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TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1190

Zurich, 20 May 2009
SG/mku

Revised Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players – Protection of minors

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that the FIFA Executive Committee approved a number of additions and amendments to certain provisions of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (hereinafter: the regulations) at its meetings on 18 December 2008 and 19 March 2009. These additional and amended provisions will come into force on 1 October 2009.

We enclose an unbound version of the revised regulations for your information and records. The revised regulations are also available on FIFA's website (www.FIFA.com), from where they can of course be downloaded. Three copies of the rules in their usual booklet form will follow under separate cover within the next months.

From the enclosed regulations, you will note that in addition to certain purely linguistic amendments, the revised regulations also contain additions and amendments to their content, the vast majority of which relate to the protection of minors as well as of the clubs investing in the training and education of young players. In particular, we would like to draw your attention to the four new and/or amended provisions (art. 19 par. 4, 19bis, 25 par. 2 and 5 par. 3 of Annexe 4 of the regulations) concerning the creation of a sub-committee for the protection of minors (cf. art. 19 par. 4), registration and reporting of minors at academies (cf. art 19bis), costs of proceedings (cf. art. 25 par. 2) as well as the calculation of training compensation for very young players (cf. art. 5 par. 3 of Annexe 4).

In this respect, it should be emphasised that at the same time, art. 19 and 19bis have been placed on the list of articles that are binding at national level and must be included without amendment in association regulations (cf. art. 1 par. 3a). In this regard, you are requested to take the necessary measures immediately.

In particular, we would like to emphasise that a sub-committee appointed by the Players' Status Committee will be in charge of the examination and possible approval of every international transfer of a minor player and every first registration of a minor player who is not a national of the country in which he wishes to be registered for the first time. Equally,

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we would like to underline that the sub-committee's approval must be obtained prior to any request from an association for an International Transfer Certificate and/or a first registration. Finally, please note that the relevant provision also confers on the FIFA Disciplinary Committee the competence to sanction associations and clubs that do not comply with the relevant rules (cf. 19 par. 4). The sub-committee will be composed of 11 members as follows: AFC (1), CAF (1), CONCACAF (1), CONMEBOL (1), OFC (1), UEFA (1), leagues (1), clubs (1), players (1), chairman und deputy chairman of the Players' Status Committee. Any member of the sub-committee may be appointed as a single judge for urgent cases.

Moreover, we would like to draw your attention to the new art. 19bis, according to which all clubs that operate an academy with legal, financial or de facto links to the club are obliged to report all minor players to the association upon whose territory the academy operates. Furthermore, each association is obliged to ensure that all players attending an academy that is not linked to a club in the aforementioned sense are reported to the association. Again, please note that the relevant provision confers on the FIFA Disciplinary Committee the competence to sanction violations of said provision and that art. 19 also applies to the reporting of all minor players who are not nationals of the country in which they wish to be reported.

Furthermore, we also refer you to the amended art. 5 par. 3 of Annexe 4, which now stipulates that where the event giving rise to the right to training compensation occurs before the end of the season of the player's 18th birthday, the training costs for players for the seasons between their 12th and 15th birthdays (i.e. four seasons) shall no longer be based on the training and education costs of category 4 clubs, but on the category of the new club. This means that if the player moves at the age of 17, his new club would also have to pay training compensation on the basis of its category for the seasons between his 12th and 15th birthdays. However, where the player moves at the age of 19, the training and education costs of category 4 clubs would continue to be applied for the seasons between his 12th and 15th birthdays.

Finally, we would like to inform you that art. 25 par. 2 has been amended in accordance with the provisions contained in the Rules Governing the Procedures of the Players' Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber. The aforementioned provision now stipulates that costs of a maximum of CHF 25,000 will also be levied in connection with proceedings before the Dispute Resolution Chamber, but only in relation to disputes regarding training compensation and the solidarity mechanism.

Last but not least, we would also like to emphasise that the terms "*minor*" and "*academy*" have also been included in the definition section of the regulations.

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We believe that the additions and amendments to the regulations will better monitor and control the observance of the rules pertaining to the protection of minors in order to safeguard young players as well as training clubs from being exploited.

We thank you for taking note of the above.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

Encl. (will be provided shortly)

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

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