

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1356

Zurich, 13 May 2013
SG/mav/oon

Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players – Release of players to association teams

Dear Sir or Madam,

On the occasion of its meeting on 29 March 2012, the FIFA Executive Committee decided to accept the new concept for the international match calendar for the 2015-2018 period. The relevant principles shall be applied as of August 2014, i.e. following the completion of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil™. Please be informed that the updated international match calendar comprising the dates for the period second half of 2014 until 2018 in accordance with this new concept is available on our official webpage, FIFA.com.

We would now like to inform you that following the above-mentioned decision, on the occasion of its meeting held on 20/21 March 2013, the FIFA Executive Committee adopted the necessary amendments to Annexe 1, art. 1 and Annexe 1, art. 3 par. 2 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, which are required in order to provide the adequate regulatory basis in support of the release of players to association teams in line with the new concept. Please find enclosed a copy of the relevant provisions for your perusal.

As mentioned above, the new principles will apply as of August 2014. Consequently, the amended provisions concerned will only come into effect as of 1 August 2014. The new Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players booklet will be released on time.

Finally, and for the sake of good order, we would like to emphasise that the new concept and amended provisions only concern the release of male players to their association teams. The FIFA women's international match calendar and the respective release rules will thus not be affected.

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We thank you for your kind attention to the above and remain at your disposal should you have any queries in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Markus Kattner
Deputy Secretary General

Encl. as mentioned

- cc: - FIFA Executive Committee
- Players' Status Committee
- Confederations
- ECA
- FIFPro
- EPFL

Annexe 1, art. 1 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players**Annexe 1, article 1**

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™, FIFA Confederations 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 international match calendar for the period of four or eight years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph 4 below). Following the publication of the international match calendar only the final competitions of the FIFA World Cup™, FIFA Confederations Cup and of the championships for "A" representative teams of the confederations will be added.
4. An international window is defined as a period of nine days starting on a Monday morning and ending on Tuesday night the following week, which is reserved for representative teams' activities. During any international window a maximum of two matches may be played by each representative team, irrespective of whether these matches are qualifying matches for an international tournament or friendlies. The pertinent matches can be scheduled any day as from Wednesday during the international window, provided that a minimum of two full calendar days are left between two matches (e.g. Thursday/Sunday or Saturday/Tuesday).
5. Representative teams shall play the two matches within an international window on the territory of the same confederation, with the only exception of inter-continental play-off matches. If at least one of the two matches is a friendly, they can be played in two different confederations only if the distance between the venues does not exceed a total of five flight hours, according to the official schedule of the airline, and two time-zones.
6. It is not compulsory to release players outside an international window or outside the final competitions as per paragraph 2 above included in the international match calendar. It is not compulsory to release the same player for more than one "A" representative team final competition per year. Exceptions to this rule can be established by the FIFA Executive Committee for the FIFA Confederations Cup only.
7. For international windows, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than Monday morning and must start the travel back to their club no later than the next Wednesday morning following the end of the international window. For a final competition in the sense of paragraphs 2 and 3 above, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team no later than Monday morning the week preceding the week when the relevant final competition starts and must be released by the association in the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.
8. The clubs and associations concerned may agree a longer period of release or different arrangements with regard to paragraph 7 above.

9. Players complying with a call-up from their association under the terms of this article shall resume duty with their clubs no later than 24 hours after the end of the period for which they had to be released. This period shall be extended to 48 hours if the representative teams' activities concerned took place in a different confederation to the one in which the player's club is registered. Clubs shall be informed in writing of a player's outbound and return schedule ten days before the start of the release period. Associations shall ensure that players are able to return to their clubs on time after the match.
10. If a player does not resume duty with his club by the deadline stipulated in this article, at explicit request, the FIFA Players' Status Committee shall decide that the next time the player is called up by his association the period of release shall be shortened as follows:
 - a. international window: by two days
 - b. final competition of an international tournament: by five days
11. Should an association repeatedly breach these provisions, the FIFA Players' Status Committee may impose appropriate sanctions, including but not limited to:
 - a. fines;
 - b. a reduction of the period of release;
 - c. a ban on calling up a player(s) for subsequent)representative teams' activities.

Annexe 1, art. 3 par. 2 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players**Annexe 1, article 3, par. 2**

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