

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1466

Zurich, 9 January 2015

DSG/rho

FIFA Club Protection Programme 2015-2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

FIFA is pleased to announce that the FIFA Club Protection Programme (hereinafter: "the Programme"; approved by the FIFA Congress in May 2012 for the initial period of 1 September 2012 to 31 December 2014) has been extended to cover the period 2015 to 2018. Under the Programme, clubs will be compensated, to a certain extent, if their professional football players (hereinafter: "players") are injured due to an accident while on duty with senior representative "A" teams for matches on dates listed in the international match calendar for the period between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2018.

The conditions and limits of such compensation are specified in the enclosed updated Technical Bulletin of the FIFA Club Protection Programme. Death, permanent disablement and other losses such as medical expenses or the like are not covered.

In particular, we would like to draw your attention to the following points:

- **Women's football:** with effect from 1 January 2015, professional female football players are now **covered** under the Programme. The same terms and conditions as for the male players apply (as described in the latest edition of the Technical Bulletin).
- **Matches and period covered:** The Programme covers the entire period whilst the players are under the control of the respective member association for matches between two representative "A" teams played on dates listed in the FIFA international match calendar, or on dates covered by the corresponding release periods as defined in Annexe 1 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. For the teams participating in the 2018 FIFA World Cup™, the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015™, the FIFA Confederations Cup 2017, confederation final tournaments or the Olympic Football Tournaments 2016 (men's and women's), the Programme also covers the entire preparation period and all friendly matches within this period. **Any other matches and matches that fall outside the dates mentioned above are not covered.**
- **Existing injuries: players with injuries** that already exist when a player joins his/her national team for a match as mentioned above or for the 2018 FIFA World Cup™, the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015™, the FIFA Confederations Cup 2017, confederation final tournaments or the Olympic Football Tournaments 2016 (men's and women's), i.e. injuries for which a player is

receiving specific medical treatment when joining the representative "A" team for duty, **are not covered for the part of the body concerned**. The enclosed Technical Bulletin defines what is meant by such existing injuries.

With regard to players participating in the 2018 FIFA World Cup™, the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015™, the FIFA Confederations Cup 2017, confederation final tournaments or the Olympic Football Tournaments 2016 (men's and women's), a special procedure has been put in place enabling players who fully recover from an existing injury when already on representative team duty and thus no longer need medical treatment for that specific injury to be covered by the Programme. The respective procedure is explained in section 2.d) of the enclosed Technical Bulletin. We advise all parties involved to treat such cases cautiously and responsibly, bearing in mind that a player will not be fully covered by the Programme until he/she has completely recovered from his/her existing injury and full cover has been confirmed in accordance with this special procedure.

The enclosed Technical Bulletin explains the content, scope and limits of the Programme, as well as the claims procedure. We advise you to read it carefully and to make sure that your relevant staff as well as all your professional clubs receive a copy of this letter and the enclosure. Please note that this letter is for information purposes only. With regard to the conditions and specifics of the Programme, the only authoritative and binding documents are the latest version of the Technical Bulletin and the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

We trust that the extension of the Programme will further foster the relationship between clubs and national teams. Should you need clarification regarding any aspects of the Programme, please contact FIFA at clubsprotection@fifa.org.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Markus Kattner
Deputy Secretary General

cc: - FIFA Executive Committee
- Confederations