stay in the same hotel or nearby during final competitions;
- providing appropriate facilities for breastfeeding or expressing milk, as required by national laws;
- offering necessary sanitary provisions for players with infants;
- providing financial assistance for travel and accommodation for families; and
- facilitating childcare services to help players focus on their performance.



Implementation of the regulatory framework at national level

(ARTICLE 1 PARAGRAPH 3 a) OF THE RSTP)

Minimum standards:

- The rules of the RSTP are basic standards that must be followed at national level.

National flexibility:

- Each member association can implement stronger protections through their own regulations.

Collective bargaining agreements (CBAs):

- If a valid CBA with provisions for female players and coaches exists at national level, those provisions are fully applicable.

More beneficial national law prevails:

- If no CBA exists, but national laws provide better protections than the FIFA framework, those laws take precedence.

Regulatory Compliance:

- The applicable conditions from CBAs or national laws must be properly included in the domestic regulations.



Do you need additional support or information?

Please do not hesitate to contact the FIFA Legal & Compliance Division at **legal@fifa.org** who, in close coordination with the FIFA Women's Football Division, remain at your disposal should you have any queries in respect to this topic.

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Explanatory Note on New Provisions in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players Regarding Female Players

Minimum Labour Conditions for Female Players – 2024

Introduction

As part of FIFA's commitment to constantly adapt the regulatory framework to the reality of football and the transfer system, the FIFA Council agreed to mandate the FIFA administration to undertake a detailed assessment of the minimum labour conditions regarding pregnancy and maternity for professional players with the aim of exploring objective additional regulatory measures to protect the well-being of female players in line with the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP).[1]

Following extensive discussions with all stakeholders, the recent amendments and additions to the RSTP were approved by the FIFA Council on 15 May 2024.

The purpose of this note is to provide appropriate guidance to FIFA member associations (MAs) and their stakeholders in relation to the newly adapted RSTP, focusing on:

I. extending the existing rights and protection to adoptive parents as well as non-biological mothers;
II. rights of the player in case of pregnancy;
III. developing a plan to support the player post-partum;
IV. breastfeeding;
V. menstrual health;
VI. extending the rights to female coaches;
VII. ensuring implementation of the rules at national level; and
VIII. encouraging associations to facilitate attachment and emotional balance for female players with their families while on international duty with their national teams.

[1] FIFA Council mandate of 14 March 2023.

I. Extending rights and protection to adoptive parents as well as to non-biological mothers

The new regulatory framework introduces a leave entitlement (and a corresponding financial entitlement) to female players as adoptive parents or non-biological mothers of a child.

The main objective of the introduction of these entitlements is to reflect the reality of women's football and to promote inclusivity by providing protection to female players desiring to have a family. Through the new definitions of such leave entitlement and the adapted provisions, female players in such situations will be able to have the necessary time with their family to emotionally connect with their child and to settle in the new role as a parent. All of this will be ensured by providing **adequate leave**, as well as ensuring a corresponding **financial entitlement**.

Recognising the different impact on the adoptive mother's ability to work when compared to cases of biological maternity, the leave entitlement is different to that of maternity leave. The player has the right to take eight weeks of **family leave** within six months of the date of birth of a child.

The entitlement to the **adoption leave** is linked to the age of the adopted child, and it must be taken within six months of the date of the formal adoption:

- The child is two or less than two years old: eight weeks for the adoptive parent.
- The child is between two and four years old: four weeks for the adoptive parent.
- The child is older than the age of four: two weeks for the adoptive parent.

During the respective leave, the minimum financial entitlement corresponds to the equivalent of **two thirds of the contracted salary** (art. 18 para. 7 of the RSTP).

The relevant provisions regarding registration periods and the principles of contractual stability, i.e. articles 6 paragraph 3 and 18quater of the RSTP, were adapted to include adoption and family leave and to provide the same protection as for players exercising their rights linked to pregnancy.

II. Rights of players in case of pregnancy

a) Article 18quater paragraph 4 of the RSTP

To provide for more clarity, article 18quater paragraph 4 of the RSTP was rephrased in its entirety to highlight the basic rights of a player who becomes pregnant during the term of her contract. Furthermore, the financial consequences for each protected right were listed in more detail. For the avoidance of doubt, no change in substance to the existing version of article 18quater of the RSTP was intended.

In summary, the **mechanics of the provision** are as follows:

Where a player becomes pregnant during the term of her contract:

- The player has the right to continue providing **sporting services**. The club has an obligation to respect the decision and formalise a plan for her continued sporting participation in a safe manner, prioritising her health and that of the unborn child. The player will be entitled to receive her full remuneration, until such time that she utilises maternity leave.
- Should the player deem that it is not safe for her to continue providing sporting services, or should she choose not to exercise her right to continue providing sporting services, the club will offer the player the possibility to provide **employment services in an alternative manner**. If she renders employment services in an alternative manner, or if the club is unable to offer alternative employment services that can reasonably be expected in the context of the ongoing contract, the player will be entitled to receive her full remuneration, until such time that she utilises her maternity leave.
- If, for medical reasons related to a pregnancy, a player is unable to provide sporting or employment services in an alternative manner, then the player is entitled to medical leave, subject to the production of a valid medical certificate issued by her personal gynaecologist or specialist medical practitioner. The player will be entitled to full remuneration, until such time that she utilises maternity leave.

The following paragraphs explain these mechanics in more detail.

b) Sporting services

The player can continue providing **sporting services**. This right of the player has to be respected by her club, which also has the obligation to formalise a sporting plan for the player, prioritising her health and that of the unborn child.

The player is entitled to her **full remuneration** during this time.

c) Reasonable alternative services

In case the player exercises her right to provide **alternative services**, the following applies:

- If the player chooses that she prefers to no longer render sporting services, but wishes to render alternative services, the club, as an employer, has the obligation to offer the possibility of such alternative services to the player.
- The alternative services must always pass the **reasonableness test**, i.e. only alternative services that are sufficiently closely linked to the player's main contractual duties, and only alternative services that can reasonably be expected from a player, can be requested to be performed.
- If the alternative services **do not meet the reasonableness test**, the player can refuse to provide them and still claim her **full salary**.

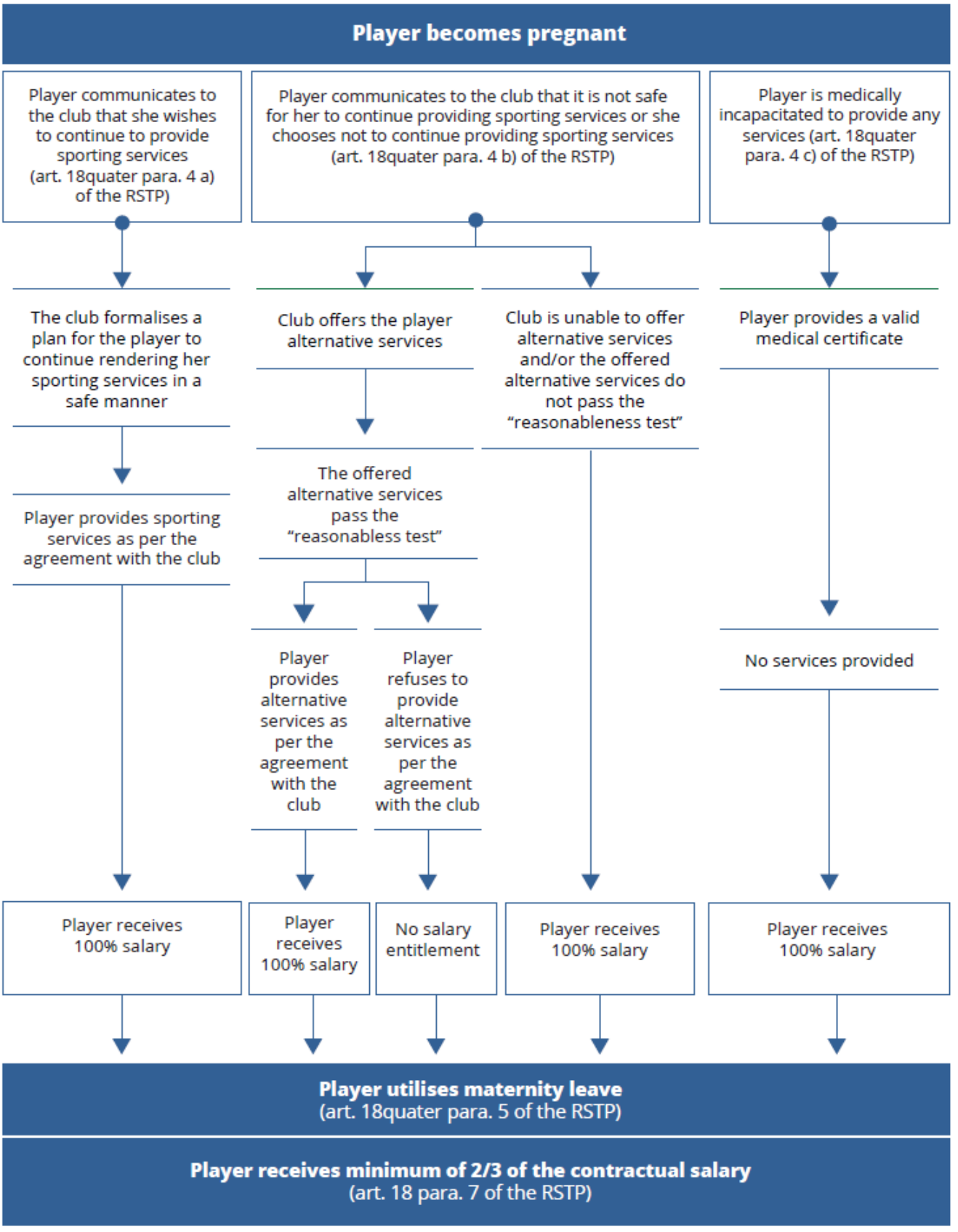
- If a possibility to render reasonable alternative services is offered by the club, but the player **refuses to provide** such services despite being medically fit to do so, the player **loses her salary entitlement entirely** until she utilises maternity leave. In such a case, the player does not commit a breach of contract, but can no longer claim any salary payment from the club until she utilises maternity leave.

d) Medical incapacity

The newly added paragraph relating to the inability to provide employment services due to medical **complications related to a pregnancy** protects the player in cases where the player is unable to provide sporting or employment services in an alternative manner during her pregnancy. The element that medical complications need to be "related to a pregnancy" is to be understood in a broad sense, i.e. such complications can also occur in case of an early termination of a pregnancy, or any other medical condition triggered by a pregnancy.

Subject to the production of a **valid medical certificate**, issued by the player's personal gynaecologist or specialist medical practitioner, the player is entitled to prescribed leave as well as to her **full remuneration** during this time. In other words, in case of medical incapacity, the player neither has to render sporting services nor any alternative services and is still entitled to a full salary payment.

e) Overview


Player becomes pregnant
Player communicates to the club that she wishes to continue to provide sporting services (art. 18quater para. 4 a) of the RSTP)
Player communicates to the club that it is not safe for her to continue providing sporting services or she chooses not to continue providing sporting services (art. 18quater para. 4 b) of the RSTP)
Player is medically incapacitated to provide any services (art. 18quater para. 4 c) of the RSTP)
The club formalises a plan for the player to continue rendering her sporting services in a safe manner
Club offers the player alternative services
Club is unable to offer alternative services and/or the offered alternative services do not pass the "reasonableness test"
Player provides a valid medical certificate
Player provides sporting services as per the agreement with the club
The offered alternative services pass the "reasonableless test"
Player provides alternative services as per the agreement with the club
Player refuses to provide alternative services as per the agreement with the club
No services provided
Player receives 100% salary
Player receives 100% salary
No salary entitlement
Player receives 100% salary
Player receives 100% salary
Player utilises maternity leave
(art. 18quater para. 5 of the RSTP)
Player receives minimum of 2/3 of the contractual salary
(art. 18 para. 7 of the RSTP)

III. Developing a plan to support the player post-partum

After the completion of the maternity leave, the club is not only required to reintegrate the player into footballing activity, but now also has the obligation to agree with the latter on a **post-partum plan** and provide adequate ongoing medical support (art. 18 para. 5 of the RSTP).

Annexe A serves as an example of possible elements of such a post-partum plan.

IV. Breastfeeding

A further objective of these latest regulatory amendments is to promote the importance of breastfeeding in accordance with the International Labour Organization's Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183). In this respect, a clarification has been added to the existing provision, stipulating that a player's reduced working hours due to breastfeeding and/or expressing breast milk are justified, without any reduction in salary.

FIFA also wishes to provide for further guidance regarding "**suitable facilities**" for breastfeeding, as per article 18quater paragraph 6 of the RSTP. The minimum standard encompasses a **fully available**, **private** and **safe space**.

Annexe B serves as an example of how such suitable facilities can be established.

V. Menstrual health

According to the FIFA Female Health Project Snapshot, 83-93% of female athletes experience menstrual cycle-related symptoms having the potential to impact exercise, performance, recovery and ultimately their quality of life.

Recognising the physical impact of the menstrual cycle, article 18quinquines of the RSTP was introduced to protect players who suffer from severe menstruation pain.

According to this new provision, subject to the production of a valid medical certificate, a player will be entitled to be absent from training or matches whenever her menstrual health so requires, without suffering any financial consequences therefrom, i.e. the player will receive her **full remuneration** during such an absence.

VI. Extending rights to female coaches

To enable female coaches to fulfil their maternal role without being marginalised in the labour market, the maternity and adoption benefits were extended accordingly to coaches.

However, paying due consideration to the fact that the services provided by a coach to a club are different to those provided by a player in terms of physicality/fitness, certain provisions (art. 18quater para. 4 a) and b)) do not apply to coaches.

VII. Ensuring implementation of the rules on national level

MAs are reminded that the relevant articles 18 paragraph 7, 18quater and 18quinquies are binding provisions at national level and therefore must be included in the respective domestic regulations in accordance with article 1 paragraph 3 a) of the RSTP.

Nonetheless, an additional paragraph has been added to article 1 paragraph 3 a), explaining the interplay of the RSTP with relevant collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) or national law. To ensure the correct implementation of the female regulatory framework at national level, the MAs are guided as follows:

- If a CBA exists at national level, the CBA prevails in its totality (i.e. also if in some aspects, rules of a CBA are **less beneficial** than the RSTP).
- If no CBA exists at national level, but there are mandatory rules of national law that are more beneficial than the RSTP, those specific, **more beneficial** rules prevail.

In order to provide for legal certainty, the applicable conditions as per the relevant CBAs or national law **must be duly reflected** in the **association's regulations**.

It is paramount to mention that the RSTP establishes a **minimum standard** for all 211 MAs. This minimum standard must be adhered to in all 211 MAs' legal frameworks. As explicitly stipulated in the relevant provisions, where more favourable provisions would be provided in national jurisdictions, those provisions will prevail (subject to the existence of a validly negotiated CBA, as mentioned above). If, in the context of a dispute before the Football Tribunal, more beneficial national rules are invoked, the party invoking these rules carries the **burden of proof** regarding the existence and content of the rules.

VIII. Encouraging FIFA MAs to facilitate attachment and emotional balance for female players with their families while on international duty with their national teams

At the last FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™, FIFA witnessed success stories of several national teams that had advanced family policies for their players, which facilitated female players to be accompanied by their minor children during the tournament.

The main goal of such policies is that the players do not have to compromise between taking care of their children and attending international duty with their national teams.

The new article 1bis paragraph 11 of Annexe 1 to the RSTP does not impose a binding obligation on MAs. Notwithstanding, MAs are being encouraged to facilitate attachment and emotional

balance for female players with their families during the final stages of competitions has been introduced.

FIFA encourages its members, in consultation with its national team players, to adopt directions for accompanying children during the final stages of competitions, including, inter alia:

- to provide the possibility for families to be accommodated in the same hotel as the team, or at least very close by, for the duration of the final tournament;
- to provide suitable facilities in accordance with national legislation for breastfeeding and/or expressing breast milk, if needed;
- to provide all necessary sanitary provisions for players with infants;
- to financially support travel costs and/or accommodation costs for families; and
- to facilitate the provision of childcare services.

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ANNEXE A

	Recommendations
EDUCATION	Facilitating a team-wide education and a normalising culture relating to pregnancy and post-partum return-to-play.
COMMUNICATION	Seeking open dialogue with players. Identifying a relevant staff lead/contact person.
MEDICAL & PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT	Providing for multidisciplinary involvement, including a health assessment by various medical specialists, i.e. obstetrician and gynaecologist, pelvic health physiotherapist, specialised physical coach, mental health specialist, nutritionist, etc. Medical specialists will recognise where early supportive intervention and appropriate levels of physical activity will support continued participation during pregnancy, aid recovery and prepare the player for a successful return-to-play per her wishes. Objective: Clear and careful planning for pregnancy and post-partum return-to-play.
RETURN-TO-PLAY TIMELINE	The recovery timeline will vary based on a number of factors, such as the mode of delivery, complications during pregnancy or birth, overall physical and mental health, as well as the sleep/nutrition status of the player. The return-to-play timeline will be influenced by early-phase recovery and the successful development of position-specific load capacity. It is important to anticipate and respect the potential disruption a player will face early on in her post-partum recovery. Objective: Minimise injury risk given that evidence suggests many post-partum athletes return to sport early and sustain significant musculoskeletal injury.
INDIVIDUALISED SUPPORT	Continuous monitoring of the health, well-being and performance of the player. Return-to-play objectives should reflect the current physiological and psychological state of the player.

Other football stakeholders have equally developed detailed examples of possible post-partum plans, which may also serve as guidance. Examples can be found here.

ANNEXE B

	Recommendations
LOCATION	Breastfeeding facilities should be located in a physically separate area, close to the workspace.
ACCESSIBILITY & AVAILABILITY	The facilities must be easily accessible and fully available for the player during her working hours.
SAFETY & PRIVACY	The facilities must ensure privacy, i.e. the entrances must be closed properly, with exclusive access control for breastfeeding players and cleaning staff. The facilities must be designed to ensure that players using the room are not visible from the outside.
EQUIPMENT	Comfortable chair. Milk-storage unit. Handwashing facilities or any other necessary supplies, such as drinking water, liquid soap, dispenser, hand sanitiser, cleaner for surfaces and paper towels. Changing mat and table. Waste bin.
HYGIENE	The facilities should be cleaned on a regular basis.

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Explanatory Note on Annexe 7 to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

June 2024

Introduction

As a consequence of the military invasion of Ukraine by Russian armed forces, FIFA decided to urgently address these extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances in March 2022. In the context of this complex and urgent situation, after a consultation process involving the key football stakeholders, the Bureau of the FIFA Council adopted regulatory measures to provide urgent legal certainty and clarity on a number of important regulatory matters. This led to the adoption of Annexe 7 to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) in its original version of March 2022.

The decisions of the Bureau of the FIFA Council were communicated via circular nos 1787 and 1788 and set out the regulatory principles in the form of a temporary annexe to the RSTP (Annexe 7) entitled: Temporary rules addressing the exceptional situation deriving from the war in Ukraine. A first interpretative note has been prepared in order to provide appropriate guidance to FIFA member associations (MAs) and their stakeholders in relation to Annexe 7 to the RSTP.

Subsequently, in June 2022, the Bureau adopted a decision approving a revised text of Annexe 7 to the RSTP, extending this regulatory framework until 30 June 2023. This decision was communicated via circular no. 1800. The legality of this decision has in the meantime been confirmed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

On 21 May 2023, the Bureau of the Council approved further temporary amendments to extend and adapt Annexe 7 to the RSTP until 30 June 2024, with the objective of continuing to assist players, coaches and clubs impacted by the war in Ukraine, while at the same time aiming to strike a reasonable balance between all interests at stake and avoiding abuse. These amendments have been communicated via circular no. 1849.

Following these decisions, the ongoing, tragic situation between Ukraine and Russia and the unforeseeable duration of the war have led to a need for further clarification on the application of Annexe 7 to the RSTP, in particular as to its possible application beyond 30 June 2024. There is an ongoing need for legal clarity related to the employment relationships of foreign players and coaches in Ukraine and Russia, which FIFA must address. In light of this, on 15 May 2024, the FIFA Council approved further temporary amendments to Annexe 7 to the RSTP.

Once again, these temporary rules that have been incorporated in the revised Annexe 7 to the RSTP (hereinafter "Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition)") are a result of extensive discussions with all key football stakeholders. Through intense discussions, FIFA has sought to strike a balance between all the interests at stake. Furthermore, as confirmed by CAS, it is within FIFA's competence as the world's governing body of football to issue the rules contained in Annexe 7 as a proportionate, reasonable and necessary regulatory step to address the extremely challenging circumstances caused by Russia's war against Ukraine.

The purpose of this updated explanatory note is to provide appropriate guidance to MAs and their stakeholders in relation to Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition).

➢ Scope of application of the temporary rules addressing the exceptional situation deriving from the war in Ukraine

1. Scope of application

1. Without prejudice to paragraph 2 below, this annexe applies to employment contracts of an international dimension concluded between players or coaches and clubs affiliated to the Ukrainian Association of Football (UAF) or the Football Union of Russia (FUR).

2. This annexe does not apply to:

   a) employment contracts of an international dimension of players who, on 21 May 2023 and thereafter, were registered with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR;

   b) employment contracts of an international dimension of coaches who, on 21 May 2023 and thereafter, rendered their services to a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR;

   c) employment contracts of an international dimension of players or coaches that have been concluded or extended after 7 March 2022.

Article 1 of Annexe 7 was rephrased in May 2023 in order to include limitations regarding the scope of application of the annexe.

No change was applied to this provision. Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition) applies to employment contracts of an international dimension concluded between players or coaches and clubs affiliated to the Ukrainian Association of Football (UAF) or the Football Union of Russia (FUR).

Therefore, these temporary rules are applicable to foreign players and coaches who have employment contracts with clubs affiliated to the UAF or FUR. For the sake of clarity, these temporary rules apply both to men's and women's football and futsal.

However, certain limitations on the scope of application of Annexe 7 were introduced in May 2023 in order to prevent abuses, which have also been maintained in Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition). The underlying rationale is that players and coaches who have, despite the war in Ukraine, decided to arrive in, return to, or not leave the territory of Ukraine or Russia, cannot rely on Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition) to suspend an ongoing contract. Therefore, Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition) does not apply to:

1. Employment contracts of foreign players who were registered with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR on 21 May 2023, i.e. at the moment when Annexe 7 (May 2023 edition) entered into force or at any point after that.

   It is clear, however, that there may be extraordinary circumstances where a strict reliance on the registration of a player may not produce results that are in line with the mentioned rationale. For example, there may be players who have invoked Annexe 7 (in its earlier

versions) to suspend their employment contracts, but who have been unable to find other employment opportunities. As a result, such players would indeed still be registered with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR. However, in line with the underlying rationale of Annexe 7, these players too will be able to invoke Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition).

2. Employment contracts of foreign coaches who render their services to a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR.

   Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition) will not apply to the employment contract of an international dimension of a coach who renders their services to a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR at that point in time or at any point after 21 May 2023.

3. Employment contracts of foreign players or coaches that have been concluded or extended after 7 March 2022.

   As from 7 March 2022, i.e. the date of entry into force of the first version of the temporary rules, a key measure has been available to provide players and coaches with the opportunity to train, play and receive a salary, while protecting Ukrainian clubs and facilitating the departure of foreign players and coaches from Russia, namely the suspension of employment contracts of foreign players and coaches with clubs affiliated to the UAF or FUR.

   With this in mind, Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition) will not apply to the employment contract of an international dimension of a player or coach that has been concluded or extended with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR after 7 March 2022, since under such circumstances, any request to suspend a contract would appear contradictory and thus abusive.

➢ Performance of football contracts of foreign players and coaches employed by Ukrainian or Russian clubs

2. Employment contracts of an international dimension with clubs affiliated to the UAF or FUR

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of these regulations and unless otherwise agreed between the parties, a contract of an international dimension between a player or a coach and a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR can be unilaterally suspended until 30 June 2025 by the player or the coach.

2. In order to validly suspend the contract, the player or coach shall inform the club of the unilateral suspension in writing by 1 July 2024 at the latest.

3. The minimum length of a contract established under article 18 paragraph 2 of these regulations does not apply to any new contract concluded by the professional whose contract has been suspended in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

Articles 2 and 3 of earlier versions of Annexe 7 were merged into one provision in May 2023 in view that employment contracts of an international dimension concluded between players or coaches and clubs affiliated to the UAF or FUR are treated in the same way, with the numbering of the subsequent articles adapted accordingly.

The safety and well-being of players, coaches and club staff remains FIFA's primary concern. It is clear that the ongoing military conflict has had an impact, with players and coaches leaving the territory of Ukraine or Russia, and who might not wish to currently return in view of the situation.

In view of this, the recent amendments to the regulatory framework entail the temporary extension of one of the key measures of Annexe 7 to the RSTP, namely the right for foreign players and coaches who have left the territory of Ukraine or Russia due to the conflict and may not wish to currently return, to further unilaterally suspend their contracts until 30 June 2025.

However, in order to prevent abuses, to provide clarity to the affected clubs and to ensure that players and coaches exercise their right to suspend their employment contracts within a clear time frame, the player or coach would again need to inform the club of the unilateral suspension in writing by 1 July 2024 for the suspension to be considered valid. For the avoidance of doubt, "in writing" means written correspondence duly signed by the person suspending their contract.

Earlier discussions with the different stakeholders have led to the conclusion that the above deadline provides sufficient time to foreign players and coaches to decide whether, in light of the situation, they wish to return to Ukraine or Russia, and also to clubs affiliated to the UAF or FUR to organise their teams adequately. It reflects, therefore, a clear consensus found between all stakeholders.

Finally, as implied by the wording "unless otherwise agreed between the parties" in article 2 paragraph 1 of Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition), foreign players and coaches have the discretion to waive the suspension mechanism by reaching alternative agreements with their respective clubs affiliated to the UAF or FUR.

➢ Consequences of the suspension of football contracts of foreign players and coaches with clubs affiliated to the UAF or FUR

3. Consequences of the suspension

A player or coach whose contract has been suspended as per article 2 paragraphs 1 and 2 above does not commit a breach of contract by signing and registering with a new club. Article 18 paragraph 5 of these regulations does not apply to a professional whose contract has been suspended as article 2 paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

In case that foreign players or coaches validly exercise their right to unilaterally suspend their contracts with clubs affiliated to the UAF or FUR, the obligation to provide sporting services and for the players or coaches to be remunerated for those services will be deemed paused until 30 June 2025.

A valid suspension of a contract as per the above-mentioned provisions will mean that the players or coaches concerned are considered "out of contract" until 30 June 2025 and are, therefore, at liberty to sign a contract with another club without facing consequences of any kind (either payment of compensation or sporting sanctions), for the period of suspension.

A valid suspension will also entail that foreign clubs that subsequently register players whose contracts have been suspended or are deemed suspended will not be subject to any sporting or financial consequences. However, in principle, the validity of any new contract shall not extend past 30 June 2025.

Moreover, any new contract concluded by a professional with a new club until 30 June 2025, whose contract has been suspended as per the above-mentioned provisions, will not be considered a violation of article 18 paragraph 5 of the RSTP, which states that "If a professional enters into more than one contract covering the same period, the provisions set forth in Chapter IV shall apply."

➢ Registration matters

4. Registration

Notwithstanding the provisions of article 5 paragraph 4 of these regulations, a player whose previous registration was in the UAF or FUR, may be registered with a maximum of four clubs during one season and is eligible to play official matches for three different clubs.

5. Registration periods

Notwithstanding the provisions of Annexe 3, in case the UAF or FUR reject an ITC request for a professional within the scope of this annexe, the FIFA administration may immediately authorise the registration of the player at the new association for his new club.

In order to alleviate any concern that a player in these circumstances may inadvertently breach article 5 paragraph 4 of the RSTP when they transfer to a club affiliated to a different MA, it has been agreed that all players whose previous registration was at the UAF or foreign players whose previous registration was at the FUR may be registered with a maximum of four clubs and shall be eligible to play official matches for a maximum of three clubs during the same season (i.e. the same season in which the transfer occurs).

In the event that the UAF or FUR rejects the International Transfer Certificate request for a professional whose contract has been suspended as per Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition), in order to allow a smooth and swift process, the FIFA administration may immediately authorise the registration of the player at the new association wishing to register them.

For the sake of completeness, these temporary rules apply to registration matters concerning all players in Ukraine regardless of their nationality, and the principles outlined in this section shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to amateur players and futsal.

➢ Protection of minors

> **6. Protection of minors**
>
> Notwithstanding the provisions of article 19 of these regulations, any minors residing in the territory of Ukraine who wish to be registered with a new club shall be deemed to fulfil the requirements of the exception provided in article 19 paragraph 2 a) or d) of these regulations.

Article 19 paragraph 2 a) of the RSTP exempts minors moving with their parents from the rule preventing the international transfer of players before the age of 18 when the reasons for the move are not linked to football. Article 19 paragraph 2 d) of the RSTP exempts minors moving for humanitarian reasons from the general prohibition regarding the international transfer of players before the age of 18. The exemption is limited to those categories of persons set out in the 1951 Refugee Convention. The FIFA Football Tribunal has previously applied the exemption to asylum seekers whose civil status in their new country has yet to be determined, permitting their registration with amateur clubs.

In this respect, minors fleeing Ukraine, regardless of their nationality, to other countries due to the armed conflict will be considered to have fulfilled the requirements of article 19 paragraph 2 a) or d) of the RSTP. Their registration at the new association would normally be approved by the FIFA Football Tribunal.

➢ Training compensation

7. Training compensation

1. As from the time this annexe enters into force, training compensation in accordance with the provisions of article 20 and annexe 4 is payable by the new club for any player whose previous registration was in the UAF or FUR if:

   a) without prejudice to paragraph 3 below, the player is registered for the first time as a professional before the end of the calendar year of his 23rd birthday; or

   b) the player had validly suspended their contract with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR in accordance with the provisions of this annexe (under any of its different editions) and is now transferred between clubs of two different associations (whether during or at the end of his contract) before the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday.

   However, in such case per literal b), training compensation will be owed by the new club only to the club(s) affiliated to the UAF or FUR with which the player had been registered before the player's contract was suspended, for the time the player was effectively trained by the respective club(s).

2. No entitlement to training compensation will arise for any club not affiliated to the UAF or FUR who has registered a player following the suspension of the player's contract in accordance with this annexe.

3. No training compensation is payable by the new club for a player being registered for the first time as a professional if:

   a) the player is registered with a club not affiliated to the UAF or FUR after having left the territory of Ukraine or Russia subsequently to 7 March 2022 and was allowed to be registered with a new club under the exception provided in article 19 paragraph 2 a) or d) of these regulations;

   b) the player left the territory of Ukraine or Russia subsequently to 7 March 2022 and now wishes to be registered for the first time as a professional with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR.

Article 7 of earlier versions of Annexe 7 established, in essence, that the training compensation mechanisms did not apply for players who invoked the rights under Annexe 7 to suspend their contracts and move to another club. However, article 7 of Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition) reintroduces training compensation partially.

Under the revised regulatory framework (June 2024 edition), training compensation is payable by the respective new club, as from the time Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition) enters into force, in accordance with article 20 and Annexe 4 to the RSTP, when:

1. A player (whose previous registration was at the UAF or FUR) is registered for the first time as a professional before the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday.

    - In such case, the club with which the player is registered for the first time as a professional will be responsible for paying training compensation to every club with which the player was previously registered, starting from the club(s) with which they were registered in the calendar year of their 12th birthday, and the amount payable in training compensation will be calculated on a pro rata basis according to the period the player spent with each training club.

    - It is worth highlighting that this event triggering training compensation is without prejudice to the exceptions in article 7 paragraph 3 of Annexe 7, which facilitate, in particular, the possible return of players to clubs affiliated to the UAF or FUR, should they wish to do so. These exceptions were introduced in May 2023 and maintained in Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition) and dictate that no training compensation is payable by the respective new club for a player being registered for the first time as a professional in two scenarios:

        i. The player was allowed to be registered with a new club under the exception provided in article 19 paragraph 2 a) or d) of the RSTP after leaving the territory of Ukraine or Russia subsequently to 7 March 2022, and is registered for the first time as a professional with a club not affiliated to the UAF or FUR.

        ii. The player that now wishes to be registered for the first time as a professional with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR had previously left the territory of Ukraine or Russia after the temporary rules were implemented (7 March 2022).

2. A player is transferred between clubs of two different associations (whether during or at the end of their contract) before the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday, provided that the player had validly suspended their contract with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR, in accordance with the provisions of this annexe (under any of its previous editions).

    - However, in this specific scenario training compensation will be owed by the new club only to the club(s) affiliated to the UAF or FUR with which the player had been registered before the player's contract was suspended and only for the time the player was effectively trained by the respective club(s).

Furthermore the provision in article 7 paragraph 2 of Annexe 7 that dictates that new clubs not affiliated to the UAF or FUR where such foreign players have signed a new contract will not be entitled to receive training compensation for the period during which the player is registered with them (i.e. while the respective contract with a club affiliated to the UAF or FUR is suspended) has been maintained in Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition).

➢ Further limitations

> **8. International transfer of players**
>
> 1. A player whose contract has been suspended on the basis of this annexe may, during the period of suspension, not be subject to a transfer (whether permanent or on loan) against payment.
>
> 2. A player who has suspended their contract on the basis of this annexe may not sign a new contract with another club affiliated to the UAF or FUR during the time of the suspension.

Certain limitations in relation to the international transfer of players were introduced in a new article 8 of Annexe 7 in May 2023, with the main rationale being to prevent abuses or unwelcome scenarios from a financial perspective. These limitations have been maintained in Annexe 7 (June 2024 edition)

In this context, players whose contracts have been suspended on the basis of this annexe may not:

1. be subject to a transfer against payment, regardless of whether said transfer is on a permanent or a loan basis, during the period of the relevant suspension;

2. sign a new contract with another club affiliated to the UAF or FUR, during the period of the relevant suspension.

It is true that there may be exceptional circumstances, where for example a player of Ukrainian nationality has invoked Annexe 7 (June 2024) to suspend a contract with a Russian club and is unable to find any employment elsewhere, other than with a club in their home country Ukraine (or vice versa for players with Russian nationality). In situations where this would otherwise cause hardship to those players, on a case-by-case basis, a registration with a club in the respective home country may still be permissible.

FIFA®



National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles

FEBRUARY 2024

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DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, the defined terms set out in the FIFA Statutes and the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) shall apply.

01.

GENERAL RULES

1. Objective and scope

1. FIFA has a statutory obligation to regulate all matters relating to the game of football and to provide the necessary institutional means to resolve disputes that may arise between or among football stakeholders.

2. FIFA recognises that parties may wish to refer an employment-related dispute to a dispute resolution system at national level, instead of submitting it to FIFA or seeking redress before a civil court. FIFA supports and promotes the creation of national dispute resolution systems, provided that they meet procedural standards to protect all involved parties. Any national dispute resolution system must guarantee fundamental procedural principles, in particular the principle of equal representation between employers and employees.

3. These National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles establish:

   a. the required standards for a national dispute resolution system to be recognised by FIFA; and

   b. the recognition procedure at FIFA level.

2. National dispute resolution chamber

1. Member associations that wish to operate a national dispute resolution system recognised by FIFA shall establish such a system as a national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC), or under an equivalent name, and meet all fundamental procedural standards to protect all involved parties.

2. The NDRC shall be mentioned and recognised as an official decision-making body in the statutes of the relevant member association, and it shall comply with the requirements set out in these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles and its Annexe 1 (National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations).

3. In order to be recognised, an NDRC must meet the following key criteria in particular:

   a. Its jurisdiction shall be to hear disputes related to, or arising out of, the contractual relationship between employees (players or coaches) and employers (clubs). Disputes between clubs and players in relation to the

maintenance of contractual stability (arts 13-18 of the RSTP) where there has been an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) request and a claim from an interested party in relation to the request, in particular regarding the issuance of the ITC, sporting sanctions or compensation for breach of contract, as well as employment-related disputes of an international dimension between a member association and a coach, remain within the jurisdiction of FIFA (art. 22 par. 1 a) and c) of the RSTP).

b. As a general rule, the NDRC shall have jurisdiction to hear disputes of a national dimension. For disputes of an international dimension, the NDRC may accept jurisdiction only if the relevant employment contract contains an express clause, which confers exclusive jurisdiction for disputes arising out of (or in connection with) the respective employment contract on the respective NDRC or if the exclusive jurisdiction of the NDRC is provided by a collective bargaining agreement established at national level.

c. The composition of the NDRC shall guarantee independence and impartiality and it shall respect the principle of equal representation between employees and employers. Specifically, the appointment process shall adhere to the following principles.

Employee representatives

i. If a players' association affiliated to FIFPRO exists at national level, the employee representatives shall be appointed at the proposal of such national players' association affiliated to FIFPRO.

ii. If a national players' association affiliated to FIFPRO does not exist, the employee representatives may be appointed at the proposal of another player representative organisation, however, only under the condition that the member association requesting recognition of its NDRC demonstrate to the comfortable satisfaction of the Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) that such representative body truly, genuinely and independently represents the will and interests of players at national level.

iii. If no organisations exist as per i) or ii) above, the process shall be based on that agreed by FIFA and FIFPRO.

Employer representatives

The employer representatives shall be appointed at the proposal of an employer representative organisation or, where no such organisation exists, the employer representatives shall be appointed by the clubs through a process organised by the relevant member association.

Chairperson and deputy chairperson(s)

The chairperson and deputy chairperson(s) of an NDRC must be appointed based on a consensus between the stakeholders involved in the appointment of the employee representatives, on the one hand, and the appointment of the employer representatives, on the other, as defined above.

d. Deviations from the appointment process as per c) above are permissible only as long as the principles of parity and equal representation between employers and employees are strictly complied with, and only under the condition that any representative organisation of employers or employees truly, genuinely and independently represents the will and interests of its respective stakeholders.

e. Individuals appointed to the NDRC must not hold any other position within the relevant member association (whether on its executive body or part of its administration) and they may not represent players, coaches or clubs in any other dispute before the NDRC.

f. The member association shall adopt procedural rules to govern the organisation, composition and functions of the NDRC. These procedural rules must comply with the requirements set out herein, and they must, in particular, contain provisions guaranteeing the following principles:

- Principle of parity when constituting the tribunal;
- Right to an independent and impartial tribunal;
- Right to a fair hearing and the right to be heard;
- Right to contentious proceedings;
- Principle of equal treatment;
- Right to receive a written decision;
- Confidentiality;
- Principle of access to justice;

4. In order to assist member associations with the establishment of procedural rules to govern the organisation, composition and functions of the NDRC, Annexe 1 constitutes a generic sample of the procedural framework required to operate an NDRC.

5. Each member association shall publish all regulations and procedural rules applicable to the NDRC, and all decisions of the NDRC, subject to legitimate requests of redactions or confidentiality.

02

NDRC RECOGNITION PROCESS

3. Requirements and recognition process

1. If a member association wishes for its NDRC to be formally recognised by FIFA, it shall submit an application for recognition of its respective NDRC in writing to FIFA.

   a. The application shall be made via the Legal Portal.

   b. The application shall be in English, Spanish or French. Documentation in any other language must be accompanied by a translation into one of these three languages.

2. Member associations shall bear the burden of proving that their NDRC, including its procedural regulations, comply with the requirements established by FIFA.

3. FIFA may, without limitation:

   a. request any additional information and documentation;

   b. request amendments to any part of the submitted regulatory framework; and

   c. seek the view of the relevant member association or other relevant stakeholders.

4. Whenever a request for recognition is made, FIFA will, upon initiation of the recognition process, consult with the national employee representatives, employer representatives and FIFPRO. FIFA shall also inform the relevant confederation of the request for recognition.

5. Member associations shall fully cooperate with FIFA and provide all requested information and documentation. Failure to cooperate may lead to an application being rejected or considered to be withdrawn and, as appropriate, to disciplinary sanctions.

6. FIFA will review the documentation provided. After completing its review, it may propose amendments to the regulatory framework or submit the application to the DRC of the Football Tribunal for its decision.

7. The DRC is competent to decide on applications for NDRC recognition. The DRC shall adjudicate in the presence of at least three members, including the chairperson or deputy chairperson(s), and the chamber shall always consist of equal numbers of club and player representatives.

8. If an NDRC complies with all applicable requirements, the DRC shall, in principle, grant recognition for a four-year period subject to article 5 herein. The DRC may also require the relevant member association to make amendments to its regulatory framework prior to adopting its decision, or make its decision subject to conditions established by the DRC.

9. Any NDRC that has been granted recognition shall be considered formally recognised for the purposes of article 22 paragraph 1 b) and c) of the RSTP.

10. If an NDRC has not been granted recognition, the member association may resubmit an application for recognition of its respective NDRC following the same process as set out in article 3 herein. Where changes were made to a regulatory framework after rejection by the DRC, the member association shall so indicate in its application, so that the resubmitted application can be reviewed swiftly.

11. Whenever changes to a recognised regulatory framework are planned, these changes shall be presented to FIFA prior to their entry into force. FIFA will then assess whether a new recognition process must be executed.

12. A dispute resolution system in a member association may only deviate from the requirements established by FIFA based on a collective bargaining agreement validly negotiated between employee and employer representatives at national level.

13. Where deviations from the requirements established by FIFA are required by mandatory national law, the DRC will assess if the composition of the NDRC can nevertheless respect the principles mentioned in article 2 in order to grant recognition of the NDRC.

14. FIFA will publish a list of the NDRCs that have obtained valid recognition, together with the period of recognition.

4. Renewal of recognition

1. Following the lapse of the four-year period, or if the relevant member association wishes to amend the regulatory framework approved by FIFA, it must apply for the renewal of its recognition.

2. Member associations shall follow the same process as set out in article 3 herein. Where no changes were made to a regulatory framework already approved by FIFA, the member associations shall so indicate in their application, so that the renewal of recognition can be granted on an accelerated basis.

3. Applications for the renewal of recognition shall be adjudicated by the DRC.

4. If an NDRC still complies with all applicable requirements, the DRC shall, in principle, grant the renewal of recognition for a four-year period. The DRC may also require the member association to make amendments to its regulatory framework prior to adopting its decision, or make its decision subject to conditions established by the DRC.

5. Revocation of recognition

1. FIFA is competent to investigate at all times whether an approved NDRC and the respective regulatory framework comply with these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles.

2. Where FIFA deems that an approved NDRC no longer complies with these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, FIFA may request the relevant member association to amend its regulatory framework accordingly within a given time limit.

3. FIFA may provisionally suspend a recognition if a prima facie analysis indicates that the applicable regulatory framework existing at national level does not comply, or no longer complies, with these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles.

4. Where FIFA deems that a recognised NDRC, despite requests to amend the regulatory framework, no longer complies with these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, it shall:

   a. submit the matter to the DRC of the Football Tribunal;

   b. publish the information about the referral to the DRC; and

   c. as appropriate, forward the file to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

5. If the matter has been referred to the DRC, the DRC may revoke the recognition of an NDRC if the applicable regulatory framework existing at national level does not comply, or no longer complies, with these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles. The DRC may also require the member association to make amendments to its regulatory framework prior to adopting its decision, or make its decision subject to conditions established by the DRC.

03.

FINAL PROVISIONS

6. Decisions

Any decision of the DRC in connection with these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles is final and binding and not subject to any appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

7. Disciplinary matters

1. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee is competent to impose sanctions on member associations that violate these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

2. FIFA will monitor compliance with these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles and refer any matter of a potential breach to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee or, as applicable, to the independent Ethics Committee.

8. Matters not provided for

1. Any matters not provided for herein shall be determined by FIFA.

2. Cases of force majeure affecting these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles shall be decided by the FIFA Council, the decisions of which are final.

9. Official languages

If there are any discrepancies in the interpretation of the texts in the various languages in which these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles are published, the English text shall be authoritative.

10.Enforcement

1. These National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles were approved by the FIFA Council on 17 December 2023 and enter into force as follows:

   a. On 1 February 2024: articles 1 to 3 and articles 6 to 10, which relate to the NDRC recognition process;

b. On 1 January 2025, article 3 paragraph 8 and articles 4 and 5, which relate to the effects of recognition, as well as the renewal and revocation of recognition.

2. FIFA member associations that already operate a national dispute resolution system at the time these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles are approved shall submit a formal request for recognition by 1 June 2024. If no such request is submitted, the respective national dispute resolution system shall be considered to not be recognised by FIFA as of 1 January 2025.

3. The National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations approved by the FIFA Executive Committee on 29 October 2007 and FIFA circular no. 1010 of 20 December 2005 shall be annulled as of 1 January 2025.

4. Any NDRC that has been granted recognition shall be considered formally recognised for the purposes of article 22 paragraph 1 b) and c) of the RSTP as of 1 January 2025.

Annexe.

NATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION CHAMBER STANDARD REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

These National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations (hereinafter the "Regulations") constitute a generic sample of applicable provisions, which meet the procedural requirements as per the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles.

These Regulations are primarily designed to assist member associations with the establishment of procedural rules to govern the organisation, composition and functions of the national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC). Where an NDRC is established based on a regulatory framework that directly adopts these Regulations, the NDRC is likely to comply with the requirements of FIFA for recognition.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is not mandatory for an NDRC to adopt these Regulations verbatim. However, any procedural regulations of an NDRC must comply with the standards set out herein, unless a deviation has been validly agreed within a collective bargaining agreement. Where deviations are required by mandatory national law, the Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) of the Football Tribunal will assess if the requirements for recognition as set out in the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles can nevertheless be complied with.

These Regulations give a member association scope to define the exact regulatory or procedural framework of an NDRC with flexibility, in particular with respect to the following provisions.

- Article 1 – In accordance with article 2 paragraph 1 of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles: *"Member associations that wish to operate a national dispute resolution system recognised by FIFA shall establish such a system as a national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC), or under an equivalent name.*" As such, member associations are free to adopt a different name for their respective decision-making body.
- Article 2 paragraph 1 – Flexibility is provided with respect to the exact composition of the NDRC, only as long as the principles of parity and equal representation between employees and employers are strictly complied with. For the avoidance of doubt, the quantities of members indicated in article 2 only serve as an example, and therefore, member associations can deviate from such examples.

- Article 2 paragraph 3 – Flexibility is provided with respect to the term limits of the members of the NDRC, since the terms indicated in this provision serve as an example for member associations. A member association may also decide not to impose term limits.
- Article 3 paragraphs 4 and 5 – The NDRC may establish a different process to object their members, provided that an effective legal remedy is granted in case of doubts concerning the impartiality of a member.
- Article 4 – The NDRC may also adjudicate on other matters not related to the contractual relationship between employees and employers.
- Article 5 – Flexibility is provided with respect to adjudication by the NDRC as long as the principles of parity when constituting the tribunal and equal representation between employees and employers are complied with. Specifically, it is also generally possible that disputes are always heard by a panel of three (or more) members.
- Article 6 – A degree of flexibility is provided with respect to applicable law(s) in view of specific national circumstances, requirements, as well as other laws/rules/regulations that may need to be taken into account, as long as the relevant article provides clarity as to which sets of rules are applicable, which must include the relevant member association's statutes and regulations. For the avoidance of doubt, the applicable laws listed in article 6 constitute FIFA's recommendations intended as guidance for member associations.
- Article 7 – A degree of flexibility is provided with respect to the language of the proceedings, and a member association may choose English as an additional language of the proceedings.
- Article 8 – A degree of flexibility is provided with respect to the medium of communication. Therefore, the NDRC may establish a different medium other than email to carry out communication, provided that it is sufficient to establish time limits and its observance.
- Article 12 – A degree of flexibility is provided with respect to the exact time limits. The time limits indicated in this provision serve as an example for member associations. However, the time limit may not be longer than 40 days or shorter than 24 hours, barring in exceptional circumstances.
- Article 14 – As per the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, the principle of access to justice shall be met. As a consequence, no advance of costs shall be payable for the lodging of claims related to, or arising out of, the contractual relationship between employees (players or coaches) and employers (affiliated clubs) and these disputes before the NDRC shall be

free of charge. For the avoidance of doubt, should an NDRC also adjudicate on other matters (not related to the contractual relationship between employees and employers), other rules regarding costs may be adopted for such matters.

- Article 18 – A degree of flexibility is provided with respect to claims before an NDRC. Additional requirements may be implemented, provided that they do not unduly restrict access to justice.
- Article 20 – A degree of flexibility is provided with respect to whether or not second rounds of submissions are generally granted, provided that the parties' right to be heard is, in principle, always respected.
- Article 21 – The content and principle of article 21 is mandatory. However, a degree of flexibility is provided with respect to the exact procedural technicalities when implementing it.
- Article 22 – The content and principle of article 22 is mandatory. However, a degree of flexibility is provided with respect to whether or not an NDRC wishes to hold a hearing, provided that the general principle of the parties' right to be heard is always respected.
- Article 24 – The content and principle of article 24 is mandatory. However, an NDRC may also choose to always directly notify the grounds of a decision.
- Article 26 – A degree of flexibility is provided with respect to appeals. In case the parties are provided the right to appeal a decision of the NDRC, the NDRC regulations must establish which body will act as the appeal body from one of the three options mentioned in article 26 paragraph 1. The NDRC may establish a different time limit for appeals to that mentioned in article 26 paragraph 2. However, it may not be shorter than five days or longer than 30 days. The NDRC may choose to establish its decisions to be final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- Article 27 – Article 27 is not mandatory. However, its content is generally recommended as a matter of proper administration of justice.

For the avoidance of doubt, the content and principles of the remaining articles are mandatory.

INTRODUCTORY PROVISION

Article 1: Scope

These Regulations govern the organisation, composition and functioning of the NDRC established within the framework of the [Member Association].

COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

Article 2: Composition

1. The NDRC shall be composed of the following members:

   a. Between two and ten employee representatives, with the appointment process adhering to the following principles.

      i. If a players' association affiliated to FIFPRO exists at national level, the employee representatives shall be appointed at the proposal of such national players' association affiliated to FIFPRO.

      ii. If a national players' association affiliated to FIFPRO does not exist, the employee representatives may be appointed at the proposal of another player representative organisation, however, only under the condition that the member association requesting recognition of its NDRC demonstrate to the comfortable satisfaction of the Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) that such representative body truly, genuinely and independently represents the will and interests of players at national level.

      iii. If no organisations exist as per i) or ii) above, the process shall be based on that agreed by FIFA and FIFPRO.

   b. Between two and ten employer representatives.

   The employer representatives shall be appointed at the proposal of an employer representative organisation or, where no such organisation exists, the employer representatives shall be appointed by the clubs through a process organised by the relevant member association.

   c. The chairperson and deputy chairperson(s) must be appointed based on a consensus between the stakeholders involved in the appointment of the employee representatives, on the one hand, and the appointment of the employer representatives, on the other.

   d. The number of employee and employer representatives must be equal.

2. The chairperson and deputy chairperson(s) of the NDRC shall have legal qualifications. All employees and employer representatives shall have knowledge of the relevant law, football regulations, and or relevant experience in sports dispute resolution.

3. As a general rule, formal appointment to the NDRC shall be undertaken by the executive body of the member association for a term of four years, which may be renewed.

Article 3: Independence and conflict of interest

1. Individuals appointed to the NDRC must not hold any other position within the member association (whether on its executive body or as part of its general secretariat).

2. Individuals appointed to the NDRC must not represent players, coaches or clubs in any dispute before the NDRC.

3. A member of the NDRC may not take part in deciding a matter if there is any legitimate doubt as to their impartiality, and shall disclose any circumstance that could give rise to a conflict of interest.

4. A party may challenge a member of the NDRC appointed to decide a matter if it believes that there is a legitimate doubt as to their impartiality. Any party who wishes to object to a member shall submit a written statement to the chairperson of the NDRC within five days of becoming aware of the grounds for the objection, failing which it will forfeit the right to do so. The petition shall contain a precise account of its grounds and the relevant evidence.

5. The decision on such challenge shall be made by the chairperson or deputy chairperson(s) of the NDRC. If the chairperson or deputy chairperson(s) is/are challenged by a party, the decision on such challenge shall be made by the non-challenged members of the NDRC appointed to decide a matter.

GENERAL PROCEDURAL RULES

Article 4: Jurisdiction

1. The NDRC has jurisdiction to hear disputes related to, or arising out of, the contractual relationship between employees (players or coaches) and employers (affiliated clubs).

2. As a general rule, the NDRC shall have jurisdiction to hear disputes of a national dimension. For disputes of an international dimension, the NDRC shall accept jurisdiction only if the relevant contract contains an express clause, which confers exclusive jurisdiction for disputes arising out of (or in connection with) the respective contract to the respective NDRC or if the exclusive jurisdiction of the NDRC is provided by a collective bargaining agreement established at national level.

3. The NDRC shall examine ex officio whether it has jurisdiction.

Article 5: Adjudication

Disputes before the NDRC shall either be adjudicated by the chairperson or deputy chairperson of the NDRC sitting as a single judge, or by a panel with a minimum of three members, including the chairperson or deputy chairperson(s). In all cases, the panel shall be composed of an equal number of employee and employer representatives.

Article 6: Applicable law

When making a decision, in principle, the NDRC shall apply:

a. the [member association's] statutes and regulations;

b. any applicable national law;

c. any applicable collective bargaining agreement; and

d. the specificity of sport.

Article 7: Language of the proceedings

The proceedings shall be held in [official language(s) of the member association] [or in English].

Article 8: Communication

1. Communication shall be carried out via email.

2. Communication to the NDRC shall be addressed to the official email of the NDRC.

3. Communication from the NDRC to the parties shall be sent by using the email address provided by the relevant party.

Article 9: Procedural rights and obligations

1. A party may file submissions, produce evidence and examine the case file before any decision is made.

2. The parties to a dispute must be treated equally.

3. A party shall always act in good faith, tell the truth and cooperate with any request for information made by the NDRC. The same obligations apply to any natural person or legal person under the jurisdiction of the member association that is not a party in a procedure but has been requested to contribute to a procedure of the NDRC.

Article 10: Submissions

1. Any submission to the NDRC not made in the official language pursuant to article 7 above will be disregarded.

2. Each party to a dispute is entitled to examine and comment on the allegations filed by the other party and attempt to rebut and disprove them with its own allegations and evidence.

3. A party that receives a submission made by another party within the scope of a procedure shall maintain strict confidentiality on that submission, unless such disclosure is made to professional advisers or is required by law.

Article 11: Evidence

1. Any type of evidence may be produced. The NDRC has ultimate discretion as to the weight it gives to evidence and as to the admissibility of evidence produced. All the evidence upon which a party intends to rely must be filed in the original language or translated into the official language of [the relevant member association] pursuant to article 7 above.

2. The NDRC may consider and rely on any evidence not presented by the parties, including without limitation the evidence generated by or within the Transfer Matching Sytem and/or a domestic registration or transfer system, provided that each party has the right to comment on such evidence.

3. A party that asserts a fact has the burden of proving it.

4. Where the taking of evidence leads to costs incurred by testimonies or expert reports, the expense shall be borne by the party requesting the evidence.

5. The NDRC may, *ex officio*, or at the request of one of the parties, refuse to take evidence that it does not consider relevant or that would otherwise unnecessarily delay the proceedings.

Article 12: Time limits

1. The parties shall make their submissions within the time limits established herein. Time limits will commence the day after receipt of the relevant communication.

2. As a general rule, the time limits set by the NDRC may not be shorter than seven days or longer than 20 days. The time limit will commence the day after receipt of the relevant communication.

3. If the last day of a time limit coincides with an official public holiday or a non-working day in the place of domicile of the party required to comply with the time limit, or, if the party is being represented, in the place of domicile of its main legal representative, the time limit will expire at the end of the next working day.

4. A time limit is deemed to have been complied with if the action required or requested has been completed by the last day of the time limit in the place of domicile of the party, or, if the party is being represented, in the place of domicile of its main legal representative. Submissions and evidence filed outside the relevant time limit shall be disregarded.

5. Time limits set by the administration of the NDRC may be extended upon substantiated request submitted before the expiry of the relevant time limit.

Article 13: Confidentiality

All members of the NDRC shall maintain strict confidentiality on any case they decide and all matters that arise during the exercise of their duties.

Article 14: Procedural costs

Proceedings for disputes related to, or arising out of, the contractual relationship between employees and employers before the NDRC are free of charge, subject to article 11 paragraph 4.

Article 15: Efficient proceedings

The NDRC shall do its utmost to resolve all proceedings before it expeditiously. As a principle, a decision shall be rendered within no more than two months after the closure of the investigation of a matter.

PROCEDURES BEFORE THE NDRC

Article 16: Parties

Parties to procedures before the NDRC can be the clubs affiliated to the [member association] as well as players and coaches.

Article 17: Representation

A party may appoint an authorised representative to act on its behalf in any procedure. It shall provide a valid authorisation to be represented in the specific procedure.

Article 18: Claims

1. A claim shall contain at least the following:
   a. The name, email address(es) and postal address(es) of the party
   b. If applicable, the name, email address(es) and postal address(es) for notification of any authorised representative, and a copy of a written, specific and recent power of attorney
   c. The identity and address(es) of the respondent(s)
   d. A statement of claim, setting out full written arguments in fact and law, the full body of evidence and requests for relief
   e. The date and a valid signature
2. If the claim is incomplete, the NDRC will inform the claimant and request rectification. If the claim is not rectified within the time limit given, it will be deemed to be withdrawn. The claim may, however, be resubmitted.

Article 19: Response to the claim and counterclaim

1. After determining that the claim is complete, the NDRC will request that the respondent(s) submit their response to the claim within the time limit granted. If the respondent(s) fail(s) to submit a response to the claim within the time limit, a decision will be made based on the file.
2. The respondent(s) may submit a counterclaim with their response to the claim. A counterclaim shall have the same form as a claim and shall be submitted within the same time limit as that for the response to the claim.
3. Should the response to the counterclaim refer to matters which did not form part of the counterclaim, those matters will not be considered.

Article 20: Second round of submissions

The NDRC will decide, where necessary, whether there will be a second round of submissions.

Article 21: Closure of submission phase

1. The NDRC will notify the parties of the closure of the submission phase of the procedure. After such notification, the parties may not supplement or amend their submissions or requests.

2. The NDRC may request additional information and/or documentation at any time within the scope of a procedure.

Article 22: Deliberations

1. The NDRC shall, as a principle, make a decision based on the written file. Hearings will be held only in exceptional circumstances.

2. Deliberations may be held electronically or in person and shall be kept confidential.

3. The NDRC shall reach a decision by a simple majority of the appointed panel. The chairperson of the meeting and the other members present have one vote each. If the votes are equal, the chairperson for that matter will have the casting vote.

Article 23: Form and content of decisions

The NDRC shall deliver a decision in writing that states at least the following:

a. The date on which the decision was passed

b. The names of the participating members of the deciding body

c. The names of the parties and any representatives they may have

d. The parties' requests for relief

e. The findings of fact and of law

f. The ruling (including, where applicable, an allocation of costs)

g. The signature of the presiding member

h. If applicable, an indication of the legal remedies available (stating the form of the appeal, the authority and the time limit)

i. The consquences of non-compliance with the decision

Article 24: Notifications of decisions

1. A decision shall be notified to the parties to the relevant dispute within a reasonable time frame and without undue delay.

2. Notification is deemed complete when the decision is communicated to a party. Notification of an authorised representative will be regarded as notification of the party that they represent.

3. Decisions enter into force as soon as notification occurs.

4. Generally, a party will be notified of the operative part of the decision as soon as possible after the relevant decision is passed. Decisions that immediately impose sporting sanctions against a party shall only be communicated with grounds.

5. A party has ten calendar days from notification of the operative part of the decision to request the grounds of the decision. Failure to comply with the time limit will result in the decision becoming final and binding and the party will be deemed to have waived its right to file an appeal. The time limit to lodge an appeal begins upon notification of the grounds of the decision.

6. Obvious mistakes in decisions and obvious procedural errors discovered after a decision is rendered may be corrected, *ex officio* or on application, by the NDRC that passed the decision. Where a decision has been corrected, regulatory time limits will commence from the time of notification of the rectified decision.

Article 25: Publication of decisions

1. The NDRC shall publish its decisions on the website of the relevant member association.

2. Where a decision contains confidential information, a party may request within five days of the notification of the decision that the NDRC publish an anonymised or a redacted version.

3. In decisions involving minors, only an anonymised or redacted version that protects the identity of the minor(s) concerned may be published by the NDRC.

APPEALS

Article 26: Appeals

1. Decisions rendered by the NDRC can be appealed as follows:

   [Before a decision-making body within the framework of the member association, provided that the decision-making body guarantees fundamental procedural principles and complies with the principle of equal representation between employees and employers]

   [Before a decision-making body agreed on the basis of a valid collective bargaining agreement]

   [Before the Court of Arbitration for Sport]

2. Parties have a time limit of 21 days to appeal a decision rendered by the NDRC. The 21-day time limit for appeals will begin as from the day on which the grounds of the decision have been notified.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 27: Exemption from liability

The members appointed to the NDRC may not be held liable for any action or omission relating to any decision or procedure undertaken in accordance with applicable regulations.

Article 28: Disciplinary matters

1. The [Member Association Disciplinary Committee] and, as applicable, the [Member Association Ethics Committee] shall be competent to impose sanctions on members of the NDRC that violate the procedural rules of the NDRC in accordance with the [Member Association Disciplinary Code and the Member Association Code of Ethics].

2. Any decision passed by the NDRC shall be enforced by the relevant member association in accordance with the principles established under article 21 paragraphs 5 and 6 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code and in compliance with the applicable disciplinary regulations.

Article 29: Adoption and enforcement

1. These Regulations have been adopted by [the statutorily competent body of the member association].

2. These Regulations come into force on (...) and shall apply to any proceedings lodged from said date.

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Explanatory Notes on the New Regulatory Framework for National Dispute Resolution Chambers

January 2024

1. Introduction

As part of FIFA's commitment to constantly adapting the regulatory framework to the current reality of football and the transfer system, this document aims to provide additional guidance to member associations and their stakeholders in relation to the revised regulatory framework for national dispute resolution chambers, which was recently approved by the FIFA Council at its meeting on 17 December 2023.

In keeping with the spirit of cooperation, both the direction and outcome of this revision process are largely thanks to the close collaboration over the last few months between FIFA and the global football stakeholders, whose expertise and commitment have been pivotal in the adoption of the relevant regulatory framework for national dispute resolution chambers.

2. Context

A. What is a national dispute resolution chamber?

The Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) have long recognised that instead of submitting employment-related disputes to FIFA or seeking redress before a civil court, parties may opt to submit such disputes to a national dispute resolution system, provided that it meets the minimum and fundamental procedural requirements. A national dispute resolution system for disputes between employees and employers is known as a national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC).

For many years, FIFA circular no. 1010 of 20 December 2005 defined these minimum procedural standards. In 2007, FIFA enacted the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations which served as guidelines for member associations when establishing an NDRC.

The 2023 edition of the FIFA Commentary on the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, Chapter IX, pages 452-455, explains the minimum standards as per circular no. 1010 of 20 December 2005.

B. The need for revision

Despite the existing framework and documentation, many legal uncertainties still surrounded the concept of NDRCs, including their jurisdiction, applicable requirements, possible recognition, etc. In particular, neither FIFA circular no. 1010, the RSTP, nor any other official FIFA document, defined what a recognised NDRC was or whether there was a process to obtain *general* recognition of compliance with FIFA requirements.

Nonetheless, this regulatory framework remained unchanged for almost two decades. It has therefore become increasingly evident that it had become outdated and that it no longer served the current needs of all football stakeholders. It was therefore clear that it was necessary to revise and modernise the rules surrounding NDRCs.

For example, under the previous regulatory framework, the Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) of the Football Tribunal could, only in the context of a specific employment-related dispute, determine whether an NDRC was compliant with the principles required by FIFA and whether jurisdiction could therefore be conferred on the relevant NDRC. This occurred, in other words, always and only on an individual, case-by-case basis.

This created legal uncertainty concerning the jurisdiction of each NDRC, but also with regard to the requirements for the relevant NDRC to have jurisdiction. It further created unnecessary disputes about the same NDRC, sometimes even in parallel cases.

3. Purpose of the revised framework for NDRCs

The new regulatory framework is being modernised and has the key objective of providing clarity and the necessary legal certainty with regard to jurisdiction, structure, applicable requirements and a possible formal, permanent recognition by FIFA of NDRCs.

4. New regulatory framework: key elements

The updated regulatory framework consists of the following:

– National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles – January 2024 edition;

– Revision of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations; and

– Amendments to the RSTP concerning NDRCs.

NB: The regulatory framework no longer consists of FIFA circular no. 1010 of 20 December 2005 and the 2007 National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations.

5. National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles and the revised National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations

A. Objective and scope of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles

FIFA supports and promotes the creation and operation of NDRCs, provided that they meet procedural standards to protect all involved parties.

NDRCs offer a structure that is football-oriented and more aligned with the realities of modern football with the aim of providing a swift, effective and cheaper dispute assessment and resolution system at domestic level.

With the aim of providing clarity and legal certainty, the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles establish the following:

– the standards required by FIFA for a national dispute resolution system for disputes between employees and employers to be recognised; and

– the details and mechanics of the recognition process for NDRCs to be recognised by FIFA.

B. Required standards for a national dispute resolution system to be recognised by FIFA

To be recognised by FIFA, a national dispute resolution system for disputes between employees and employers must fulfil the following requirements. The system must:

(i) be established by the member association as a national dispute resolution chamber, or under an equivalent name; member associations are, therefore, free to adopt a different name for their respective decision-making body;

(ii) be mentioned and recognised as an official decision-making body in the statutes of the relevant member association;

(iii) comply with the requirements set out in the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles and the revised National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations, which are included as an Annexe to the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles; and

(iv) publish all regulations and procedural rules applicable to the NDRC, and all decisions of the NDRC; however, this can be subject to legitimate requests of redactions or confidentiality.

I. Specific criteria

An NDRC must meet all fundamental procedural standards to protect all involved parties, in particular, the principle of equal representation between employers and employees.

Similarly, an NDRC must adhere to following key elements in order to obtain formal recognition by FIFA.

(a) Jurisdiction of the NDRC

The NDRC must be competent to hear disputes related to, or arising out of, the contractual relationship between employees and employers. The term "competence" is used to describe the *jurisdiction* of the NDRC.

In this context, it is important to note that the terms "employee(s)" and "employer" refer, on the one hand, to players and coaches (as employees) and, on the other hand, to clubs (as employers), even if in some jurisdictions, the legal qualification of the respective contractual relationship may be different than that of a labour or employment contract.

It is worth highlighting that an NDRC may also adjudicate on other matters not related to the contractual relationship between employees and employers, subject

to the competence of FIFA in general and in accordance with the applicable FIFA regulations.

For example, in accordance with article 22 paragraphs 1 a) and c) of the RSTP, FIFA retains exclusive jurisdiction over disputes between clubs and players in relation to the maintenance of contractual stability where there has been an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) request and a claim from an interested party in relation to the request, in particular regarding the issuance of the ITC, sporting sanctions or compensation for breach of contract, as well as employment-related disputes of an international dimension between a member association and a coach.

(b) The aspect of "national dimension" v. "international dimension"

In order to incentivise the finding of appropriate solution in "national" cases, the NDRC must, as a general rule, be competent to hear disputes of a national dimension related to, or arising out of, the contractual relationship between employees and employers.

Considering that FIFA's jurisdiction is focused on disputes with an international dimension, the NDRC may accept jurisdiction of disputes with an international dimension only if the relevant employment contract contains an express clause that confers exclusive jurisdiction to the NDRC or if the exclusive jurisdiction of the NDRC is provided by a collective bargaining agreement established at national level.

However, for cases with an international dimension, if one party invites the NDRC to adjudicate on a dispute, and the other party does not contest the NDRC's jurisdiction, the NDRC may adjudicate such matter even in the absence of an exclusive jurisdiction clause for disputes arising out of (or in connection with) the respective employment contract.

The 2023 edition of the FIFA Commentary on the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, Chapter IX, pages 444-446, explains in more detail the aspect of internationality of such contractual disputes.

(c) The composition of the NDRC – the principles of the appointment process of members of the NDRC

An essential requirement for an NDRC to obtain recognition is that its composition must guarantee independence and impartiality, as well as respect the principle of equal representation between employees and employers.

It is important to emphasise that individuals representing employees and employers are not tasked with advocating for the interests of the conflicting parties. Instead, their role is to function as *impartial adjudicators*, while possessing a thorough understanding of the unique needs and demands of the respective stakeholders that appointed them.

The appointment process of members of the NDRC must observe the principles below.

(i) With respect to the appointment of employee representatives to the NDRC

- The National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles establish that the employee representatives must be appointed following a proposal by a national players' association affiliated to FIFPRO, if such a players' association exists at national level.

- Only if there is no national players' association affiliated to FIFPRO in the country concerned, may the employee representatives be appointed following a proposal by another player representative organisation.

  - Nevertheless, to ensure the proper representation of employees in this scenario, the respective member association has the burden of proving to the comfortable satisfaction of the DRC that such representative body truly, genuinely and independently represents the will and interests of players at national level. The criteria that may be taken into account to verify the nature and function of such an employee representative organisation are, for example, its composition, the way its members are appointed or elected, when it was created, its financing, the activities it carries out, or any other factor which may indicate, or not, whether the organisation actually represent the will and interests of players in a true, genuine and independent manner.

- Only if no national players' association affiliated to FIFPRO and no alternative player representative organisation that truly, genuinely and independently represents the will and interests of players at national level exist in the country concerned may the employee representatives be appointed based on a selection process agreed by FIFA and FIFPRO.

(ii) With respect to the appointment of employer representatives to the NDRC

- The National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles establish that the employer representatives must be appointed following a proposal by a national employer representative organisation, for example, a league or a national club representative organisation.

- If there is no such employer representative organisation in the country concerned, the employer representatives must be appointed

by the clubs via a process organised by the relevant member association.

(iii) With respect to the appointment of the chairperson and deputy chairperson(s) of the NDRC

– Due to the importance of the role of the chairperson and deputy chairperson(s) of the NDRC, the individuals appointed to those roles must be chosen by agreement between the stakeholders involved in the appointment of the employee and employer representatives of the NDRC.
  - As an example, the chairperson and deputy chairperson(s) of an NDRC must be appointed based on a consensus between the national players' association affiliated to FIFPRO (if such players' association exists at national level), on the one hand, and the employer representative organisation (if such association exists at national level), on the other.

(iv) Permissible deviations from the appointment process of members to the NDRC

Deviations from the principles regarding the appointment process as described above are permissible only if:

– the requirement of parity and equal representation between employers and employees is fully met; this entails that the NDRC must always consist of equal numbers of employee and employer representatives, and that employees and employers must always have equal influence on the appointment of the (independent) chairperson and deputy chairperson(s); and

– under the condition that any representative organisation of employers or employees truly, genuinely and independently represents the will and interests of its respective stakeholders.

(d) Individuals appointed to the NDRC must not hold any other position within the relevant member association

In order to ensure independence, the members appointed to the NDRC should not hold any other position within the relevant member association, which is understood to mean any executive position within the member association or as part of its administration. However, members appointed to the NDRC may hold a position in a committee of the member association.

Additionally, in order to ensure impartiality, members appointed to the NDRC may not represent players, coaches or clubs in any other dispute before the NDRC.

(e) The member association must adopt procedural rules to govern the organisation, composition and functions of the NDRC which guarantee fair proceedings

In order to provide legal certainty with respect to the way the NDRC operates, the member association has the obligation to adopt procedural rules that establish the organisation, composition and functions of its NDRC.

To ensure the NDRC's correct operation and to guarantee fair proceedings, the respective procedural rules must contain provisions that respect fundamental principles of procedural law and, as such, cover the following principles and rights.

- The principle of parity must apply when constituting the tribunal.
- The parties must have the right to an independent and impartial tribunal.
- The principle of a fair hearing and right to be heard must be observed.
- The right to contentious proceedings must be respected.
  - This means that the parties must be given the opportunity to present their cases, to view the relevant files and to reply to the arguments and claims made by the opposing side.
- The parties have a right to equal treatment by the tribunal.
- The parties are entitled to receive a written decision.
- The parties to the NDRC have the right to confidentiality.
- The principle of access to justice must be respected.
  - In order to respect the principle of access to justice, no advance of costs shall be payable to lodge claims related to, or arising out of, the contractual relationship between employees and employers, and these disputes before the NDRC shall be free of charge.
  - For the avoidance of doubt, should an NDRC also adjudicates on other matters (not related to the contractual relationship between employees and employers), other rules regarding costs may be adopted for such matters.

C. Permissible deviations from the requirements established by FIFA

Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law are to be considered legally binding and recognised. Therefore, a dispute resolution system in a member association may deviate from the requirements established by FIFA based on a collective bargaining agreement. The DRC will consider that the terms of such an agreement prevail.

If mandatory national law dictates deviations from FIFA's established requirements for recognition of an NDRC in order for the NDRC to comply with national law, the DRC will be tasked to evaluate whether the composition of the NDRC can still adhere to the principles of independence, impartiality and equal representation between employees and employers, in order to grant recognition. In other words, the DRC may refuse to recognise an NDRC if deviations from FIFA's requirements are imposed because of national law.

D. The revised National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations

I. Objective of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations

The primary purpose of the revised National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations is to aid member associations in formulating procedural rules for the NDRC.

As such, the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations constitute a generic sample of applicable provisions that govern the structure, composition, and operations of an NDRC, and which generally meet the procedural requirements as per the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles. In other words, if a FIFA member association decides to adopt rules which exactly follow the structure and content of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations, it is highly likely that the respective NDRC meets the FIFA requirements to be recognised. As such, the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations shall serve as a tool to facilitate the creation and operation of NDRCs at national level.

The revised National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations have been included as an Annexe to the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles.

II. Standards set by the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations

To clarify, an NDRC is not obliged to adopt the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations word for word. Nonetheless, the procedural rules of an NDRC must adhere to the standards outlined in the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations, unless a valid deviation has been agreed on in a collective bargaining agreement.

In cases where mandatory national law dictates deviations from the outlined standards, the DRC will, as mentioned, have to evaluate whether the criteria for recognition, as specified in the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, have been met.

III. Member associations have the flexibility to define the exact regulatory or procedural framework of an NDRC in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations

A number of provisions in the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations provide member associations with some leeway to define the exact regulatory or procedural framework of an NDRC. In this manner, a member association is given the flexibility to adopt a regulatory framework for its NDRC that fits its needs and reflects the local reality while still complying with the standards outlined.

The provisions with some flexibility are mentioned in the introductory section of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations. The introductory remarks of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations provide additional and appropriate guidance, and for any further doubts or queries, the FIFA administration can always be contacted.

E. NDRC recognition process

I. NDRC applications for recognition via the Legal Portal

In accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, if a member association wishes for its NDRC to be formally recognised by FIFA, it must submit an application for recognition in writing to FIFA via the Legal Portal.

In this regard, member associations are invited to access the Legal Portal directly with the registration email address assigned to them by FIFA and that can be found in the "Contacts" tab in TMS, or with the email otherwise indicated by the member association. Only one user per member association or legal representative (if applicable) can be recorded in the system.

If a member association has chosen not to use the email indicated in TMS, they must inform FIFA proactively. Otherwise, and to the member association's detriment, the ability to access the application file within the Legal Portal will be restricted. Should member associations wish to change their user (i.e. the registration email) in the Legal Portal, a request must be filed with the FIFA administration via the FIFA Legal Portal Helpdesk.

Moreover, in case of any technical problem or difficulty accessing the Legal Portal, member associations should contact the FIFA Legal Portal Helpdesk. This equally applies if a member association is uncertain of their email registration in the Legal Portal.

Communications pertaining to an NDRC application for recognition will exclusively be sent via the Legal Portal in English, Spanish or French, while documentation in any other language must be accompanied by a translation into one of these three languages.

The applications, including all relevant annexes, must be uploaded onto the Legal Portal in PDF format or in one of the other supported file types. Communication via any other means, including email, will be disregarded.

Upon receipt, FIFA may request additional information and/or documentation in order to supplement the initial request. Member associations must then submit their response, along with the requested information and/or documentation via the Legal Portal within the time frame established by the FIFA administration. It is important to recall that in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, member associations have the obligation to fully cooperate with FIFA and to provide all requested information and documentation. Failure to do so may result in an application being rejected or considered to be withdrawn and, as appropriate, to disciplinary sanctions.

Member associations must regularly review their respective accounts in the Legal Portal and pay particular attention to any changes in the status of applications. Should member associations fail to comply with a request of FIFA and, for example, not submit requested documents within a stipulated time frame, an application may be deemed incomplete, and the file may be closed. A new application may be submitted.

II. Member associations must prove that their NDRC complies with the requirements established by FIFA

In accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, the burden lies with the member association to demonstrate that their NDRC, including its procedural rules, meet the necessary requirements for recognition.

III. The DRC and applications for NDRC recognition

(a) Competence of the DRC

The DRC is the FIFA decision-making body that has jurisdiction to determine applications for NDRC recognition.

FIFA will review the documentation provided in an application for NDRC recognition and after completing its review, it may propose amendments to the regulatory framework or submit the application to the DRC of the Football Tribunal for its decision.

(b) The adjudication process by the DRC

Applications for NDRC recognition will be adjudicated by the DRC in the presence of at least three members, which must include the chairperson or deputy chairperson(s).

As usual, the DRC will be composed of an equal number of representatives from both clubs and players in order to ensure parity.

(c) Decisions of the DRC

The DRC will, in principle, grant recognition of an NDRC for a four-year period, only if the NDRC fulfils all the relevant established requirements.

The DRC might also request the member association to modify its regulatory framework before reaching a decision, or it may impose specific conditions as a prerequisite for its decision.

Any decision of the DRC in connection with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles is final and binding. Therefore, the relevant decision of the DRC is not subject to any appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

IV. Resubmission of an application for recognition

In the event that recognition is not initially granted to an NDRC, the member association can submit a new application for recognition, following the same process outlined for an initial application.

If changes to the regulatory framework were implemented after the rejection of the DRC, the member association must indicate these modifications in the resubmitted application to facilitate a swift review.

Planned amendments to a recognised regulatory framework must be submitted to FIFA before taking effect. FIFA will subsequently evaluate whether a new recognition process is necessary.

F. Process for the renewal of recognition

After the end of the four-year period or if the member association intends to modify the FIFA-approved regulatory framework, the member association must apply for the renewal of recognition of an NDRC.

The application process for renewal of recognition of an NDRC follows the same process as the initial application for recognition.

In cases where no changes have been made to a previously FIFA-approved regulatory framework, member associations should explicitly mention this in their renewal application, expediting the renewal process.

The DRC has competence to deal with applications for the renewal of recognition of an NDRC. If the NDRC continues to meet all the relevant requirements established by FIFA, the DRC will generally approve the renewal of recognition for another four-year period. However, the DRC may also stipulate that the member association adjust its regulatory framework before a decision is adopted, or it may impose conditions, as deemed necessary.

G. The revocation of recognition – disciplinary tools

With the objective of ensuring compliance, disciplinary tools have been embedded in the new regulatory framework for NDRCs. FIFA has the authority and responsibility to continually assess whether an approved NDRC and its corresponding regulatory framework adhere to the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles.

In this context, FIFA will oversee adherence to the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles and, if there is a potential breach, will refer the matter to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee or, when applicable, to the independent Ethics Committee. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee possesses the authority to impose sanctions on member associations found to be in violation of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

If FIFA determines that an NDRC that was previously recognised no longer meets the requirements established, it may request the relevant member association to make the necessary amendments to its regulatory framework within a specified time frame. Moreover, FIFA may provisionally suspend recognition if a preliminary analysis suggests that the national regulatory framework fails to comply with the mandatory standards.

In cases where FIFA concludes that a recognised NDRC, despite requests for regulatory framework adjustments, still does not comply with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, the following may occur:

– the matter may be referred to the DRC;

– the referral to the DRC may be published; and

– if necessary, the case may be forwarded to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

If the matter is brought before the DRC, it may revoke the recognition of an NDRC if the national regulatory framework fails to comply with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles. Additionally, the DRC may mandate the member association to amend its regulatory framework before making a decision or, subject to its decision, to impose conditions.

H. The public list of recognised NDRCs

To provide transparency and legal certainty, FIFA will publish the list of NDRCs that have been recognised, along with the corresponding period of recognition.

NDRCs whose recognition has expired or has been provisionally suspended or revoked will be removed from the list accordingly.

6. The effects of recognition of an NDRC and the amendments and additions to the RSTP concern the new regulatory framework for NDRCs

A. The former regulatory framework

As previously indicated, the RSTP acknowledges that parties, instead of bringing employment-related disputes to FIFA or pursuing remedies through a civil court, have the option to refer such disputes to an NDRC, provided that the NDRC meets essential procedural criteria.

Therefore, under the previous framework for NDRCs, in certain disputes, FIFA's deciding bodies had to ascertain the existence of an NDRC that meets specific criteria since it could potentially assume jurisdiction instead of FIFA.

Under the former framework, for FIFA to cede its jurisdiction to an NDRC, certain conditions had to be met.

- The contract between the player/coach and the club had to contain a clear, written and exclusive arbitration clause, specifying the national body responsible for resolving any potential disputes.

- The challenge to the jurisdiction of FIFA had to be raised during the proceedings.

- The respective national body had to respect the principle of equal representation of players/coaches and clubs and adhere to the minimum standards outlined in FIFA circular no. 1010 dated 20 December 2005, to ensure its independence as an entity that guaranteed fair proceedings.
  - ➢ It is important to highlight that the party disputing FIFA's jurisdiction was responsible for presenting evidence that the national body did, in fact, satisfy the requirements outlined in circular no. 1010.

As mentioned, the evaluation of the above-mentioned conditions occurred on a case-by-case basis, exclusively in relation to the specific employment-related dispute presented to FIFA.

The 2023 edition of the FIFA Commentary on the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, Chapter IX, pages 450-457, explains in detail the relationship to national decision-making bodies.

B. The revised regulatory framework

Considering that the approach under the former regulatory framework generated legal ambiguity regarding the jurisdiction of each NDRC, which resulted in uncertainty about the applicable requirements for the relevant NDRC to exercise jurisdiction and gave rise to unnecessary disputes involving the same NDRC, the new regulatory framework aims to address this problem by formally and permanently recognising an NDRC.

Along these lines, any NDRC that receives recognition in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles will be formally acknowledged for the purposes outlined in article 22 paragraphs 1 b) and c) of the RSTP. This will be the effect of recognition of an NDRC under the revised regulatory framework.

In this context, the amendments and additions to the RSTP recently approved by the FIFA Council relate to the requirements under which FIFA may cede its jurisdiction in light of an existing and recognised NDRC.

Therefore, under the updated framework for NDRCs, for FIFA to cede its jurisdiction of employment-related disputes between a club and a player/coach of an international dimension in favour of an NDRC, the following conditions must be met.

- The contract between the player/coach and the club, or a collective bargaining agreement applicable to the parties, must contain a clear, written and exclusive jurisdiction clause, specifying that that any potential dispute is to be decided by the NDRC, or a national dispute resolution body operating under an equivalent name.

- The challenge to the jurisdiction of FIFA must be raised during the proceedings.

- The NDRC, or the national dispute resolution body operating under an equivalent name, must have been officially recognised by FIFA in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles.

7. The entry into force of new regulatory framework

In order to provide an appropriate transition period between the applicable regulatory frameworks and considering the new requirements that need to be fulfilled, the following is envisaged.

First, FIFA introduces a transition period which can be summarised as follows:

- **1 February 2024**: the possibility of initiating the recognition process for an NDRC begins
- **1 June 2024:** until such date, all member associations with operational NDRCs must submit a request for recognition
- **1 January 2025:** the new regulatory system, including the possibility for the DRC to cede its jurisdiction and accept the jurisdiction of an NDRC, enters into effect

Accordingly, the respective provisions of the new regulatory framework enter into force as follows:

Articles 1 to 3 and 6 to 10 of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, which concern the NDRC recognition process, will apply from 1 February 2024.

Member associations currently operating a national dispute resolution system must file a formal recognition request for their NDRC request by 1 June 2024.

This will enable member associations to submit their requests for recognition after getting familiar with the new regulatory framework. It will also allow the FIFA administration to properly review the corresponding requests for recognition and the DRC to adjudicate and to properly decide on those requests before the full effects of recognition of an NDRC apply.

The remaining articles of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, pertaining to the effects of recognition, as well as the renewal and revocation of recognition, will be applicable from 1 January 2025. In other words, the new regulatory framework will enter into force in full from 1 January 2025.

If a member association currently operating a national dispute resolution system fails to submit a formal recognition request for their NDRC request by 1 June 2024 as mentioned above, the respective national dispute resolution system shall be considered to not be recognised by FIFA as of 1 January 2025.

Similarly, it is important to take into account that any NDRC that has been granted recognition will be considered formally recognised for the purposes of article 22 paragraphs 1 b) and c) of the RSTP of the new regulatory framework as of 1 January 2025.

Consequently, a transitional measure has been included in article 25 paragraph 1 c), so the new regulatory framework under which FIFA may decline its jurisdiction of employment-related disputes between a club and a player/coach of an international dimension in favour of an NDRC that has been recognised in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles will apply only to cases brought to FIFA as from 1 January 2025.

Consequently, the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations approved by the FIFA Executive Committee on 29 October 2007 and FIFA circular no. 1010 of 20 December 2005 will be annulled as of said date.

Accordingly, any case brought to FIFA before 1 January 2025 will still be assessed according to the former regulatory framework, in particular whether the case falls under FIFA or NDRC jurisdiction.

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GUIDE TO

submitting claims before the Football Tribunal

JULY 2023

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01.

INTRODUCTION

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According to art. 54 of the FIFA Statutes (**Statutes**), the Football Tribunal shall pass decisions relating to football-related disputes and regulatory applications.

The Football Tribunal is composed of three chambers:

- the Dispute Resolution Chamber (**DRC**);
- the Players' Status Chamber (**PSC**); and
- the Agents Chamber (**AC**).

The functions and procedures of the Football Tribunal are governed by the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal (**Procedural Rules**), as issued by the FIFA Council. The competence of the DRC and PSC of the Football Tribunal is set by the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (**RSTP**), whereas the jurisdiction of the Agents Chamber is established by the FIFA Football Agent Regulations (**FFAR**).

In particular, art. 22 and 23 par. 1 of the RSTP stipulates that the DRC has jurisdiction to hear:

- Disputes between clubs and players in relation to the maintenance of contractual stability where there has been a request for the International Transfer Certificate (**ITC**) and a claim from an interested party in relation to said ITC request, in particular regarding the issue of the ITC, sporting sanctions or compensation for breach of contract; and
- Employment-related disputes between clubs and players of an international dimension (cf. art. 22 par. 1 lit. b) of the RSTP). Such disputes may, for instance, concern the payment of overdue payables due to a player or a club by the respective contractual counterparty, or the lawfulness of a contractual termination between a club and a player.

Furthermore, in accordance with art. 22 and art. 23 par. 2 of the RSTP, the PSC has jurisdiction to hear:

- Employment-related disputes between a club or an association and a coach of an international dimension (cf. art. 22 par. 1 lit. c) of the RSTP). Such disputes may, for instance, concern the payment of overdue payables due to a coach or a club or member association under the respective employment contract, or the lawfulness of a contractual termination between a club or member association and a coach; and
- Disputes between clubs belonging to different member associations, whereas such dispute does not fall within the category of training compensation, solidarity mechanism or the issuance of an ITC (cf. art. 22 par. 1 lit. g) of the RSTP). Such disputes may, for instance, concern the payment of amounts such as transfer fees which have been contractually stipulated between two clubs.

Lastly, in accordance with art. 20 of the FFAR, the AC has jurisdiction to determine disputes:

- Arising out of, or in connection with a Representation Agreement with an international dimension (cf. art. 2 par. 2 of the FFAR);

- Where a claim is lodged in accordance with the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal; and
- Where no more than two years have elapsed from the event giving rise to the dispute, whereas the application of this time limit shall be examined *ex officio* in each case.
- Where the Representation Agreement has been signed on or after 1 October 2023.

Against this background, the present guide provides an outline of the following key issues:

- The administrative process applicable to employment-related and contractual disputes claims presented before the Football Tribunal;
- Guidance regarding documents submitted to the Football Tribunal;
- Frequently asked questions, with reference to the Procedural Rules; and
- Directions to submitting a claim before the Football Tribunal and contacting FIFA regarding the relevant procedures.

For guidance on other matters not listed above (e.g., training compensation, solidarity mechanism, EPPs, registration and eligibility or football agents), please be referred to other documents available at legal.fifa.com, such as:

- Protection of Minors: Guide to Submitting a Minor Application
- Guide to Submitting a Request for Eligibility or Change of Association
- Commentary on the Rules Governing Eligibility to Play for Representative Teams
- FIFA Clearing House – Regulations and Explanatory Notes
- FIFA Football Agent Regulations - Regulations, Explanatory Notes and FAQs

While the FIFA administration is responsible for managing the case file, only the Football Tribunal is competent to render a decision based on the circumstances of each claim. Therefore, this guide is intended to guide parties through the administrative process of a claim before the Football Tribunal, while it cannot provide any insight on the merits of possible disputes.

02

PROCESS

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1. SUBMISSION OF THE CLAIM (ART. 18 PAR. 1 OF THE PROCEDURAL RULES)

The first step towards resolving an employment-related or contractual dispute before the Football Tribunal is submitting a claim to the FIFA administration. In this respect, art. 18 par. 1 of the Procedural Rules sets out the specific formalities which must be satisfied before a claim is considered complete and is notified to the counterparty:

a. the name, postal address(es) and e-mail address(es) of the claimant, for the purposes of creation of the Football ID and exchange of correspondences;

b. (if applicable) the name, postal address(es) and e-mail address(es) of a legal representative authorised to represent the claimant, as well as a signed, specific and recent (i.e., not older than six months) power of attorney;

c. the identity and full address(es) of the respondent, for the purposes of notifying the claim;

d. a detailed representation of the case, summarising the facts and presenting the relevant legal argument, the evidence relied upon, and the request for relief, as well as specifying the amount in dispute, breaking said amount down into its specific components, their currency, their contractual basis and which period of time they correspond to;

e. the details of a bank account registered in the name of the claimant, on a signed copy of the Bank Account Registration Form;

f. the date and a valid signature;

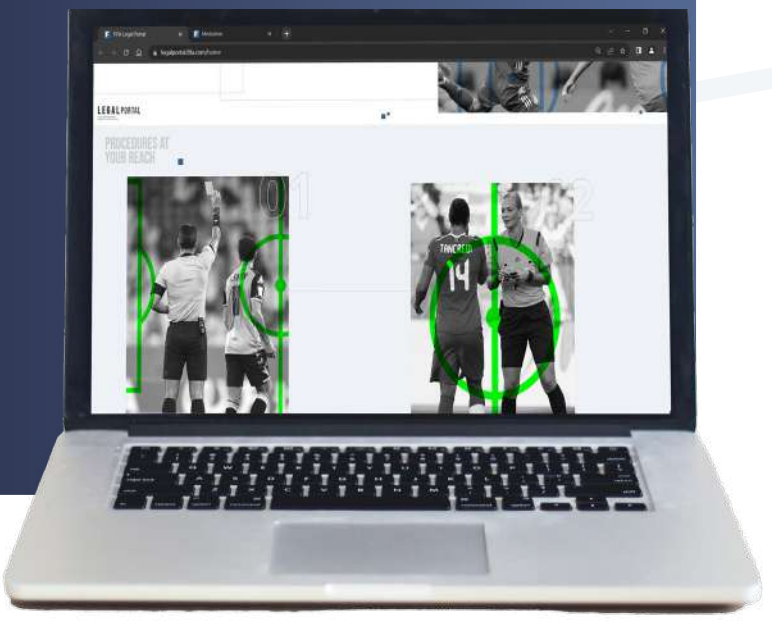
g. (in claims between two clubs) pursuant to art. 25 par. 3 and art. 1 and 3 of Annexe 1 of the Procedural Rules, proof of payment of the advance of costs for proceedings before the PSC.

The claim, including all relevant annexes, must be uploaded onto the FIFA Legal Portal (cf. art. 10 and 18 of the Procedural Rules) in English, Spanish, or French (cf. art. 13 par. 1 of the Procedural Rules).

FIFA Legal Portal

The claim, including all relevant annexes, must be uploaded onto the Legal Portal in a PDF file or in one of the other supported file types.

- Parties before the Football Tribunal and their corresponding legal representatives are invited to register and access the Legal Portal directly.
- In case any of any technical problem or difficulty with accessing the Legal Portal, please contact the FIFA Legal Portal Helpdesk, the Players' Status Department and/or the Agents Department immediately.
- Communications pertaining cases before the Football Tribunal shall be exclusively sent via the Legal Portal. Communication via any other means, including email, shall not be taken into consideration, and will be disregarded.
- For further information regarding the registration and main functionalities of the Legal Portal, please be referred to Legal Portal – User Manual.



In accordance with FIFA Circular No. 1842, parties are required to create an account in the Legal Portal and strongly encouraged to use the same contact address included in the TMS, so that it matches the information in the relevant pre-existing database.

Only one user per party (including clubs and member associations) or legal representative can be recorded in the system.

If the parties have chosen not to use the e-mail indicated in TMS, they must inform FIFA proactively. Otherwise, and to their detriment, the ability to access the case file within the Legal Portal will be constrained.

Should the parties wish to change their user (i.e. the e-mail of registration) in the Legal Portal, a request shall be filed with the FIFA administration via the FIFA Legal Portal Helpdesk.

2. REVIEW BY THE FIFA ADMINISTRATION

Upon receipt by the FIFA administration, the claim is assigned to a FIFA legal counsel who will be responsible for reviewing the information and the documentation submitted.

During the review, the FIFA administration may request additional information and/or documentation in order to supplement the initial request. The claimant must then submit their response, along with the requested information and/or documentation via the Legal Portal within the timeframe established by the administration.

Should a party fail to comply with the FIFA administration's request and not submit the requested documents within the stipulated timeframe, the petition shall be deemed incomplete, and the proceeding will be closed.

A new claim may be submitted to the FIFA administration in accordance with art. 18 par. 1 of the Procedural Rules, which will be evaluated separately, in accordance with the applicable version of the regulations, and provided that said new claim is not time-barred (cf. art. 23 par. 3 of the RSTP; or art. 20 par. 1 c) of the FFAR).

Following the initial review of the claim, the administration will proceed in one of three ways:

2.1 Preliminary Decision (art. 19 of the Procedural Rules)

During the initial stage of a claim, preliminary procedural matters may affect whether or not a decision may potentially be rendered by the Football Tribunal in the relevant matter.

In this respect, pursuant to art. 19 par. 1 of the Procedural Rules, the FIFA administration will assess whether:

a. The relevant chamber obviously does not have jurisdiction; and/or

b. the claim is obviously time-barred.

Following such assessment, the administration may refer the matter to the chairperson of the relevant chamber for an expedited decision.

In this scenario and before the involvement of the respondent, information will be provided to the claimant regarding the submission to an expedited decision, as well as the deciding-member and date concerned.

Consequences of referring the case to an expedited decision	
If obviously affected by preliminary procedural matters	If not obviously affected by preliminary procedural matters
The expedited decision constitutes a final decision by the Football Tribunal, subject to the provisions of art. 15 of the Procedural Rules.	The chairperson of the relevant chamber shall order the FIFA administration to continue the procedure (cf. art. 19, par. 3 of the Procedural Rules). Such a conclusion does not constitute an acceptance of admissibility and/or jurisdiction of FIFA, which shall be reanalysed by the competent chamber in due course and upon completion of the submission-phase.

2.2 Proposal by the FIFA administration

In disputes without *prima facie* complex facts or legal issues, or in cases where there is clear, established jurisprudence, the FIFA administration may make a proposal to finalise the matter without the case being adjudicated upon by the relevant chamber of the Football Tribunal (cf. art. 20 of the Procedural Rules).

Consequences of issuing a proposal	
If accepted or not rejected by the parties	If rejected by any of the parties
The proposal will be confirmed by the FIFA administration and such confirmation letter constitutes a final and binding decision by the Football Tribunal (cf. art. 8, par. 2 and 20, par. 4 of the Procedural Rules).	The FIFA administration will continue the procedure.

Where a proposal is rejected, the respondent(s) must submit their response to the claim – and a potential counterclaim – within the time limit indicated in the proposal.

2.3 Cases not requiring an expedited decision or no proposal was made

In all other cases, the FIFA administration will notify the claim, including all the enclosed annexes, to the respondent(s) and request their response to the claim within the time-limit granted. If the respondent(s) fail(s) to submit a response to the claim within the time-limit, a decision will be made based on the file.

Respondent(s) may submit a counterclaim with their response to the claim. A counterclaim shall have the same form and match the same requirements of a claim and shall be submitted within the same time limit established for the response to the claim (cf. art. 21 of the Procedural Rules).

The FIFA administration will decide, where appropriate and depending on the complexity of the case, whether there shall be a second round of submissions.

3. CLOSURE OF THE SUBMISSION PHASE

Once the parties have submitted their arguments and accompanying documents, the FIFA administration will notify the closure of the submission phase of the procedure. After such notification, the parties may not supplement or amend their submissions or request for relief, or produce new evidence.

The FIFA administration and/or the respective chamber reserve the right to request additional information or documentation at any time within the scope of a procedure.

Following the closure of the investigation, the parties will be informed of the submission of the matter for consideration and a formal decision to the relevant chamber of the Football Tribunal. Such notification will include the date of decision and the deciding panel and/or Single Judge (cf. art. 24 of the Procedural Rules).

Once the composition of the chamber is notified, in case there is a legitimate doubt as to their impartiality, the parties have the right to challenge the relevant panel or the Single Judge. Such challenge shall be duly motivated, as well as filed within the regulatory time limit of 5 calendar days (cf. art. 5 of the Procedural Rules). It must be noted that nationality does not constitute grounds for a challenge.

If mediation is successful, a settlement agreement will be signed by the parties and ratified by the mediator and the chairperson of the respective chamber. The settlement agreement shall be considered a final and binding decision of the Football Tribunal.

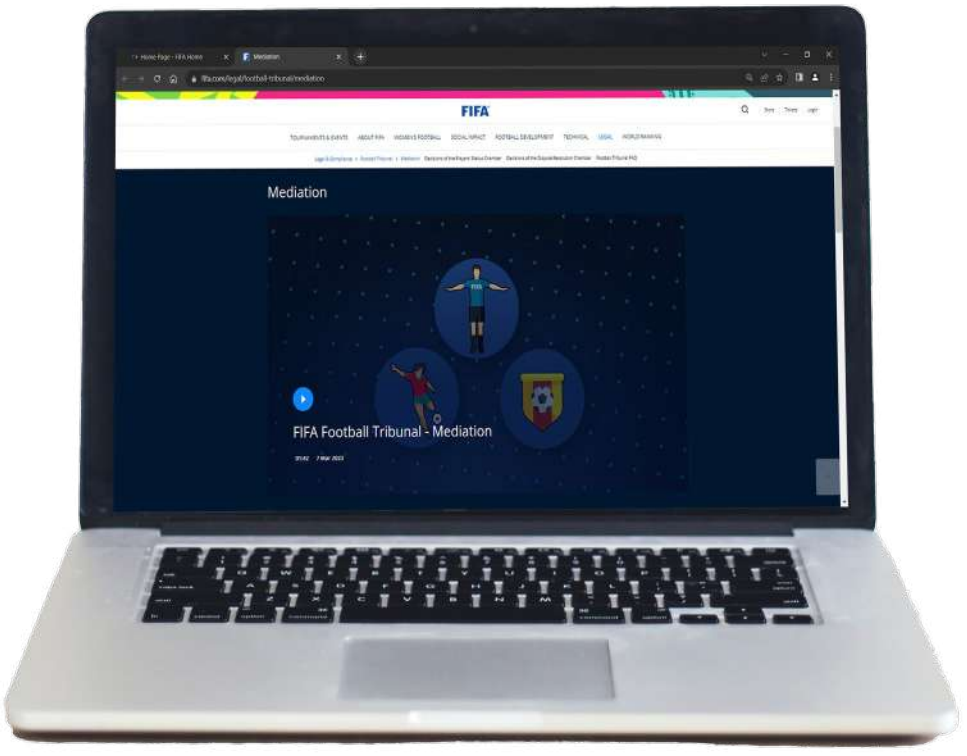
4. MEDIATION

In accordance with art. 26 of the Procedural Rules and the FIFA Mediation Guidelines, parties can agree to mediate their dispute or difference.

This alternative dispute resolution mechanism aims to maintain the relationships between different members of the football family whilst providing an efficient solution to their controversies. Since the implementation of FIFA Mediation, an increasing number of cases under the competence of the Football Tribunal are being resolved via mediation.

Mediation is a voluntary process and free of charge, which is through the mediators recognised by a list approved by the FIFA administration. FIFA Mediation can take place at any time during proceedings up until a decision is rendered by a chamber of the Football Tribunal, and it does not suspend the contentious proceedings.





5. DECISION BY THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL

In accordance with art. 24 of the Procedural Rules, the relevant chamber will analyse the case and inform the FIFA administration of its decision.

The deliberations between the members of the respective chamber may be held electronically or in-person and are entirely confidential (cf. art. 14 par. 2 of the Procedural Rules).

When submitted to a panel, the decisions passed by the Football Tribunal can be taken in unanimity or by simple majority. The chairperson of each chamber and their deputies shall have the casting vote, if necessary (cf. art. 14 par. 3 of the Procedural Rules).



6. OPERATIVE PART OF THE DECISION RENDERED BY THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL

In accordance with art. 15 par. 4 of the Procedural Rules, as a general principle, a party shall only be notified of the operative part of the decision.

Such notification will be legally notified to the concerned parties via the Legal Portal. Where a party is a club, a copy shall be notified to the member association and confederation to which it is affiliated.

The operative part of the decision shall state:

- Where the jurisdiction of the Football Tribunal or the admissibility of the claim has been contested by one party and/or was analysed *ex officio* by the member(s) of the relevant chamber, the findings will specify whether the claim is admissible or FIFA is competent to deal with the matter;
- whether the claim is "accepted", "partially accepted" or "rejected" as to its substance;
- whether any regulatory sanctions have been imposed on the parties;
- whether any procedural costs have been imposed on the parties;
- the consequences of non-compliance with the decision.

Depending on the particularities of a case, the findings of the decision may include other relevant information.

Lastly, decisions imposing sporting sanctions against a party shall be communicated immediately, with the grounds of the decision enclosed.

7. GROUNDS OF THE DECISION RENDERED BY THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL

Should any of the parties wish to receive the grounds of the decision, a written request must be submitted within ten days of receipt of notification of the operative part of the decision. Failure to do so within the stated deadline will result in the decision becoming final and binding and the parties being deemed to have waived their rights to file an appeal.

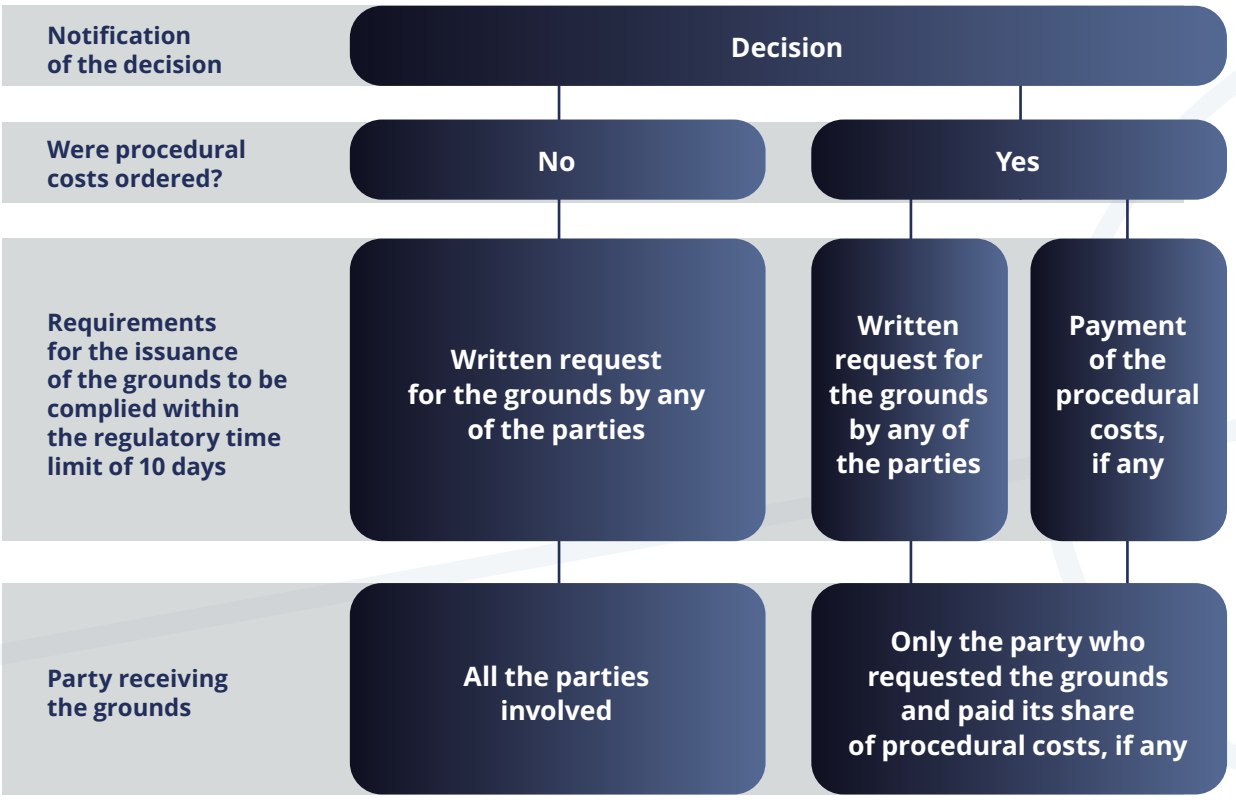
When procedural costs are ordered (cf. art. 25 of the Procedural Rules), the grounds of the decision will only be notified (a) to the party requesting the grounds; and (b) upon confirmation of payment of the relevant procedural costs, if any.

It is the burden of the party requesting the grounds of the decision to also demonstrate that its share of the procedural costs, if any, has been paid within the same 10 days of the notification of the operative part of the decision (art. 25 par. 7 of the Procedural Rules). Failure to do so will also result in the request for the grounds being withdrawn. As a result, the decision will also become final and binding and the relevant party will be deemed to have waived their right to file an appeal.

No costs shall be charged if a party decides not to ask for the grounds of the decision and, where applicable, the advance of costs will be reimbursed to the relevant party.

The decisions of the Football Tribunal notified with grounds and the awards of the Court of Arbitration of Sport (**CAS**) which derive from appeals against decisions of the Football Tribunal are published on legal.fifa.com.

Parties may request, within five days of the notification of the grounds of the decision, that FIFA publishes an anonymised or redacted version of said decision (cf. art. 17 par. 2 of the Procedural Rules).



8. APPEAL TO THE COURT OF ARBITRATION OF SPORT (CAS)

According to art. 57 par. 1 of the FIFA Statutes, the decision of the Football Tribunal may be appealed before CAS within 21 days of the notification of the grounds of the decision.

Any appeal and/or correspondences regarding such proceedings shall be directly submitted to CAS and will be subject to its rules.

9. ENFORCEMENT OF DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL

Where the Football Tribunal orders a party to pay another party, if full payment of the awarded amount is not made within the deadline included in the decision, the creditor of said amount may request the enforcement of the consequences of non-compliance against the debtor in accordance with the abovementioned provisions.

Any requests for enforcement of a decision shall be communicated directly to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, by lodging a request for execution via the Legal Portal.



08

DOCUMENTATION

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Throughout proceedings before the Football Tribunal, it is important for parties to ensure that the documentation submitted conforms with the requirements set by the Procedural Rules, as well as satisfying certain standards that facilitate the processing of each respective claim.

CUMULATIVE REQUIREMENTS	COMMENTS
Identification of the parties	The statement of claim shall allow the correct and complete identification of the parties concerned and their respective contact addresses, including: Complete name; Email address(es); Postal address(es), including city, country, and postal code; If a natural person, confirmation of the nationality. Any other elements helping the correct identification of the parties concerned are recommended *(e.g.*, TMS ID, Football ID, birth date).
Representation (Mandate / Power of Attorney)	If a party is represented, they shall also provide a written authorization (*e.g.*, Power of Attorney, Mandate). Such document must be specific *(i.e.*, authorising the representative to act on their behalf in the relevant matter), as well as dated and recently signed (*i.e.*, within the last six months).
Bank Account Registration Form	The Bank Account Registration Form (BARF) is mandatory and shall be issued in the name of the claimant / counterclaimant only. The only exception is this regard is the bank account being jointly held by a third party. BARFs issued in the name of legal representatives, football agents, family members, managers or any second person different than the claimant / counterclaimant are not accepted due to compliance reasons.

	In addition, the BARF shall include all the mandatory information listed, as follows: • the name of the claimant or counterclaimant: it must match the name of the beneficiary of the bank account. In case of disputes involving clubs, the "name of the claimant" shall be the name of the club and not of its representative signing the document. Exclusively for agents, the name shall correspond to either the name of the Match Agent or Football Agent as a natural person or their company. • the full address of the beneficiary: including at least the city, the postal code and the country; • the correct bank account details: either the bank account number or IBAN, and where applicable, SWIFT; Beyond complete, the BARF shall also be dated and signed by the party concerned.
Statement of claim and body of evidence	The statement of claim shall include a detailed representation of the case, setting out full written arguments in fact and law, the full body of evidence, and requests for relief • **Language of submissions:** submissions to FIFA must be in either English, Spanish, or French. Any submission to FIFA not made in one of the aforementioned languages will be disregarded; • **Translations:** documents in languages different than English, Spanish, and French shall be submitted together with the relevant translation to one of the aforementioned languages. Failure to provide any necessary translation may result in the document in question being disregarded by the decision-making body; • **Contract(s) at the basis of the dispute:** the copy of the contract(s) forming the basis of the dispute are normally the most important evidence for the disputes (please note that, where applicable, the FIFA Data Protection Team may be contacted for assistance in this regard via dataprotection@fifa.org); • **Other documents:** a party asserting a fact bears the burden of proving its veracity. In this sense, statements of facts must be corroborated by documentary evidence, which will be assessed by the relevant chamber in line with art. 13 par. 3 and 4 of the Procedural Rules.

	For example, documents commonly submitted by the parties in contractual disputes: • Correspondences exchanged between the parties by any means (*e.g.*, default notices, emails and text messages including the proper identification of the parties involved); • Proofs of payment (*e.g.*, bank statements, signed payment receipts, cheques) corroborating that a payment has been effected and/or that such party has incurred in any type of dispute; • Sporting data (*i.e.*, transfer history, titles and goals achieved, minutes and matches player, fixtures and tables of qualification of teams) corroborating that a sporting / contractual goal has been reached, hence justifying the entitlement to a bonus and/or additional payment; and • Previous decisions and/or official documentation relevant to the case (*e.g.*, decisions from other deciding-bodies and letters issued by authorities). For the sake of good procedural order, the body of evidence shall be organized and specified (i.e., attachments numbered and including the identification of the document concerned). Parties shall specify the purpose of each document submitted as evidence, for example: Doc. 1 – Employment Contract (original) Doc. 2 – Employment Contract (translation) Doc. 3 - Default notice dated 6 November 2022 Doc. 4 – Proof of payment – Salary of April 2021 Doc. 5 – Player's statistics – 2021/2022 season Doc. 6 – Power of Attorney Doc. 7 - BARF

Proof of payment of the Advance of Costs and Procedural Costs	Advance of costs are due in disputes between opposing clubs submitted before the PSC (cf. art. 25 par. 3 of the Procedural Rules). In such cases, the claimant / counterclaimant shall calculate the advance of costs due in line with the Annexe 1 of the Procedural Rules. All payments of advance of costs and procedural costs shall be made to the appropriate FIFA account: *UBS Zurich* *Account number 230-366677.61N (FIFA Players' Status)* *Clearing number 230* *IBAN: CH12 0023 0230 3666 7761 N* *SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A* Payments made to different bank accounts are not accepted and will be returned. The parties will be then invited to complete a new payment, failure of which will result in the case not being processed. The proof of payment shall be sent to the FIFA administration, including a clear reference to the matter at hand (e.g., the case reference and/or the name of the parties concerned). Procedures are free of charge where at least one of the parties is a player, coach, football agent or match agent (cf. art. 25 par. 1 of the Procedural Rules).



04

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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1. WHO CAN BE A PARTY BEFORE THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL?

Subject to the relevant FIFA regulations (RSTP, FFAR and Procedural Rules), only the following natural or legal persons may be a party before the Football Tribunal:

- member associations;
- clubs affiliated to a member association;
- players;
- coaches;
- single-entity leagues, only for the purposes of the FFAR*;
- football agents licensed by FIFA*; or
- match agents licensed by FIFA*

* Exclusively for proceedings before the AC.

2. IS IT MANDATORY THAT A PARTY BE REPRESENTED BEFORE THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL?

No. A party may appoint an authorised representative to act on its behalf in any procedure. For that, the party shall provide written and recent authorisation to be represented in the specific procedure.

Despite not being mandatory, legal representation is recommended.

3. WHAT IS THE APPLICABLE LAW TO CONTRACTUAL DISPUTES BEFORE THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL?

In their application and adjudication of law, the Football Tribunal shall apply the FIFA Statutes and FIFA regulations, whilst taking into account all relevant arrangements, laws, and/or collective bargaining agreements that exist at national level, as well as the specificity of sport (cf. art. 3 of the Procedural Rules).

4. WHAT IS THE TIME LIMIT TO SUBMIT A CLAIM BEFORE THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL?

The Football Tribunal shall not hear any case if more than two years have elapsed since the event giving rise to the dispute. Application of this time limit shall be examined *ex officio* in each individual case (cf. art. 23 par. 3 of the RSTP or art. 20 par. 1 c) of the FFAR).

5. WHAT IS THE FORMAT AND PROCEDURE TO FILE A COUNTERCLAIM?

A counterclaim shall have the same form as a regular claim (cf. art. 18 of the Procedural Rules), and shall be submitted within the same time limit as the response to the claim. Particular attention should be given to including:

- the details of a bank account registered in the name of the claimant, on a signed copy of the Bank Account Registration Form;
- (if applicable) pursuant to art. 25 par. 3 and art. 1 and 3 of Annexe 1 of the Procedural Rules, proof of payment of the advance of costs for proceedings before the PSC.

6. HOW IS A CLAIM SUBMITTED TO THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL?

Until 30 April 2023, claims before the Football Tribunal could also be submitted via email. As from 1 May 2023, the use of the Legal Portal is mandatory and the only valid means of communication for proceedings under Chapter III of the Procedural Rules (cf. art. 18 of the Procedural Rules).

Further information on how to lodge a claim via the Legal Portal is available on fifa.com/legal or by contacting FIFA Legal Portal Technical Support via email: legal.digital.support@fifa.org

Communications from FIFA to a party are also made via the Legal Portal by using the contact details provided by the party in the claim, in the Legal Portal and/or the Transfer Matching System (**TMS**). The contact details provided in the Legal Portal and/or in the TMS is binding on the party that has inserted it. Parties with a Football ID and/or a TMS account must ensure that their contact details are always up to date (cf. art. 10 par. 4 of the Procedural Rules).

Member associations and clubs are responsible for any procedural disadvantages that may arise due to a failure to properly undertake such review.

7. WHO BEARS THE BURDEN OF PROOF IN PROCEDURES BEFORE THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL?

As a general rule, a party that asserts a fact has the burden of proving it.

Any type of evidence may be produced. A chamber has ultimate discretion as to the weight it gives to evidence (*cf.* art. 13 par. 3 and 5 of the Procedural Rules).

8. ARE THE PROCEDURES BEFORE THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL FREE OF CHARGE?

Procedures before the Football Tribunal are free of charge where at least one of the parties is a player, coach, football agent or match agent (cf. art. 25 par. 1 of the Procedural Rules).

Procedural costs are payable in all other types of matters (*e.g.* club vs. club disputes).

The fixed amounts of the advance of costs and procedural costs are defined in Annexe 1 of the Procedural Rules and are payable in US dollars (USD).

The relevant chamber will decide the amount of procedural costs that each party is due to pay, taking into account the amount in dispute (cf. art. 2 of Annexe 1 of the Procedural Rules), the parties' degree of success and their conduct during the procedure, as well as any advance of costs paid. In exceptional circumstances, the chamber may order that FIFA assumes all procedural costs (*cf.* art. 25 par. 5 of the Procedural Rules).

A party that has been ordered to pay procedural costs is only obliged to pay where it requests the grounds of the decision after having been notified of the operative part.

9. IN WHICH CASES SHALL A PARTY PAY AN ADVANCE OF COSTS TO LODGE A CLAIM OR A COUNTERCLAIM BEFORE THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL?

An advance of costs is only payable for proceedings before the PSC *(i.e.* club v. club disputes), with the exception of proceedings relating to regulatory applications *(cf.* art. 25 par. 3 of the Procedural Rules).

The amount of the advance of costs is defined in Annexe 1 of the Procedural Rules and is payable in USD dollars (USD).

10. WHEN CAN AN EXPEDITED DECISION BE MADE BY THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL?

A procedure may be referred directly to the chairperson of the relevant chamber of the Football Tribunal for an expedited decision where the FIFA administration, following an initial assessment of the claim, establishes that either the relevant chamber obviously does not have jurisdiction and/or the claim is obviously time-barred.

Issues affecting the jurisdiction of FIFA and/or the admissibility of a claim may include, but are not limited to:

Jurisdiction	Admissibility
• No affiliation with MA [cf. art. 9 par. 1 lit. b) of the Procedural Rules] • No "coach" within meaning of RSTP [cf. Def. 28 of the RSTP] • No football agent licensed by FIFA • No international dimension • Substance outside the scope of the Regulations	• Prescription [cf. art. 23 par. 3 RSTP or art. 20 par. 1 c) of the FFAR] • *Res iudicata* • *Litis pendens* • *Forum shopping*

If the chairperson of the relevant chamber of the Football Tribunal considers that the claim is not affected by any of these preliminary procedural matters, they shall order the FIFA administration to continue the procedure (cf. art. 19 of the Procedural Rules).



11. ARE LEGAL COSTS AWARDED IN PROCEDURES BEFORE THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL?

No. Parties shall bear all their own costs in connection with any procedure (cf. art. 25 par. 8 of the Procedural Rules), including (not limited to) representation costs, administrative expenses, travel costs.

12. WHEN DO DECISIONS ISSUED BY THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL ENTER INTO FORCE?

Decisions by the Football Tribunal enter into force as soon as notification occurs. Notification is deemed complete when the decision is communicated to a party. Notification of an authorised representative will be regarded as notification of the party which they represent (cf. art. 15 par. 2 of the Procedural Rules).

Generally, a party will only be notified of the operative part of a decision. Decisions that immediately impose sporting sanctions against a party will only be communicated with grounds.

13. WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH MONETARY DECISIONS ISSUED BY THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL?

Where the PSC or the DRC orders a party to pay another party or a proposal made by the FIFA administration is confirmed, the consequences of failure to pay the relevant amounts in due time are included in the decision or confirmation letter (*cf.* art. 24 par. 1 of the RSTP and Annexe 2, art. 8 par. 8 of Annexe 2 of the RSTP).

Such consequences shall be the following:

a. Against a club: a ban from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, up until the due amounts are paid. The overall maximum duration of the registration ban shall be of up to three entire and consecutive registration periods;

b. Against an association: a restriction on receiving a percentage of development funding, up until the due amounts are paid;

c. Against a coach: a restriction on any football-related activity up until the due amounts are paid. The overall maximum duration of the restriction shall be of up to six months; or

d. Against a player: a restriction on playing in official matches up until the due amounts are paid. The overall maximum duration of the restriction shall be of up to six months on playing in official matches.

Where art. 24 par. 1 of the RSTP or Annexe 2, art. 8 par. 8 of the RSTP are not applicable, and in case of failure to comply with a payment ordered by the AC, the case will be forwarded upon request of the creditor to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee for further action.

14. WHEN ARE THE CONSEQUENCES ENFORCED? IF ENFORCED, WHEN CAN THEY BE LIFTED?

Where a debtor fails to make full payment (including all applicable interest) within the time limit, and the decision has become final and binding, the consequences shall be applied at the creditor's request. The consequences shall enter into force after FIFA has notified the debtor accordingly.

The consequences may only be lifted upon notification by FIFA, provided that the debtor submits proof of payment of the full amount and the creditor confirms receipt. Where full payment (including all applicable interest) has not been made, the consequences shall remain in force until it is made.

15. ARE PROCEEDINGS AND DECISIONS OF THE FOOTBALL TRIBUNAL CONFIDENTIAL?

Because the proceedings in front of the Football Tribunal may contain privileged and/or sensitive data they are strictly confidential and can only be accessed by the parties concerned and their representatives. Any document produced by the parties or FIFA may only be used within the scope of the relevant proceeding.

In accordance with art. 17 of the Procedural Rules, the decisions of the Football Tribunal notified with grounds and CAS awards that derive from appeals against decisions of the Football Tribunal are published on legal.fifa.com.

Where a decision contains confidential information, a party may request within five days of the notification of the grounds of the decision that FIFA publish an anonymised or a redacted version (cf. art. 17 par. 1 and 2 of the Procedural Rules).

For further information concerning proceedings before the AC, please be referred to FIFA Football Agent FAQs.



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CONTACT

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FIFA is fully committed to answering any questions or enquiries concerning the content of this document and/or any other matters of a general nature regarding contractual and employment-related disputes before the Football Tribunal.

As such, please feel free to contact us at any time:

- Players' Status Department: psdfifa@fifa.org ; +41 43 222 77 77
- Agents Department: agentsdepartment@fifa.org; +41 (0) 43 222 7777
- FIFA Legal Portal Helpdesk: legal.digital.support@fifa.org

Please note that the FIFA administration is not in a position to provide legal advice with regard to specific cases or situations, in order not to prejudice any decision rendered by the Football Tribunal.



This Guide does not represent the formal position of FIFA or its decision-making bodies on specific matters or any future case.

With regards to any potential technical references included in this Guide, please be advised that, in the event of any contradiction between the present text and the wording of the relevant regulations, the latter shall always prevail.

All regulatory references correspond to the May 2022 edition of the FIFA Statutes, the March 2023 of the RSTP, the December 2022 of the FFAR and the March 2023 edition of the Procedural Rules.

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Explanatory Notes on the New Provisions in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players Regarding Registration Periods (Transfer Windows)

March 2023

Introduction

As part of FIFA's commitment to constantly adapting the regulatory framework to the current reality of football and the transfer system, this document aims to provide additional and appropriate guidance to FIFA member associations (MAs) and their stakeholders in relation to the recent amendments and additions to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP), which concern registration periods, colloquially known as "transfer windows".

The amendments and additions to the RSTP with respect to the registration periods reflect the general principles endorsed by the Football Stakeholders Committee and approved by the FIFA Council on 20 May 2021.

These amendments are the result of extensive and thorough discussions with all stakeholders and focus on:

- **providing greater flexibility regarding each season's registration periods;**
- **redefining the correlation between the following terms: (i) season; (ii) national (league) competition start date (introducing the new term "competition period"); and (iii) the opening and closing of the first registration period of a season;**
- **ensuring greater possibilities for unemployed players to be registered outside of registration periods, in accordance with article 6 of the RSTP.**

1. Greater flexibility regarding registration periods

MAs organise their football calendar following two primary models: the dual-year season (e.g. starting in 2023 and finishing in 2024, i.e. the 2023-2024 season) and the single-year season (e.g. taking place in 2023 only, i.e. the 2023 season). One of the main reasons MAs organise their football calendar in one model, or the other, is climate.

In accordance with the RSTP, each MA may only have two registration periods for professional players[1] per season and players may only be registered during one of these registration periods. As it is well known, the RSTP establishes that a maximum of 16 weeks may be allocated, in total, for the registration periods.

Until the October 2022 edition of the RSTP, the following conditions with respect to the allocation of those 16 weeks were imposed:

- The first registration period may not exceed 12 weeks.
- The second registration period may not exceed four weeks.

[1] Different periods may apply for men's football and women's football.

In that connection, one of the major issues that was identified through the discussions with global stakeholders was that the second registration period may not exceed four weeks, which is considerably shorter than the maximum duration of the first registration period.

The issue came to light in reference to situations when MAs applying different football calendar models have overlapping registration periods, as the relevant time frame during which the registration periods are simultaneously open can vary significantly. For example, MAs operating a single-year season model may find their maximum four-week window overlapping with the maximum 12-week window of MAs operating a dual-year season model. Traditionally, the first registration period for dual-year season models normally occurs between June and August and the second in January, whereas for single-year season models the first registration period normally occurs between January and March and the second in June or July.

The main concern for MAs adopting single-year season models was that the period during which their affiliated clubs are more vulnerable to "lose" players without being able to replace them corresponds to the time directly after their second registration period closes, as the first registration period remains open for MAs adopting a dual-year season model.

The lack of flexibility in the RSTP regarding the allocation of the cumulative 16 weeks' registration period (i.e. that the second registration period may not exceed four weeks) further exacerbated the issue since it often resulted in clubs finding themselves releasing players without the possibility to replace them. Moreover, attempts from MAs that adopt a single-year season model to align the start of their second registration period with the end of the first registration period of MAs that operate a dual-year season model have not been successful.

In light of the above, the corresponding regulatory amendments to article 6 paragraph 2 of the RSTP **aim to provide flexibility regarding each season's registration periods**.

These amendments have the following key considerations and objectives:

- ✓ Allow MAs to reduce the potential competitive disadvantages that arise from the lack of harmonisation among registration periods.
- ✓ Give the possibility to MAs to determine their two registration periods according to what best suits their domestic leagues, and to be able to take into account relationships with other leagues and the international transfer market.
- ✓ Give the possibility to MAs to take into account dates of continental competitions.
- ✓ More flexibility would bring about more advantages than disadvantages as MAs have different systems and modalities of competitions. Therefore, flexibility would facilitate registration of players.
- ✓ An increase in flexibility as to how registration periods are defined would seem to remedy most of the reported issues, without negatively impacting the football calendar as such.

- ✓ MAs that do not have any issues with the current status quo will be able to maintain their current parameters.

Along these lines, in accordance with the modified text of article 6 paragraph 2 of the RSTP, MAs have been afforded flexibility in how they allocate the cumulative total of 16 weeks over the two annual registration periods as follows:

- To maintain the cumulative maximum total of 16 weeks for both registration periods
- For the first registration period to not be shorter than eight weeks and not longer than 12[2]
- For the second registration period to:
  - occur during the middle of the season; and
  - not be shorter than four weeks or longer than eight weeks

Moreover, the content of FIFA circular 1805 must be kept in mind. A similar circular referring to updates of articles of the RSTP that address, inter alia, registration periods, is sent out on a yearly basis. In this sense, particular attention is needed when fixing registration periods, notably the respective end date. In this regard, if the end date of a registration period is a holiday or non-business day in the country or territory of the MA's domicile, it will not be possible to extend it to the next business day if this would result in the MA exceeding the relevant maximum duration.

Furthermore, a specific transitory clause has been introduced in article 26 paragraph 4 of the RSTP with the intention that, in specific cases, MAs can already benefit from the implementation of the amendments to the regulatory framework with respect to the flexibility that has now been awarded regarding each season's registration periods.

In this sense, pursuant to this transitory provision, the second registration period of an MA may last up to eight weeks provided that the following conditions have been fulfilled at the time when the new edition of the RSTP (March 2023 edition) comes into force (1 April 2023):

- ➢ The relevant competition period[3] of the MA has already started.
- ➢ The first registration period in the relevant competition period has been completed and lasted less than 12 weeks.
- ➢ The total of both registration periods in the relevant competition period does not exceed 16 weeks.

However, please bear in mind that, in accordance with article 8 paragraph 2 of Annexe 3 to the RSTP, an MA may modify in the Transfer Matching System (TMS) the dates for a registration period that has already been entered in TMS prior to its commencement, provided that it notifies FIFA of the modification by sending an official request to psdfifa@fifa.org, however, taking due consideration that once a registration period has commenced, no modification of its dates is permitted.

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2 Additional nuances about the first registration period will be explained further down.
3 The term "competition period" will be explained further down.

It is essential to highlight that, in order to ensure the correct and uniform application of the regulations, the practice, which used to be recognised by FIFA, where a period of one calendar month (therefore slightly more than four weeks) with regard to the second registration period was allowed, will no longer be recognised, given the additional flexibility that is now granted.

This means that MAs will have a total of exactly 112 days (16 weeks) to distribute between the first and second registration periods, provided that each registration period complies with the recently established minimum and maximum duration of each period in accordance with article 6 paragraph 2 of the RSTP.

Please note that the provisions related to the minimum and maximum duration of registration periods do not apply to purely amateur competitions. Therefore, MAs may decide to set in TMS a single registration period covering the entire season for all purely amateur competitions taking place during that season.

Finally, please note that article 6 is a binding provision at national level. Hence, and even though the transfer of players between clubs affiliated to the same MA is governed by national regulations, member associations may not provide for different registration periods at national level with respect to "first registrations" or national transfers. The registration periods communicated via TMS are binding for national and international transfers.

2. Redefining the correlation between the following terms:

(i) Season

(ii) National (league) competition start date (introducing the new term "competition period")

(iii) The opening and closing of the first registration period of a season

The diverse landscape of football has brought to light several different approaches when addressing the start of the first registration period, and consequently of the season, and the start of domestic competitions.

In this regard, it is important to recall that the RSTP, as from its January 2021 edition until the October 2022 edition (which will be replaced by the March 2023 edition), provided the following:

Definitions

8*. Registration period: a period fixed by the relevant association in accordance with article 6* (emphasis added)*.*

9. *Season: a 12-month period commencing on the first day of the first registration period fixed by an association in accordance with article 6* (emphasis added).

Article 6: Registration periods

2.

The first registration period shall begin on the first day of the season (emphasis added)*. This period may not exceed 12 weeks. The second registration period shall normally occur in the middle of the season and may not exceed four weeks. The two registration periods for the season*

shall be entered into TMS at least 12 months before they come into force (cf. Annexe 3). All transfers, whether a national transfer or an international transfer, shall only occur within these registration periods, subject to the exceptions in article 6. FIFA shall determine the dates for any association that fails to communicate them on time.

It followed that the definitions of "season" and "registration period" were interlinked, as each referred to the other in its respective definition.

In this respect, after further thorough and extensive discussions with stakeholders, the following issues were identified:

- Definition of "season" and "opening of the first registration period" being intertwined:
  The definition of "season" imposed the obligation on MAs to set the same day for the start of the season and the opening of the first registration period, meaning that there was no possibility to separate the first match of the domestic league from the starting date of the first registration period.

- The definition of "season" did not take into account actual competition dates:
  For some MAs, strict compliance meant that the dates needed to be "stretched" to 12 months and the date of the first registration period also needed to be aligned, which created disadvantages, since the actual domestic competition started at a later stage and in many cases, the actual competition lasts less than 12 months.

- The commencement of the domestic competition:
  Lack of clarity of what the commencement of the actual domestic competition is.

- Issues relating to the opening of the first registration period:
  The framework did not consider that qualifying rounds of continental competitions, as well as domestic cup competitions, might take place in what is colloquially understood as the "off season" (period after the last match has been played in the domestic league competition, but before the first league match of the next domestic competition). As a consequence, clubs could not register new players during this period, unless the beginning of the "season" was moved back to match these dates.

The corresponding regulatory amendments aim to clarify the correlation between the terms: (i) season; (ii) national (league) competition start date by introducing the new term "competition period"; and (iii) the opening and closing of the first registration period of a season.

These amendments are based on the following key considerations:

- ✓ Allow specific national circumstances to be taken into consideration while ensuring a uniform approach within each MA.

- ✓ "Untangle" the definition of "season" from "the opening of the first registration period" in order to allow these concepts to be dealt with separately.

- ✓ Define "season" in a separate context to actual domestic competition dates in order to properly take into account the latter.

- ✓ Introduction of the new term "competition period" in order to clarify the actual national competition dates.

- ✓ Allow flexibility with regard to the opening of the first registration period in order to take into consideration continental competitions that take place before the start of the domestic competition.

- ✓ Once again, MAs that do not have any issues with the current status quo will also be able to maintain their current parameters.

The regulatory framework has been adapted via amendments to the RSTP and can be summarised as follows:

- Amendment to the definition of the term "season"
  The amended definition now refers to consecutive 12-months periods, within which MA competitions, such as national league championships and national cup competitions, take place.

  In this sense, the amended definition takes into account the two primary models in which MAs usually organise their football calendar. The domestic competitions of an MA should take place within the defined 12-month period.

  With this in mind, MAs that use the dual-year format for their seasons should enter in TMS, as an example, that the 2023-2024 season starts on 1 July 2023 and finishes on 30 June 2024, and that the 2024-2025 season starts on 1 July 2024 and finishes on 30 June 2025.

  Conversely, MAs that use the single-year format for their seasons should enter in TMS, as an example, that the 2024 season starts on 1 January 2024 and finishes on 31 December 2024, and that the 2025 season starts on 1 January 2025 and finishes on 31 December 2025.

  Furthermore, it must be taken into account that the new definition of "season" does not oblige MAs to set the same day for the start of the season and the opening of the first registration period any more.

  Similarly, an MA must enter the data in TMS in relation to the relevant season in accordance with the corresponding separate categories of competition, where applicable:

  i. Male professional competitions
  ii. Female professional competitions
  iii. Amateur competitions (female and male)

  In the extraordinary case that an MA would need to organise a season that is shorter than 12 months, such as, for example, as a consequence of transitioning from the single-year format to the dual-year format, the MA may exceptionally introduce the corresponding

period in TMS prior to its commencement, provided that it notifies FIFA of the modification, however, taking due consideration that once a season has commenced, no modification of its dates may be permitted.

- Introduction of the term "competition period"

  In order to clarify and take into account the actual domestic competition dates of an MA, the term "competition period" has been introduced in the RSTP. This new term explicitly references the first and last official match organised by an MA (or affiliated league) within a season.

  The concept of "competition period" refers to the period that starts with the first official match of the national league championship or national cup competition – whichever takes place first – and ends with the last official match played in those competitions. Those competitions should be understood as generally taking place during the season of an MA. Therefore, the competition period of an MA will need to occur within the 12-month period that an MA will need to define as the relevant season.

  It is to be noted that the term "official match" does not refer to a specific tier or level of competition. Whatever the tier or level of competition, the commencement of the competition period will be triggered with the first official match taking place within the respective season of the relevant MA [male professional competitions, female professional competitions or amateur competitions (female and male)], with the rationale being to keep the competition period as close as possible to the 12 months of the season. Conversely, the start of a continental competition will not be relevant to defining the competition period within an MA.

  As an example, with respect to male professional competitions, an MA of country X that uses the dual-year format for its seasons should enter in TMS that during the 2023-2024 season (which starts on 1 July 2023 and finishes on 30 June 2024), the competition period starts on 1 August 2023, which would be the date of the first official match of the national male league championship, regardless of the tier of competition, and ends on 21 May 2024, which would be the date of the last official match of the national male cup competition, regardless of the tier of competition.

  In this context, an MA must enter the data in TMS in relation to the competition period in accordance with the corresponding separate categories of competition, where applicable:

  i. Male professional competitions
  ii. Female professional competitions
  iii. Amateur competitions (female and male)

  Moreover, an MA may modify the end of a competition period in TMS, provided that it notifies FIFA of the modification by sending an official request to psdfifa@fifa.org and subject to the relevant competition period being within the relevant season.

  Finally, in view of the amendment to the definition of "season" and the introduction of the concept of "competition period", minor amendments to article 16, article 8 paragraph 1 k) of Annexe 3 and article 5.1 paragraph 11 of Annexe 6 to the RSTP have been made accordingly.

- Flexibility with regard to the opening of the first registration period

  In order to take into consideration and facilitate the registration of players for continental competitions that take place before the start of the competition period, as well as other domestic particularities, article 6 paragraph 2 of the RSTP has been amended with the aim of providing some flexibility to MAs with regard to the opening of the first registration period.

  In this sense, an MA is no longer obliged to open the first registration period on the same day as the start of the season. Instead, the first registration period may commence as early as the first day after the previous season's competition period ends. Therefore, MAs have the flexibility to open the first registration period after the day on which the last official match played in the national league championship/national cup competition of the relevant MA is played (in accordance with the defined competition period of the previous season), allowing, in case it is needed, the possibility to register players before the competition period of the new season begins.

  To avoid the first registration period commencing very late into the season, and potentially very late into the competition period of the new season, the first registration period must, however, begin at the latest on the first day of the new season.

  Following from the example mentioned above: if an MA of country X uses the dual-year format for its seasons and enters in TMS with respect to its male professional competitions that:

  - the 2022-2023 season started on 1 July 2022 and finishes on 30 June 2023 – 12-month period complying with the amended definition of "season";
  - the competition period for the 2022-2023 season is from 1 August 2022 (date of the first official match of the national male league championship, regardless of the tier of competition) until 21 May 2023 (date of the last official match of the national male cup competition, regardless of the tier of competition) – competition period complying with the RSTP since the dates occur within the relevant season;
  - the 2023-2024 season will start on 1 July 2023 and finish on 30 June 2024;
  - ✓ the first registration period for the 2023-2024 season of male professional competitions in the MA of country X may begin as early as 22 May 2023 (the first day after the day on which the competition period of the previous 2022-2023 season ended, i.e. 21 May 2023) and at the latest on 1 July 2023 (the first day of the new season, i.e. 1 July 2023).
  - ✓ in accordance with the RSTP, the first registration period may not be shorter than eight weeks or longer than 12 weeks;

A concrete example using an MA operating a dual-year format of the above-mentioned concepts would be the following:

21 May 2023 – 2022-2023 season
The last official match has been played in MA X in the previous season (which had its first official match on 1 August 2022 and its last one on 21 May 2023) during the 2022-2023 season (which was from 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2023).

1 July 2023 – new season begins
The new season begins on 1 July 2023 and runs until 30 June 2024, thus making it the 2023-2024 season.

1 June 2023 – opening of first registration period
MA X has decided that its first registration period will open on 1 June 2023 (it could be open as early as 22 May 2023, i.e. after the last official match of the previous competition period has been played) and it will end on 24 August 2023.
The first registration period will last 12 weeks, thus MA X can have a second registration period of a maximum of four weeks.

1 August 2023 – start of competition period for the 2023-2024 season: since the first official match of the national competition is scheduled for 1 August 2023 and the last one for 21 May 2024, the competition period for the 2023-2024 season will be understood as starting on 1 August 2023 and ending on 21 May 2024.

2022-2023 competition period
1 August 2022 – 21 May 2023

First registration period of 2023-2024
1 June 2023 – 24 August 2023

2023-2024 season
1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

2023-2024 competition period
1 August 2023 – 21 May 2024

3. Greater possibilities for unemployed players to be registered outside of registration periods, in accordance with article 6 of the RSTP

The modern football transfer system is a result of the outcome of the discussions and negotiations that led to the agreement between FIFA, UEFA and the European Commission in March 2001, which continues to be the basis of the current RSTP. This agreement grants FIFA an extensive autonomy for the self-regulation of the transfer of players, a fundamental characteristic of sport, particularly football, as compared to other economic and social activities.

In this regard, two of the main objectives of the transfer system framework consist in promoting and ensuring the maintenance of contractual stability, as well as the development and sustaining of competitive balance. As a consequence, the RSTP contains rules that affect employment relationships between clubs and players and, consequently, the possibilities for players to find employment. For instance, some of the rules in the RSTP have an impact on the freedom of players to move from one club to another and set certain conditions for such moves. To a certain extent, free movement of players is limited by the RSTP, with a view to maintaining fair and balanced competition and contractual stability.

Registration periods are one of the several measures contained in the RSTP intended to strengthen the principle of contractual stability. They also play an important role in safeguarding the sporting integrity of competitions. With this in mind, the importance that registration periods have within the transfer system should not be underestimated. It is equally important to recall that the Court of Justice of the European Union in "*Lehtonen*"[4] acknowledged that "*the setting of deadlines for transfers of players may meet the objective of ensuring the regularity of sporting competitions*."[5]

In accordance with the RSTP, with the recent exception of players participating in friendly matches during a trial,[6] all players must be registered at an MA to play for a club and only then are they eligible to participate in organised football. Relevant to the matter at hand, players may only register to play for a club during the registration periods. Therefore, as a general rule, players may only be registered during one of the two annual registration periods fixed by the relevant MA.

As it is well known, modernising the football regulatory framework has been one of FIFA's key pillars since the launch of FIFA 2.0 and is the first objective of The Vision 2020-2023. In this sense, although the principles of contractual stability and safeguarding the sporting integrity of competitions are still sound for the transfer system, and as a consequence the importance of the

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4 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=ecli%3AECLI%3AEU%3AC%3A2000%3A201.

5 Furthermore, it is stated that *"Late transfers might be liable to change substantially the sporting strength of one or other team in the course of the championship, thus calling into question the comparability of results between the teams taking part in that championship, and consequently the proper functioning of the championship as a whole."*

6 A trial, defined in the RSTP as "a temporary period during which a player that is not registered with a club is evaluated by that club", is only valid in case the conditions in article 19ter of the RSTP have been duly fulfilled, including the timely upload of the FIFA Trial Form in TMS before the trial commences. Only in such cases is a triallist is permitted to participate in friendly matches, provided that those friendly matches take place during the defined period of the trial, as well as any activity that does not fall within the scope of organised football.

registration periods still needs to be protected, the extensive review of the modern football transfer system has led to the analysis of the exceptions to the general rule that establishes that players may only be registered during the registration periods with the aim of ensuring greater possibilities for unemployed players to be registered outside of registration periods.

In that connection, it has been deemed crucial to take into account that no professional player should face unnecessary obstacles to their employment, and that professional football players not only rely on their footballing activity to earn a living, but also have relatively short careers compared to other traditional forms of employment. Any prolonged absence from playing potentially has a substantial impact on their career and livelihood. Nevertheless, it has also been deemed essential to place a key focus on avoiding abuse and to protect sporting integrity at all times**.**

The importance of balancing the vital role of the registration periods and providing more opportunities to unemployed players to be registered outside the transfer windows has led FIFA to address this issue. In this context, the majority of the relevant amendments has been implemented in article 6 of the RSTP and can be summarised as follows:

- ✓ Exceptions to the rule contained in article 6 paragraph 1 of the RSTP that establishes that players, regardless of whether they are amateurs or professionals, may only be registered during one of the two registration periods fixed by the relevant MA

The circumstances in which MAs are authorised to, as an exception to the general rule, register players outside a registration period are now included and clearly defined in article 6 paragraph 3 of the RSTP.

- ✓ Exception related to a professional who has unilaterally terminated their contract with just cause, or whose contract has been unilaterally terminated without just cause by their club – article 6 paragraph 3 a) of the RSTP

In this regard, the registration outside a registration period of unemployed professional players would generally be permitted if the previous contract of the relevant player has been unilaterally terminated without just cause by the club or with just cause by the player.

This exception serves to protect players who find themselves unemployed outside of a registration period in circumstances where they often bear no fault and where a rigid application of the concept of registration periods may prove to be overly burdensome for players in such situations.

In such cases, the exception allows a professional player to be registered outside of any registration period, independently of when the termination occurred.

It is relevant to highlight that for the exception to be applied, it is not enough that the player asserts that they had just cause to terminate the contract (or that the player only asserts that the club terminated the contract without just cause). In such circumstances, the termination with just cause by the player (or termination without just cause by the club) must be demonstrated on a *prima facie* basis.

The FIFA administration will then assess on that *prima facie* basis if the termination occurred with or without just cause as quickly and as swiftly as possible. The specific circumstances of each individual case will be considered with a pragmatic approach and with the best interests of unemployed players at the forefront. An important consideration will always be to facilitate a player's search for employment, taking into account all relevant circumstances of each case.

Within this context, it is equally important to emphasise that such *prima facie* assessment has no bearing on a potential future decision of the FIFA Football Tribunal regarding the consequences of the respective termination of contract (i.e. possible financial consequences and/or consequences related to possible sporting sanctions). These consequences will always be for the FIFA Football Tribunal to determine, in the context of a possible contractual dispute.

Moreover, it is worth pointing out that, contrary to previous editions of the RSTP, the reference to "provisional measures" in these types of registrations has been removed. In other words, a registration of a player, if allowed by FIFA based on this *prima facie* assessment, and if approved by the relevant MA, would no longer be called "provisional".

✓ Exception related to a professional whose contract has naturally expired or has been mutually terminated – article 6 paragraph 3 b) of the RSTP

This exception serves as a safety net for unemployed professional players insofar that it protects them from the strict formal requirements that may result out of the existence of registration periods. It caters to situations whereby professional players may find themselves only being able to find new employment after the closure of the respective registration period. Players whose contracts naturally expired or were mutually terminated prior to the closure of the registration period applicable to the engaging club can, in these circumstances, also be registered for that club *after* the closure of that registration period.

It must be noted that this exception only applies to professional players.

Furthermore, it must be highlighted that the moment **when** a contract expires in a natural manner or when it is mutually terminated is the decisive factor in the application of this exception. This event will always need to occur prior to the end of the registration period of the engaging club for this exception to apply.

Moreover, in the context of this exception, the term "engaging club" refers to the club receiving the player. The engaging club is also colloquially known as the "new club" of a player.

The idea behind this exception is that the professional must have pursued another employment contract unsuccessfully during a period in which they would normally be allowed to register for the engaging club. In other words, this provision exists to protect professional players from being unable to pursue their career and earn an income in circumstances where:

- following the expiry or mutual termination of their last employment contract, they were unable to find new employment during the relevant registration period of the engaging club; and

- they ultimately manage to find employment with the engaging club, but outside of the registration period of that club.

Below is an example illustrating this exception:

- A professional's contract expired (or was mutually terminated) on 31 July.
- Only in October is the player able find a new club and sign a new contract with it.
- The registration period fixed by the MA of the new club ended on 31 August.

- In this case, since the player's former contract had expired prior to the end of the registration period of the MA of the engaging club, the player can benefit from the exception.

- If the professional's previous contract had expired on 30 September, they would not have been able to rely on the exception, since at the time the registration period of the MA of the envisaged new club had ended, their contract with their former club was still valid.

✓ Exceptions related to:
- Temporary replacement of a female player that has taken maternity leave – article 6 paragraph 3 c) of the RSTP
- Female player may be registered outside of a registration period upon completion of her maternity leave – article 6 paragraph 3 d) of the RSTP
- COVID-19 exception – article 6 paragraph 3 e) of the RSTP

No amendments as to the substance have been made to these existing exceptions to the general rule; only minor cosmetic amendments to reflect that the exceptions are included article 6 paragraph 3 of the RSTP.

For the avoidance of doubt, the obligation of MAs to adapt their national regulations according to the exceptions in article 6 paragraph 3 c) and d) is now stated in article 6 paragraph 6 of the RSTP.

✓ Member associations shall pay due consideration to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition whenever a registration outside a registration period is permitted – article 6 paragraph 4 of the RSTP

As mentioned before, the protection of sporting integrity has been a key consideration of the adaptation of the regulatory framework with regard to providing more opportunities for unemployed players to be registered outside the registration periods. That is why the exceptions in article 6 paragraph 3 of the RSTP are not absolute.

This includes MAs being able to determine whether or not to register a professional player outside of the registration period even if the conditions for an exception are, as such, fulfilled. This allows MAs to protect the sporting integrity of their domestic competitions at all times.

With respect to the protection of sporting regularity and integrity, the underlying idea is that, in particular, registering a player with a club in the end phase of a domestic competition may create concerns related to the integrity of that competition. Conversely, at an earlier stage of a

competition, for example in the phase prior to the opening of the second registration period (i.e. during the first half of a competition), there should generally be fewer concerns of this nature. Ultimately, however, this assessment will always have to be made by the respective MA, taking into account all relevant circumstances of the competition concerned.

In this context, the new wording expressly provides that collective bargaining agreements properly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law may define the parameters of protection to the sporting integrity of a domestic competition in a more specific manner.

- ✓ Domestic regulatory provisions or contractual agreements requiring the consent of the former club to register the player shall be null and void – article 6 paragraph 5 of the RSTP

It is paramount that no unemployed players face additional unnecessary obstacles to their employment. Article 6 paragraph 5 of the RSTP establishes that in cases where a registration outside a registration period is allowed by the FIFA administration in accordance with the exception in article 6 paragraph 3 a) of the RSTP, any domestic regulatory provision or contractual agreement requiring the consent of the former club to register the player shall be null and void. In other words, no club will be able to rely on such a provision to prevent the registration of a player with their engaging club.

Similarly, said article explicitly clarifies that the consent of the former club is categorically not required in order to register a player in cases where a player's contract has expired. In other words, whenever a player's contract has expired, a player's former club can never take the position that its consent would be required for the registration of that player with a new club. Notwithstanding the above, these rules do not affect the obligation of the engaging club to upload a proof of last contract end date in TMS where required (cf. art. 10 par. 6. a. ii. of Annexe 3 to the RSTP).

- ✓ Article 6 of the RSTP is a binding mandatory provision that must be included without modification in the MA's domestic regulations

MAs are reminded that article 6 of the RSTP is a binding provision at national level and therefore must be included without modifications in the respective domestic regulations in accordance with article 1 paragraph 3 a) of the RSTP.

In that connection, MAs may not provide for any further exceptions to the fundamental rule established in article 6 paragraph 1 of the RSTP and, as per article 6 paragraph 5 of the RSTP, may not include provisions in their domestic regulations that require the consent of the former club in order to finalise the registration of the player with the engaging club for those cases involving the exception in article 6 paragraph 3 a) of the RSTP.

- ✓ The limitations per article 5 paragraph 4 of the RSTP do not apply if a player wishes to be registered based on the exception as per article 6 paragraph 3 a).

The general rule in article 5 paragraph 4 of the RSTP establishes that a player can be registered for three clubs but only play in official matches for two clubs during one season. This limitation

has the objective to strike a balance between the players' right to free movement and the need to protect both contractual stability and the legitimate interest in maintaining the sporting integrity of competitions.

Taking into consideration that players that can benefit from the exception in article 6 paragraph 3 a) of the RSTP are those who find themselves unemployed outside of a registration period through no fault of their own, an exception to the "three registrations, two clubs" rule has been introduced to protect these unemployed players. As a consequence, the limitation in article 5 paragraph 4 of the RSTP will not apply to those players that wish to be registered based on the exception as per article 6 paragraph 3 a).

Enclosure 1

Explanatory notes on the FIFA Football Agent Regulations

Football agent, football agent services, representation agreements, representation/remuneration limitations, enforcement and disputes

January 2023

1. Introduction

This document aims to provide additional and relevant guidance to FIFA member associations and their stakeholders in relation to the main concepts in the new FIFA Football Agent Regulations (hereinafter the "FFAR"). Please consult the FFAR for the definitions of the terms used in this document.

2. What is a football agent?

A football agent is defined as a natural person licensed by FIFA to perform football agent services on behalf of a client with the purpose of concluding a transaction. Such a person may represent players, coaches, clubs, single-entity leagues and member associations (hereinafter "Clients").

A transaction is:

i. the employment, registration or deregistration of a player with a club or a single-entity league;

ii. the employment of a coach with a club, single-entity league or a member association;

iii. the transfer of the registration of a player from one club to another; or

iv. the creation, termination or variation of an individual's terms of employment.

Only individuals licensed by FIFA as football agents are permitted to provide football agent services to Clients.

3. What are football agent services?

Football agent services are defined as football-related services performed for or on behalf of a Client, including any negotiation, communication relating or preparatory to the same, or other related activity with the purpose, objective and/or intention of concluding a transaction.

4. How may a football agent perform football agent services for a Client?

A football agent may only perform football agent services for a Client after entering into a written "**representation agreement**" with that Client.

A representation agreement is "a written agreement [between a football agent and their Client] for the purpose of establishing a legal relationship to provide football agent services" (cf. Definitions in the FFAR) and must comply with the minimum requirements established in article 12 of the FFAR.

A representation agreement will only be valid if it is concluded in writing and if it contains the following minimum requirements:

i. The names of the parties

ii. The duration (if applicable)

iii. The amount of service fee due to the football agent

iv. The nature of the football agent services to be provided

v. The parties' signatures

FIFA will provide interested parties with a template of a recommended standard representation agreement.

5. Do the FFAR restrict the length of the representation agreement?

The period of validity of a representation agreement concluded between a player or a coach, as a Client, on one side, and a football agent, on the other, may not exceed two years. This term may be extended by a new representation agreement only. Any automatic renewal clause, or any other provision that purports to extend any term of the representation agreement beyond the maximum period, will be null and void.

In addition, a football agent may only execute one representation agreement with the same player or coach at any one time. Before entering into a representation agreement with a player or a coach, or before amending an existing representation agreement, the football agent must:

i. inform the player or coach in writing that they should consider taking independent legal advice in relation to the representation agreement; and

ii. obtain the player's or coach's written confirmation that they have either obtained or decided not to take such legal advice.

There is no maximum duration for representation agreements concluded between a club, member association or single-entity league as a Client, on one side, and a football agent, on the other. A football agent may enter into multiple representation agreements with such Clients at any one time, subject to those agreements relating to different transactions.

6. Who pays for the football agent services?

The client-pays model is introduced by the FFAR. This means that, as a general rule, a football agent will be paid directly by their Client(s) for providing football agent services to them.

However, a club, member association or single-entity league may agree with a player or coach to pay the agreed service fee to a football agent in accordance with the representation agreement, provided that the player's or coach's negotiated annual remuneration (excluding any conditional payments) is less than USD 200,000 (or equivalent) and where certain other conditions are met.

A football agent may receive a service fee only if the fee corresponds to the services stipulated in advance in a representation agreement, and the representation agreement is in force at the time of the relevant football agent services being performed.

7. Are there any limitations on the football agent's service fee?

Since the main objective of the FFAR is to protect the integrity of football and the proper functioning of the transfer system, a maximum service fee (hereinafter the "**Service Fee Cap**") is being introduced.

In that regard, the following Service Fee Cap applies based on the nature of the Client (cf. art. 15 of the FFAR):

Client	Service Fee Cap	
	Individual's annual remuneration less than or equal to USD 200,000 (or equivalent)	*Individual's annual remuneration above USD 200,000 (or equivalent)*
Individual	5% of the individual's remuneration	3% of the individual's remuneration
Engaging entity	5% of the individual's remuneration	3% of the individual's remuneration
Engaging entity and individual (permitted dual representation)	10% of the individual's remuneration	6% of the individual's remuneration
Releasing entity (transfer compensation)	10% of the transfer compensation	

8. How many Clients can a football agent represent in a single transaction?

One of the main objectives of the FFAR includes "limiting conflicts of interest to protect Clients from unethical conduct" (cf. art. 1 par. 2 c) of the FFAR). It is legitimate – and in fact necessary – for FIFA to limit conflicts of interest that give rise to integrity concerns, and indeed to prohibit unjustifiable conflicts of interest.

In that sense, the general principle is that a football agent may only perform football agent services on behalf of one party in a transaction, subject to the sole exception under which a football agent may perform football agent services and other services for an individual and an engaging entity in the same transaction, i.e. dual representation (cf. art. 12 par. 8 of the FFAR).

If a football agent wishes to provide football agent services through dual representation to both an engaging entity and an individual in the same transaction, they may only do so if both of their Clients have explicitly agreed to it in advance and in writing. In this case, the engaging entity may pay up to 50% of the total service fee due to the football agent.

This means that a football agent may not perform football agent services or other services in the same transaction for:

i. a releasing entity and individual; or
ii. a releasing entity and engaging entity; or
iii. all parties of such transaction.

Other services are defined as "any services performed by a Football Agent for or on behalf of a Client other than Football Agent Services, including but not limited to, providing legal advice, financial planning, scouting, consultancy, management of image rights and negotiating commercial contracts" (cf. Definitions of the FFAR).

By way of illustration, if a football agent is performing football agent services or other services in a transaction for a releasing entity, they may not perform any of those services for any of the other parties to that transaction (engaging entity or individual).

9. Who has jurisdiction to resolve disputes between football agents and Clients?

As an important step in ensuring that any disputes concerning the football agent services are resolved fairly and equally for all participants in the transfer system, FIFA dispute resolution systems are being reintroduced under the FFAR for disputes arising out of, or in connection with, a representation agreement with an international dimension. In other words, FIFA will have jurisdiction to resolve disputes between football agents and Clients in relation to representation agreements with an international dimension.

A representation agreement will have an international dimension whenever:

i. it governs football agent services related to a specified transaction in connection with an international transfer (or a move of a coach to a club affiliated to a different member association than their previous employer or the move of a coach to another member association than their previous employer); or

ii. it governs football agent services related to more than one specified transaction, one of which is connected to an international transfer (or a move of a coach to a club affiliated to a different member association than their previous employer or the move of a coach to another member association than their previous employer).

The procedural costs for such disputes involving football agents and Clients will be free of charge before the Agents Chamber of the Football Tribunal.

Furthermore, please note that the Agents Chamber of the Football Tribunal will deal with any disputes as from 1 October 2023 and regarding representation agreements entered into by a football agent and Clients on or after the said date.

The decision-making body identified in the national football agent regulations of the relevant member association has jurisdiction to determine disputes arising out of, or in connection with, a representation agreement with no international dimension.

10. Who has competence to enforce further provisions of the FFAR?

In addition to the jurisdiction to resolve contractual disputes, FIFA will also have competence to enforce further provisions of the FFAR, regardless of the existence of a contractual dispute. This competence will notably concern the possible imposition of sanctions for behaviour in violation of the FFAR.

The competence to enforce such further provisions of the FFAR depends on the circumstances of each specific case and, in particular, on the nature of the conduct of the football agent and client. FIFA will generally have jurisdiction regarding:

i. any conduct connected to a representation agreement with an international dimension (cf. art. 2 par. 2); and

ii. any conduct connected to an international transfer or international transaction.

In other words, whereas the jurisdiction for contractual disputes generally depends on the existence of a representation agreement with an international dimension, the competence to enforce further provisions of the FFAR, notably to impose sanctions, is defined more broadly. It is triggered as soon as a specific case is connected to an international transfer or an international transaction.

On the other hand, the relevant member associations are responsible for enforcing their respective national football agent regulations and, as the case may be, imposing sanctions on any football agent or Client that violates such national football agent regulations.

This means that the relevant member association will have jurisdiction over:

i. any conduct connected to a representation agreement without an international dimension (cf. art. 2 par. 3); or

ii. any conduct connected to a national transfer or national transaction.

By way of illustration, if an agent acts in a purely national context, e.g. advises a player about signing their first employment contract with a club (not connected with an international transfer), this will fall within the remit of the respective national football agent regulations. Therefore, any breach of such regulations will fall within the competence of the concerned member association.

On the other hand, as soon as there is an international element (notably where a representation agreement has an international dimension and/or the conduct relates to an international transfer or international transaction), the FFAR will apply, and FIFA will have the competence to enforce the FFAR.

A table explaining which body has the competence to enforce the FFAR:

Conduct connected with	Competence
Representation agreement with an international dimension International transfers or an international move of a coach Ongoing licensing requirements (Eligibility requirements, FIFA's continuing professional development requirements, annual fee payment)	FIFA
Representation agreement without an international dimension National transfers First professional contract (not connected with an international transfer) Renegotiation of an employment contract in a purely domestic context	Member association

11. When will the FFAR enter into force?

The FFAR will enter into force as follows:

i. On 9 January 2023: articles 1 to 10 and articles 22 to 27, which generally relate to the processes for obtaining a licence

ii. On 1 October 2023: the remaining articles, which generally relate to acting as a football agent and the obligations of football agents and Clients.

This means that the provisions that regulate how to become a football agent, i.e. the licensing procedure, will enter into force on 9 January 2023, while the provisions regarding the activity of football agents will enter into force only on 1 October 2023. This is to allow sufficient time for interested individuals to become fully licensed as football agents in accordance with the FFAR.

As from 1 October 2023, any individual who provides football agent services to a Client must hold a licence issued by FIFA in accordance with the FFAR. This means that intermediaries in the context of the FIFA Regulations on Working with Intermediaries will not be able to

12. How will member associations introduce their own national football agent regulations?

Each member association must implement and enforce national football agent regulations by 30 September 2023 with the aim of regulating the activity of football agents at national level. These national football agent regulations will apply to all representation agreements that have no international dimension (cf. arts 2 and 3 of the FFAR).

FIFA will make the relevant templates for the national football agent regulations available on www.fifa.com/legal. These can be used by member associations and will provide assistance in resolving any outstanding questions. Most of the member associations have already assigned a contact person to the FIFA Agents Department to deal with the licensing and regulatory matters concerning the FFAR.

Following the approval of the national football agent legal framework by 30 September 2023, the member associations are instructed to provide a copy of their domestic regulations to FIFA in one of the official FIFA languages. Any amendment or change to the national football agent regulations must be reported to FIFA in the same manner within 30 days of their approval. Upon request, member associations must provide FIFA with a copy of their national football agent regulations for review.

13. What about existing representation agreements?

A representation agreement that is in force at the time the FFAR are approved will remain valid until its natural expiry and may not be extended.

Any new representation agreements or renewals of existing representation agreements concluded after the FFAR are approved must comply with the FFAR as from 1 October 2023. In other words, where necessary, contractual terms will have to be amended to be in compliance with the FFAR as per 1 October 2023, to avoid possible sanctions. For the avoidance of doubt, FIFA will not enforce any commission claim in excess of the applicable service fee cap (or any decision granting such a claim), if such claim has been triggered after 1 October 2023, even if it is based on a contract concluded between the approval of the FFAR and 30 September 2023 (inclusive).

In any event, any person who has entered into any such existing representation agreement must obtain a licence pursuant to the FFAR to continue providing football agent services as from 1 October 2023 (cf. art. 22 par. 3 of the FFAR). Otherwise, they may not provide football agent services after that date.

14. What is the Football Agent Working Group?

FIFA will establish a Football Agent Working Group composed of representatives of professional football stakeholders and agent organisations, which will act as a permanent consultative body in relation to any football agent-related matters.

FIFA

Explanatory Notes on the New Loan Provisions in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

May 2022



Introduction

This document aims to provide additional and appropriate guidance to FIFA member associations (MAs) and their stakeholders in relation to the recent amendments and additions to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) concerning the loan of players in international football.

1. Definition of club-trained player[1]

A. Does a club-trained player have to be a professional player?

A player can be club-trained irrespective of their status as a football player (professional or amateur, as provided in article 2 of the RSTP), their nationality and age.

The important and central element of the definition is that between the ages of 15 (or the start of the season during which they turn 15) and 21 (or the end of the season during which they turn 21), the player is registered with their current club for a period of three entire seasons or 36 months, regardless of whether the period is continuous or not.

B. How is "continuous or not" defined for the purpose of determining whether a player is club-trained?

To qualify for the status of club-trained player, a player needs to be registered with the same club for a total of three entire seasons or 36 months between the age of 15 and 21, regardless of whether these three seasons or months were consecutive or not.

For example, Player A is registered with Club X from ages 15 to 16. They then leave Club X and return when they are 18 years old. So long as the player stays with the club until they are 20 (i.e. he is registered with his club for a total of 36 months), they will qualify as a club-trained player with Club X.

C. Can a player be a club-trained player with more than one club?

Since the definition covers a seven-year period, it is possible that a player could qualify as a club-trained player with more than one club. For example, Player A is registered with Club X from the ages of 15 to 18, and then with Club Y from the ages of 18 to 21. The player would qualify as a club-trained player for both Club X and Club Y.

D. Does a player have to be a member of a club's "first team" to be considered a club-trained player?

The definition does not require the player to belong to a particular club team in order to be considered a club-trained player, as long as they have been registered with the club for three seasons or 36 months.

[1] Addition to the "Definitions" section of the RSTP.

2. Scope of the new regulations[2]

A. What is the scope of the new loan regulations? Do they apply only to international loans or also to domestic loans?

The new loan regulations apply only to international loans.

According to the RSTP, an international transfer consists in moving the registration of a player from one association to another.

For the sake of clarity, in accordance with the RSTP, only professional players may be loaned for a predetermined period by their former club to a new club.

B. Since the new loan regulations will be applicable only to international transfers, does this mean that domestic loan regulations have not changed?

No, in accordance with article 1 paragraph 3 a) of the RSTP, the new loan regulations fall within the relevant provisions of the RSTP that are **binding at national level** and must be included without modification in the MAs' regulations.

However, in accordance with article 1 paragraph 3 b) of the RSTP, MAs will be given three years as from 1 July 2022 to implement rules on a domestic loan system that are in line with the principles of ensuring the integrity of competitions, developing young players and preventing the hoarding of players.

Nonetheless, and as explicitly stated in the RSTP, loan rules agreed at national level may set a different limitation on the number of loans (at domestic level) from those contained in article 10 of the RSTP, provided that these are consistent with the abovementioned principles.

It is important to highlight that the rules at national level need to be agreed with domestic stakeholders.

C. Do the same loan regulations apply to women's and men's football?

Yes, the new loan rules are applicable to both men's and women's football.

However, the specific cap on the number of international loans will apply separately to the men's and women's teams.

In other words, under these rules, a club is allowed to make eight international loans out from its men's team and eight international loans out from its women's team.

[2] Concerns the amendments to article 1 paragraph 3 a) and b) of the RSTP.

3. The new loan regulations[3]

A. What exactly do the terms "former club" and "new club" mean in the context of the new loan regulations?

In the context of the new loan regulations, the term "former club" refers to the club which is loaning out the player. The former club is also commonly known as: the club of origin, the parent club or the loan club.

In the context of the new loan regulations, the term "new club" refers to the club which is receiving the player on loan. The new club is also commonly known as: the club of destination or the loanee club.

B. What criteria does a club need to fulfill to ensure that a loan is valid?

The international loan of a player needs to comply with the rules provided in article 10 paragraph 1 of the RSTP and is subject to the administrative procedures regarding registration (article 5 of the RSTP), the International Transfer Certificate (article 9 of the RSTP), as well as Annexe 3 of the RSTP.

For the sake of clarity, these administrative procedures must be followed for a player's proper registration in the context of a loan. However, in line with article 18 paragraph 4 of the RSTP and the jurisprudence of the Football Tribunal, the validity of an (employment) contract may not be made subject to administrative formalities, including but not limited to the registration of a player.

C. What happens to the contract between the player and their former club when a player is loaned out? Do the obligations between the player and their former club continue to apply while the player is on loan?

The loan regulations explicitly state in article 10 paragraph 1 c) of the RSTP that, in principle, during the agreed duration of the loan, the contractual obligations between the professional and their former club must be suspended, unless otherwise agreed in writing between the relevant parties.

D. Are there any limits regarding how long a player can be on loan?

Yes, the new loan regulations establish a minimum and maximum duration in article 10 paragraph 1 d) of the RSTP as follows:

Minimum duration: the time between two registration periods
Maximum duration: one year

In this regard, any clause referring to a longer loan period will not be recognised by FIFA.

In any case, the parties must ensure that the end date of a loan falls within one of the registration periods of the association of the former club.

[3] Concerns the amendments to article 10 of the RSTP.

E. How many times can a loan of a player be extended?

There is no limit in the regulations on how many times a loan of a player may be extended.

Accordingly, once a loan comes to an end, the loan may be extended. However, in accordance with article 10 paragraph 1 e) of the RSTP, the extension is subject to the player's written consent for it to be deemed valid. Furthermore, each extension must comply with the established minimum and maximum durations of a loan as described above.

F. Is it possible for the new club to sub-loan a player?

According to article 10 paragraph 1 f) of the RSTP, the new club may not sub-loan or permanently transfer a professional to a third club.

G. When the loan is unilaterally terminated and the player decides to return to the former club earlier than expected, what does the former club have to do to "reintegrate them"?

According to article 10 paragraph 4 of the RSTP, if the contract between the player and the new club has been unilaterally terminated before the end of the duration agreed in the loan contract, the following applies:

1) The player has the right to return to their former club. In order to do so, the player must inform the former club of the termination and whether they intend to return.
2) If the player decides to return to the former club and informs it accordingly, the former club will have to immediately reintegrate the professional.

In this regard, given that the regulations specify in article 10 paragraph 4 c) of the RSTP that the contract (which was suspended during the loan) will be reinstated as of the date of reintegration, the former club is expected to take the player back immediately and the player is expected to render sporting services for the former club.

Similarly, the former club must remunerate the player as of the date of reintegration.

It is important to highlight that, in accordance with article 10 paragraph 5:

1) The above will occur without prejudice to the operation of article 17 relating to the termination of the contract between the professional and the new club, or if the former club fails to reintegrate the professional immediately.

2) The reintegration of the player is without prejudice to the right of the former club to seek compensation resulting from its obligation to reintegrate the professional.

H. Can the player be registered when the former club reintegrates them?

Regardless of whether the termination of the contract between the player and the new club was made with or without just cause, the registration of the player with the former club will be possible where: (i) the player's reintegration occurs, and (ii) the registration period is open in the former club's MA, provided that the relevant provisions regarding player registration are duly observed.

If the registration period is closed in the former club's MA, the player's registration with the former club would be, in principle, also possible where the professional has terminated the contract with the new club with just cause or the new club has terminated the contract without just cause. This is based on the last sentence of article 6 paragraph 1, whereby FIFA may take provisional measures to avoid abuse and authorise an MA to register the player outside of a registration period.

Thus, the player must demonstrate *prima facie* that they had just cause or that the club terminated their contract without just cause. As with all cases involving provisional measures, any decision made by FIFA to grant provisional measures has no bearing on any claim that may subsequently be lodged before the Football Tribunal or the competent national body.

In this context, even though it is possible, MAs will not be required to register a player outside of a registration period under these circumstances. In this respect, the respective rules governing registration at national level must be determined by the association in agreement with domestic football stakeholders in accordance with article 10 paragraph 4 d) of the RSTP.

Conversely, if the registration period is closed in the former club's MA, the player's registration with the former club would, in principle, NOT be possible where the professional has terminated their contract with the new club without just cause or if the new club has terminated their contract with just cause.

The following table illustrates the possible scenarios described above (subject to the *prima facie* case and the domestic registration regulations):

Registration period in the former club's MA	**Termination of the contract between the player and the new club**	**Is the player's registration possible?**
Open	With just cause by the player/without just cause by the club	Yes
	Without just cause by the player/with just cause by the club	Yes
Closed	With just cause by the player/without just cause by the club	Yes
	Without just cause by the player/with just cause by the club	No

I. With the entry into force of the amended RSTP, is there now a cap on the number of international loans in and out? Will there be a transition period?

One of the big changes resulting from the new regulations is that there will be a hard cap on the number of players a club can loan in and out at international level pursuant to article 10 paragraphs 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the RSTP.

To ensure its smooth implementation for all stakeholders, there will be a three-year **transition period**:

From 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2023	A maximum of **8** players loaned out	A maximum of **8** players loaned in
From 1 July 2023 until 30 June 2024	A maximum of **7** players loaned out	A maximum of **7** players loaned in
From 1 July 2024	A maximum of **6** players loaned out	A maximum of **6** players loaned in

It is important to mention that the cap on the number of international loans applies at any given time during a season.

In this sense, between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023, a club can loan **OUT** eight players during a registration period and then loan **OUT** another (different) set of eight players in the second registration period of the same season, provided there are never more than eight loans **OUT** at any time during the relevant season.

J. Will there be any exceptions to the new cap on international loans a club may have, both in or out?

In order to promote the development of youth players, article 10 paragraph 7 of the RSTP provides a specific exemption regarding this limit for a specific group of players.

The limit on the number of loans will thus not apply to players who are loaned prior to the end of the season of the former club in which they turn 21 **AND** provided that they are club-trained players with the former club. For the sake of clarity, the two conditions are cumulative.

Consequently, if a player meets the above-mentioned criteria, the loan of said player will not fall within the cap for either the former club or the new club.

K. As from 1 July 2022, there will be a cap on the number of international loans out and in (eight loans in and eight loans out). What happens if, on 1 July 2022, Club X still has nine loans out that were concluded in January 2022 and are for a period longer than one year? Will the club be in breach of the regulations for being above the cap (eight loans out) even though these loans predate the entry into force of the new regulations?

In accordance with article 10 paragraph 2 of the RSTP, loan agreements that are longer than one year and predate the entry into force of these regulations may continue until their contractual expiration. Therefore, in this scenario, Club X will not be in breach of the regulations.

However, if a club has more international loans than allowed under the cap because the loan agreements are longer than one year and predate the entry into force of these regulations, a club will not be able to loan out or loan in new players (depending on the case) until the club is under the cap.

L. As there is a cap of eight international loans in/out, can a club loan out eight players to the same club?

No, in addition to the cap of eight in and eight out, the new loan regulations explicitly state in article 10 paragraph 8 of the RSTP that a total of three loans in or out may be concluded between two specific clubs.

For example, Club X in England may not loan out more than three players to Club Y in France at any given time during a season.

It is important to highlight that these restrictions will apply irrespective of the players' age and whether the players are club-trained.

M. Is there any exception or transition period concerning the limit on the international loan of players between specific clubs ("three-in three-out")?

There will be no transition period concerning the limit on the international loan of players between specific clubs, this will apply directly as from 1 July 2022.

4. Practical examples

Practical example 1

Situation:

- Player A, born on 2 August 2001, has spent four seasons at Club X in France.
  - First spell: between the ages of 15 and 16
  - Second spell: between the ages of 19 and 20
- The season in France starts on 1 July and ends on 30 June of the following year.

Question:

- On 1 August 2022, Club X loans Player A out to Club Y in Spain. They already have eight players out on international loan and wonder if they can loan out Player A?

Answer:

The loan will be permitted and is exempt from the general limitations since Player A is under 21 and club-trained.

- What matters is that Player A is club-trained **and** that the loan occurred before the end of the season of the former club in which the professional turns 21 (season 2022/2023).

Practical example 2

Situation:

- Club X in France has four professional players who are under 21 and qualify as club-trained players. Club X thinks that it would be best for the development of these players if all of them went out on loan at the same time and to the same club.
- Club Y in Spain agrees to take these four players on loan from 1 August 2022 to 30 July 2024.

Question:

- Club X states that there should be no problem since all four players are under 21 and are club-trained players. As such, it does not have to worry about the cap. Are there any potential issues?

Answer:

There are two issues.

- Irrespective of age or club-trained status, a club may only have a maximum of three professionals loaned out to the same club at any given time during a season.
- A loan agreement may be concluded for a minimum duration of the time between two registration periods and a maximum duration of one year.

Practical example 3

Situation:

- On 1 August 2022, Club X in France already has eight players out on international loans. Club X decides it would like to loan out another five of its players to other clubs in France (domestic loans).

Question:

- Club X wonders if they would have any issue with the five domestic loans, and if the same FIFA rules apply at national level for domestic loans.

Answer:

FIFA rules only regulate international loans. Associations are given three years from 1 July 2022 to implement a domestic loan system in line with the principle of ensuring the integrity of competitions, developing young players and preventing the hoarding of players. These rules must be agreed with domestic football stakeholders (for the avoidance of doubt, the limit on the number of loans at national level may differ from those at international level).

FIFA CLEARING HOUSE

Explanatory notes on the FIFA Clearing House Regulations

November 2022

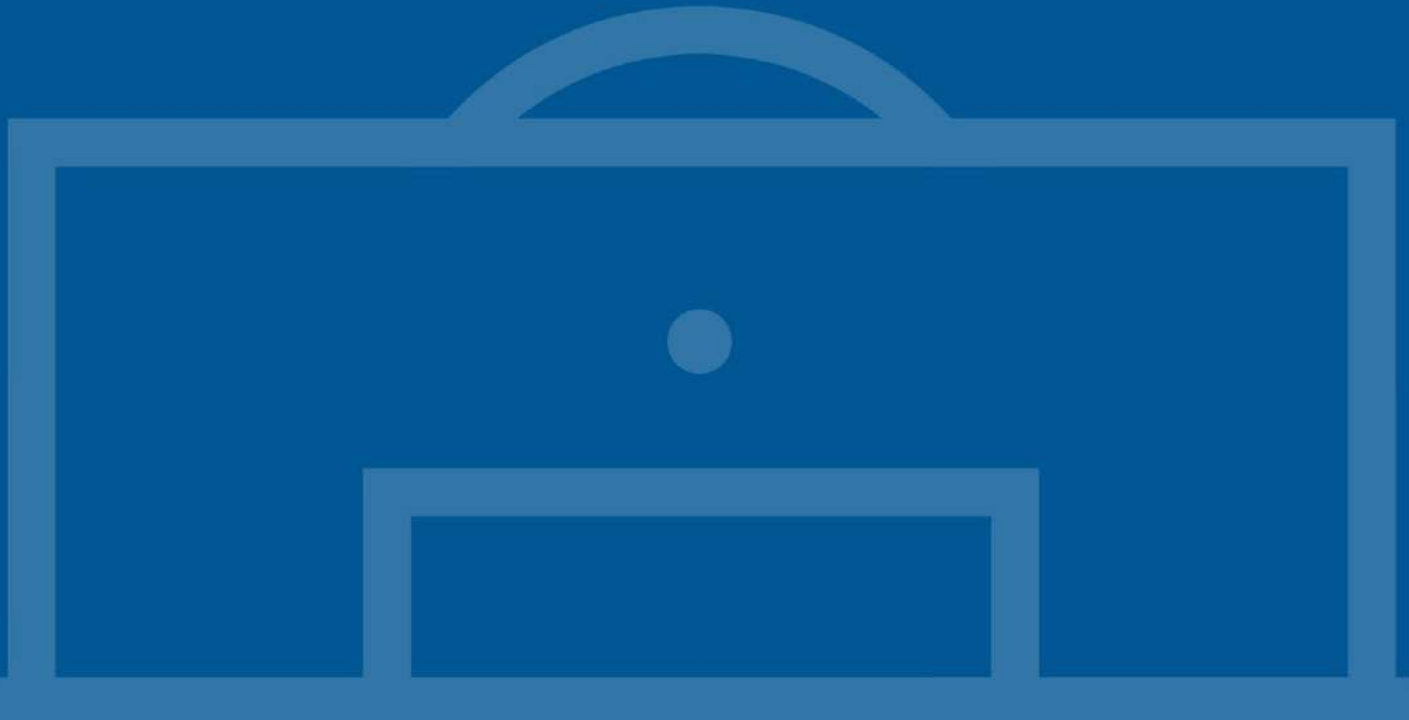


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Explanatory Notes on the FIFA Clearing House Regulations

This document aims to provide additional and appropriate guidance to FIFA member associations (MAs) and their stakeholders, including all potential clients of the FIFA Clearing House, in relation to the amendments and additions to FIFA regulations for operation of the FIFA Clearing House, in particular by the introduction of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

1. Introduction and objectives

The FIFA Clearing House is a central aspect of FIFA's ongoing commitment to introducing fundamental changes to the football transfer system. The idea of establishing a clearing house came from the FIFA Football Stakeholders Committee and was then endorsed by the FIFA Council back in October 2018, as part of the first reform package of the transfer system.

In the following months and years, the FIFA Clearing House project was taking shape with the main goals of centralising, processing and automating payments between clubs, initially relating to training rewards (training compensation and solidarity contributions), and of promoting financial transparency and integrity, via the establishment of an external entity, the FIFA Clearing House (FCH), to process those payments and ensure compliance with international financial regulations.

The process of distribution of training rewards through the FIFA Clearing House consists of three steps: (1) the identification of entitlement to training rewards, (2) the completion of the Electronic Player Passport (EPP) and (3) the payments between clubs through the FCH. This process is regulated through the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.

The FIFA Clearing House Regulations have the following structure:

- Section I – Introductory provisions (articles 1-3): objectives, scope and description of the FCH entity
- Section II - Identification and calculation of training rewards (articles 4-11): registration and transfer of players; training rewards trigger (first professional registration, international transfer, domestic transfer with an international dimension); EPP and review process; and FIFA determination
- Section III - FIFA Clearing House payment process (articles 12-14): allocation statement; payment by the new club; payments by the FCH to the training club(s)
- Section IV – Compliance assessment (articles 15-16): compliance assessment; consequences of compliance assessment failures
- Section V – Sanctions and disputes (articles 17-18)
- Section VI – Final provisions (articles 19-26): applicability in time; transitory provisions; references; matters not provided for; official languages; inconsistency; operational management; enforcement

2. General questions

2.a. What is a training rewards trigger?

A training rewards trigger is an event related to the registration of a player that may give entitlement to training rewards to the clubs having trained the player in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP). Examples of training rewards triggers are international transfers, domestic transfers with transfer compensation or the first registration of a player as a professional.

2.b. As from when will payments of training rewards be processed through the FIFA Clearing House?

Any payment of training compensation or solidarity contribution within the regulatory framework of FIFA in accordance with the RSTP, and arising from a trigger of training rewards occurring as from 16 November 2022, will be processed through the FIFA Clearing House.

It is worth noting that transfers or registrations of players having occurred before go-live of the FIFA Clearing House (16 November 2022) will be paid and processed with the current claims system. Accordingly, training rewards related to instalments falling due after 16 November 2022, but which still result from transfers concluded before the entry into force of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations (CHR), will be paid and processed with the current claims system.

3. Registration and transfer of players - Article 4, FIFA Clearing House Regulations

3.a. What role do clubs play in ensuring that reliable, accurate and complete player registration information is made available to FIFA (art. 4 par. 1)?

Clubs shall ensure that:

- players are always correctly registered in the national registration system of their member association, including the status (amateur / professional) and the type of registration (permanent / on loan);
- the International Transfer Certificate (ITC) process is followed, in accordance with the RSTP for players that were previously registered at clubs affiliated to other member associations; and
- the usage of the correct FIFA ID for the player is respected when entering any instruction in FIFA TMS or in a domestic electronic system, or when registering the player in the national registration system.

3.b. What are the requirements for an electronic player registration system and an electronic domestic transfer system (art. 4 par. 3)?

It is worth reminding that, in accordance with the RSTP and as stated in FIFA circulars no. 1654 (26 November 2018) and no. 1679 (1 July 2019), member associations must implement electronic domestic transfer and registration systems and integrate them with TMS, the FIFA Connect ID Service and the FIFA Connect Interface. These provisions have been mandatory since 1 July 2020.

Domestic electronic systems (national registration systems and domestic transfer systems) shall be integrated with FIFA Connect ID, for the assignment of FIFA IDs to players and clubs, and for the electronic exchange of registration and domestic transfer information, where required.

Moreover, domestic transfer systems must have a matching mechanism for ensuring that the correct information is entered and verified when declaring a domestic transfer.

3.c. How shall member associations ensure that the same FIFA ID is used for a player across member associations and TMS?

It is very important that member associations make sure not to assign a new FIFA ID to a player that already exists in FIFA Connect ID.

Member associations shall use the functionality provided by FIFA Connect ID to identify possible existing registrations of the player in other electronic systems and shall assign the corresponding existing FIFA ID to the player in their electronic systems, where applicable.

This functionality is also integrated in TMS in the process of deduplication of players.

3.d. Where shall member associations categorise their clubs for training compensation (art. 4 par. 5 and 6)?

Member associations shall categorise their clubs in accordance with the RSTP and relevant information provided by FIFA through circulars.

The categorisation of their clubs must be entered by the member association into their national registration systems, communicated by the system to the FIFA Connect ID Service and manually entered or confirmed in TMS.

4. Training rewards triggers – Articles 5, 6 and 7

4.a. Which training rewards triggers or events shall member associations communicate to FIFA in relation to the distribution of payments of training rewards and how?

a) First registrations as a professional at domestic level: all change of status from amateur to professional of male players shall be communicated to FIFA through the FIFA Connect interface from the National Registration System of the member association (article 5

CHR), or shall be manually declared in TMS, if an exception has been granted in writing by FIFA (article 5.4 CHR), within 30 days of the registration of the player.

b) First registrations as a professional arising from an international transfer: these registrations shall be declared as part of an international transfer instruction in TMS and shall not be declared separately via an automatic or manually declaration (article 5.9 CHR).

c) National transfers of players with transfer compensation: all transfers of a player with transfer compensation (i.e. release/buy-out fee, fixed fees, conditional fees and/or a sell-on fee) between clubs affiliated to the same member association shall be communicated to FIFA through the FIFA Connect interface from the domestic transfer system of the member association (article 7.5 CHR), or shall be manually declared in TMS if an exception has been granted by FIFA (article 7.7 CHR), within 30 days of the registration of the player. It is important to point out that if a transfer of a player between clubs affiliated to the same member association does not include any transfer compensation, it shall not be declared to FIFA.

d) Payments of transfer compensation in national transfers of players: all proof of payments related to the transfer compensation of the transfer of a player within the same member association shall be communicated to FIFA through the FIFA Connect interface from the domestic transfer system of the member association (article 7.5 CHR), or shall be manually declared in TMS if an exception has been granted by FIFA (article 7.7 CHR), within 30 days of the registration of the player.

e) International transfers: shall be declared in TMS in accordance with RSTP and its annexe 3 (article 6 CHR).

4.b. In cases where a player reacquires professional status, should the member association only declare the first registration as a professional if the reacquisition happens within 30 months of the player re-registering as a professional (article 5 CHR)?

No, all cases where a player changes status from amateur to professional must be declared.

4.c. Shall member associations communicate or declare all first registrations as a professional or domestic transfers involving transfer compensation, or may they filter out those without international dimension (articles 5 and 6 CHR)?

Member associations need to declare all first professional registrations of players and domestic transfers involving transfer compensation irrespective of whether there is an international dimension, i.e. of whether the player has been trained at clubs affiliated to other member associations or not.

In cases where the member association has been granted an exception by FIFA (art. 7 par. 9 CHR), they may declare only domestic transfers involving transfer compensation of players where they determine there is an international dimension.

All trigger events shall be communicated by member associations as they could potentially give raise to training rewards. If it is showed at the beginning of the EPP process that first professional registrations or domestic transfers do not have an international dimension, the case will be discarded (see section 5).

4.d. How should a club declare a training compensation payment to a former club when it is included in the transfer compensation (art. 6 par. 2 and art. 7)?

In cases where a player registers at a new club for which payment of training compensation shall be due to the former club and there is a transfer agreement between the former and the new club of the player with transfer compensation, an EPP will be generated.

Where applicable, the new club may upload the transfer agreement in the corresponding EPP demonstrating that there is no clause assigning the payment of training compensation in addition to the transfer compensation, which implies that training compensation was included as part of the transfer compensation. Within the EPP review process (section 5) in TMS, these agreements should be declared within the "waiver" section.

4.e. What is the process for a member association to request to declare first registrations as a professional and/or domestic transfers with transfer compensation manually in TMS (art. 5 par. 4 and art. 7 par. 5)?

Request for declaring domestic transfers with transfer compensation and/or first registrations as a professional, manually in TMS instead of electronically through the FIFA Connect interface, must be made in written form by the relevant member association's TMS manager.

Such request shall be sent via email to CHhelpdesk@fifa.org.

4.f. What is the process for a member association to request an exception for declaration of domestic transfers only with international dimension?

Request for an exception to declare only domestic transfers with international dimension shall be made following the requirements and in accordance with art. 7 paragraph 9 of the CHR, after prior written approval of the FIFA general secretariat.

Such request shall be sent via email to CHhelpdesk@fifa.org including the number of domestic transfers with transfer compensation that took place at the member association during the calendar year prior to sending the request.

5. Electronic Player Passport – Articles 8, 9 and 10

5.a. What is the Electronic Player Passport (EPP)?

An Electronic Player Passport (EPP) is an electronic document containing the consolidated registration information of a player throughout their career, including the relevant member association, their status (amateur or professional), the type of registration (permanent or loan),

and the club(s) (including training category) with which they have been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday.

The EPP is generated by FIFA whenever a training rewards trigger is identified. A review process will guarantee that all interested member associations and clubs can provide the relevant registration information and documents, so that the EPP is complete.

This electronic document is generated by and stored in FIFA TMS. It can be found in the "Player Passports" area.

5.b. Which registration information shall member associations provide to FIFA for the generation of the EPP of the player?

All registration information of a player throughout their career, including the relevant member association, their status (amateur or professional), the type of registration (permanent or loan), and the club(s) (including training category) with which they have been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday.

5.c. When is the provisional EPP generated by TMS?

The provisional EPP for the relevant player is generated in TMS when a training rewards trigger is identified as defined in the aforementioned Section 3.

5.d. Which are the training rewards?

As per art. 20 and 21 & Annexe 4 and 5 of the RSTP, the training rewards are the following:

- Training compensation, which is payable until the player's 23rd birthday for training incurred up to the calendar year of their 21st birthday when:
    - the player is registered for the first time as a professional (change of status from amateur to professional) before the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday, and has been trained at a club affiliated to different MA to where he is being registered; or
    - the player is transferred between clubs of two different associations before the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday, during or at the end of their contract.
- Solidarity contribution, which is payable during the player's entire career to clubs that trained the player up to the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday when:
    - the player is transferred internationally (or nationally and there is an international dimension) before the expiry of their current contract; and
    - there are payments in the context of the transfer of the player with the objective of transferring the player to the new club (transfer compensation).

5.e. How are the training rewards calculated?

In line with art. 20 and 21 & Annexe 4 and 5 of the RSTP:

- Training compensation is proportional to the amount of training cost that would have been incurred by the new club if it had trained the player itself (calculated by category of club and confederation as per the relevant FIFA Circular);
- Solidarity contribution amounts to a maximum of 5% of any transfer compensation paid for the purpose of transferring the player (excluding training compensation).

5.f. Who can access a provisional EPP in TMS?

The provisional EPP is available for inspection to all member associations and clubs for ten (10) days in TMS after generation. All TMS managers (of clubs and member associations) are advised to check the "Player Passports" area in TMS regularly.

5.g. How is a member association able to participate in the review of an EPP and how will it be notified about this?

There are three options:

- Added automatically when providing information through FIFA Connect interface
- Invited to participate by FIFA general secretariat
- Requests to participate and accepted by FIFA general secretariat

In all these cases, the member association will be notified of its participation by email and in the TMS dashboard.

5.h. How may a club request that a registration of the player at their club is added in the EPP of the player?

A club that is not listed in the provisional EPP and believes that it should be included in the final EPP may request its member association to be included in the EPP review process and to provide pertinent registration information.

5.i. Which member associations and clubs participate in the review process of an EPP?

There are five possibilities:

- The member associations that have provided registration information relating to the player through the FIFA Connect interface;
- Their relevant affiliated club(s);

- Any member association that has requested to be included (cf. article 8 paragraph 3) and their relevant affiliated club(s), at the discretion of the FIFA general secretariat; and
- Other member association(s) deemed relevant by the FIFA general secretariat, at its discretion.

5.j. How long does the EPP review process last?

The review process opened by FIFA lasts for ten (10) days and may be exceptionally extended by the FIFA general secretariat, at its discretion.

5.k. Which amendments can a participating member association request in the EPP review process?

Participating member associations may request to amend: registration information, training category, the status of a player (professional/amateur) or the type of registration (permanent/loan).

Likewise, a new registration can be requested to be added (Club FIFA ID is required; if not existing yet, it must be generated in the national registration system), and existing registration can be requested to be removed.

5.l. How can a participating member association request the amendment of registration information in the EPP review process?

The member association shall submit its request to amend registration information directly in the EPP of relevance, in TMS, along the following documents, without limitation:

- Proof of registration
- Employment contract (if permanent)
- ITC (optional)

5.m. Which documents can be provided by participating clubs in the EPP review process?

Participating clubs can provide relevant information and documents during the EPP review process. These include waivers (to be provided by the new club of the player) and contract offers (by former club of the player), among others.

5.n. How may a training club challenge a waiver provided by the new club of the player in an EPP?

The respective training club may challenge the validity of the waiver provided by the new club by submitting its position in TMS along the documentation it deems relevant in support of its challenge.

5.o. How may a new club challenge a contract offer provided by the former club of the player in an EPP?

The new club may challenge the validity or content of the contract offer provided by the training club (or prove that the training club is not able to provide a contract offer) by submitting its position in TMS along the documentation it deems relevant in support of its challenge.

5.p. What happens if the provided information within the context of a document (or its challenge) is unclear?

The FIFA general secretariat may request any party involved in an EPP review process to provide further information at any time.

5.q. How will FIFA contact the parties involved in an EPP for requesting further information (art. 10.2 CHR)?

FIFA will contact the parties via a communication tool directly available in the relevant EPP in TMS, under the tab "Messages". Parties will be notified in TMS and via email of new messages from FIFA in an EPP.

5.r. What can a member association do in cases where the EPP review process has been started, or the EPP has become final, and they did not participate in the EPP, despite the player having been registered at their member association?

A member association that has failed to request its participation during the inspection period (art. 8.3 CHR) may not participate to the EPP review process unless being requested to do so by the FIFA general secretariat (art. 9.1 e)).

5.s. For which complex matters may an EPP be referred to the DRC for decision?

The FIFA general secretariat may recognise situations of legal or factual complexity in an EPP and refer them to the DRC, such as, but not limited to, the alleged registration of a player or the validity of a waiver or a contract offer (art. 10.3 CHR).

5.t. How does the adjudication work in cases of referral of the matter to the DRC for decision?

The EPP review process will be paused pending the DRC decision and the status in TMS in the EPP of relevance will indicate that the EPP has been referred to the DRC. The DRC will decide on the case(s) of legal and/or factual complexity contained in the EPP, following art. 28bis of the Procedural Rules of the Football Tribunal (Procedural Rules) and in line with art. 22 par. 1 lit. f) of the RSTP.

5.u. Can the EPP and the Allocation Statement be appealed by the parties in an EPP process?

Yes. The final EPP (containing the grounds of the decision of the DRC) and the Allocation Statement will be notified to the clubs and member association participating in the EPP review process via TMS (art. 10.5 CHR). There is a period of 21 days for any party of the EPP review process to appeal at CAS the final EPP and/or the Allocation Statement.

Once the EPP is final and binding, the FIFA Clearing House procedure (compliance assessment and payment) can start.

5.v. What happens if one of the notified documents is timely appealed at CAS?

A valid and timely appeal to CAS suspends the legal effects of an EPP and of the corresponding Allocation Statement for the duration of the respective proceedings before CAS (art. 10.5 lit. d)).

5.w. Where and how long will the final EPP be available for member associations and clubs?

A final EPP for each training rewards trigger will be permanently available in TMS for inspection by all member associations and clubs (art. 10.6 CHR).

5.x. What happens if a member association fails to provide accurate registration information during an EPP review process or whose electronic player registration system and/or electronic domestic transfer system is not integrated with the FIFA Connect Interface?

The member association in question may face the following sanction(s) (art. 17.3 CHR):

- A fine; and
- An order to pay to its affiliated club the training rewards that it did not receive as a consequence of the wrong or missing information provided, or as a consequence of the failure to communicate/manually declare a trigger.

5.y. What happens if a member association fails to automatically communicate or manually declare a training rewards trigger to FIFA?

The member association in question may face the following sanction(s) (art. 17.4 CHR):

- A fine; and
- An order to pay restitution to the training club, an amount equivalent to the training reward that should have been paid, if there had been no failure by the relevant member association.

6. Proof of payment – Article 11

6.a. How will the declaration of the proof of payment of transfer compensation trigger the distribution of payments of solidarity contribution?

When an international or domestic transfer with payments is declared, a corresponding EPP is generated in TMS for review by the clubs and member associations.

Once the EPP has been finalized, each proof of payment declared or uploaded in relation to the transfer of the player in question will trigger the generation of an allocation statement for distribution of the corresponding solidarity contribution. If the proof of payment is declared or uploaded before the EPP becomes final, the corresponding allocation statement will be generated once the EPP is finalized.

6.b. Which amount must be retained in the payment of transfer compensation for the purpose of solidarity contribution?

The proof of payment declared to FIFA plays a crucial role in the calculation of training rewards.

Following article 1 of Annexe 5 to the RSTP, 5% of any transfer compensation shall be deducted for payment of solidarity contribution; consequently, the amount declared in the proof of payment within TMS will be considered to always reflect the 95% of the respective transfer compensation.

Member associations and clubs shall consider this when making and declaring payments of transfer compensation that trigger payment of solidarity contribution through the FIFA Clearing House.

7. FIFA Clearing House: compliance and payment process – Articles 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16

7.a. Which payments will be processed and which will not be processed through the FIFA Clearing House?

The FIFA Clearing House will only process payments based on Allocation Statements received from FIFA. The FIFA Clearing House will not process any other transactions, and clubs or member associations are not able to request any payments to be made.

In addition, payments will only be processed once the relevant clubs involved in the transaction have passed a compliance assessment.

7.b. Who bears the banking fees when payments are made to or from the FIFA Clearing House?

When a new club makes a payment to the FIFA Clearing House all costs charged by the bank of the new club to make the payment are to be borne by the new club. This is the same for any

charges to convert funds when the new club does not hold an account in the currency being requested by the FIFA Clearing House. It is essential that the FIFA Clearing House receives the full amount requested in the correct currency. Any shortfall can lead to sanction for a payment failure according to article 17.6.

The FIFA Clearing House will bear banking fees for payment out to the training club(s) in the currency stipulated in the allocation statement. If the training club does not hold an account in that currency the training club's bank may charge fees to convert to the local currency. These fees will be the responsibility of the training club.

7.c. How will the levy of 2.5% be paid to the training clubs in cases where the new club fails to pay the requested amount to the FIFA Clearing House by the specified deadline (art. 13 par. 4)?

When a new club fails to pay the full amount to the FIFA Clearing House within the 30-day deadline, the FIFA Clearing House will issue a dunning notification to the club with the 2.5% levy applied and giving the club further 7 days to make the full payment.

If the new club makes the full payment after the 30-day deadline and before the further 7-day deadline, including the 2.5% levy, then the payment will be made to the training club, including the corresponding 2.5% levy, as per the normal payment process through the FIFA Clearing House.

7.d. How will the FIFA Clearing House contact clubs and member associations for processing of payments?

The contact information available in TMS will be used for the primary contact at the club or member association.

i. Where the club or member association is active in TMS, then the TMS manager will be the primary contact.

ii. Where the club is not active in TMS but some contact information is available, this will be used as the primary contact.

iii. Where no club contact information is available, the contact details of the member association TMS manager will be provided. The FIFA Clearing House will then contact the member association TMS manager to provide contact details of the club.

7.e. Why is the transitory measure in article 16 par. 1 lit. f) applicable until 31 December 2023? What is the purpose of this transitory measure?

FIFA understands that the FIFA Clearing House processes will be new to many clubs. To ensure that the payment of training rewards is not unduly affected by the implementation of the FIFA Clearing House, this measure will ensure that, where a Training Club has passed a compliance assessment and should receive funds, this entitlement will not be delayed due to a failure of a new club to pass a compliance assessment in the first year of operations.

7.f. Is a bank account required to pass the compliance assessment of the FIFA Clearing House?

Yes, each club or member association that is due to pay or receive training rewards must have a bank account in its own name. As part of the compliance assessment, the club will be required to provide evidence that the account is in its own name.

For the avoidance of doubt, if funds are received from a different account to that which was identified in the compliance assessment, the funds will be rejected.

7.g. Which information do clubs need to provide to the FIFA Clearing House for their compliance assessment?

The information to be provided to the FIFA Clearing House will vary depending on the risk rating of the party. It is at the FIFA Clearing House's discretion as to what documents need to be provided. The original copy of the documents needs to be provided, together with a translation into one of the three FIFA official languages (English, Spanish or French) if not originally issued in one of those languages. At a minimum, the club will be required to provide:

i. For the legal entity

   a. Certified copy of trade register, or equivalent

   b. Articles of association, or equivalent

   c. Bank statement for account to be used in the transaction in the name of the club

ii. For the legal representatives and Ultimate Beneficial Owners (UBOs)

   a. Certified copy of valid passport or ID

7.h. How will clubs or member associations be informed if they fail to pass a compliance assessment by the FIFA Clearing House?

Once a decision has been taken by the FIFA Clearing House it will be communicated to the relevant party via email to the primary club contact.

7.i. What can a club or member association do if they fail to pass a compliance assessment by the FIFA Clearing House?

Any decision of the FIFA Clearing House is final and binding; however, clubs have an opportunity to provide any missing documentation as part of the second compliance assessment. The allocation statement will be resubmitted to perform a second compliance assessment automatically 6 months after the notification of the first compliance failure, or before if the club requests it to the FIFA Administration at clearinghouse@fifa.org.

Any compliance failure will be subject to disciplinary proceedings according to article 17 of the regulations. If the cause for the failure is beyond the parties' control, this will be taken into account in the disciplinary process.

7.j. What does a club have to do in the 6-month window before a second compliance assessment?

Where a club has failed a first compliance assessment, the club should use the 6-month period to address the issue(s) which contributed to the failure. Once the club believes they have resolved the situation which caused the failure, they can request the FIFA administration to resubmit the allocation statement to the FIFA Clearing House to trigger the second compliance assessment. If no request is made by the club, then the allocation statement will be resubmitted automatically 6 months after the notification of the first compliance failure to the club.

7.k. What if a club has a second transaction with the FIFA Clearing House after having failed a first compliance assessment but before the expiry of the 6-month deadline for the second compliance assessment?

It is important to note that each transaction is treated individually, so a pass or failure for one transaction does not impact on whether the club will pass or fail for a different transaction.

8. Sanctions, disputes and procedures – Articles 17 and 18

8.a. Can training clubs still lodge claims at FIFA for the payment of solidarity contribution or training compensation?

For transfers/registrations that occurred up until 15 November 2022, a training club may lodge a claim for training rewards against the new club in TMS, in accordance with art. 27 and 28 of the Procedural Rules. Training rewards relating to instalments falling due after 16 November 2022 that nevertheless result from transfers concluded before the entering into force of the CHR will be also paid and processed via the current claims system.

For transfers/registrations occurred as from 16 November 2022, claims are no longer possible, and they are substituted by the EPP review process (see section 5).

As an exception to the previous, and only for training clubs that did not take part in the EPP review process and comply with the rest of the requirements of art. 18.2 of the CHR (see questions 8.b), a claim may be lodged for training rewards against the relevant clubs.

8.b. How may a training club claim training rewards payments once the EPP is final, if it was excluded but believes it should have been included in the EPP?

As per art. 18.2 of the CHR, a club that:

a) did not take part in the relevant EPP review process; and

b) considers, as a result of a bridge transfer (cf. article 5bis of the RSTP), exchange of players or information declared by the new club or its member association (including the training category of the club), that:

i. it was incorrectly not entitled to any training rewards, or entitled to a lesser amount than should have been calculated; or

ii. an EPP review process should have taken place; and

c) considers that it is entitled to receive training rewards,

may lodge a claim against the relevant clubs in accordance with article 27 of the Procedural Rules.

8.c. Which FIFA body will adjudicate on such cases?

The Dispute Resolution Chamber is competent to hear such disputes in accordance with art. 22 par. 1 lit. d), e) and f) of the RSTP.

8.d. Will such a claim be processed within the EPP of reference?

No, such a claim will be processed in TMS in accordance with art. 27 and 28 of the Procedural Rules.

8.e. How can a club lift a ban on registering players imposed under articles 17.6 and 17.8?

To lift the registration ban due to a second compliance failure or failure to make a payment to either the FIFA Clearing House or a training club, the club must either pass the subsequent compliance assessment, or make the full payment, providing the relevant proof of payment to the FIFA administration.

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