

## **TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA**

Circular no. 1174

Zurich, 12 January 2009

SG/mav

### **FIFA Transfer Matching System – directive from the FIFA Executive Committee**

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you know, the 57<sup>th</sup> FIFA Congress in Zurich decided to introduce a transfer matching system as part of the work of the FIFA Task Force "For the Good of the Game".

The objective of the transfer matching system is, on the one hand, to make sure that football's authorities have more details available to them on each and every transfer, and on the other hand, to increase the transparency of individual transactions, which will in turn improve the credibility and standing of the entire transfer system. At the same time, the system will also ensure that it is indeed a player who is being transferred and not merely a fictitious player being used to move money ("money-laundering"), and it will also safeguard the protection of minors.

The implementation and support of the system is being managed by FIFA Transfer Matching System GmbH (FIFA TMS), a subsidiary of FIFA. FIFA TMS is currently visiting all member associations in order to present the system and to train the relevant clubs. While participation in the workshops has generally been good, once clubs have to enter transfers independently, compliance has been very poor since only 6% of all international transfers have actually been entered in the system.

This lack of compliance will certainly affect the clubs' preparations for the exclusive period in September 2010 when each and every transfer will have to be entered in the system. It is obvious that this poor compliance is endangering the project, since it is of crucial importance that clubs fully use the system following their training.

In view of the above, the FIFA Executive Committee, at its last meeting in Tokyo on 19-20 December 2008, decided to issue a directive obliging all clubs to use the transfer matching system for their transfers after their association has been visited by FIFA TMS. Clubs that do not use the system, even though their association has been visited by FIFA TMS, will be reported to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. With this directive, we believe that the project can be pushed forward and finally brought to a successful roll out.

Furthermore, we would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that the transfer matching system will monitor all international transfers of players, including those cases in which players are



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provisionally registered for a new club in view of the fact that the former association did not reply to the new association's request for the issuance of an international transfer certificate (ITC) within 30 days of the ITC request being made. In order to also enable FIFA TMS to check compliance with the system in cases of the relevant "*provisional registration*" of players in the sense of Annexe 3, art. 2 par. 5 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, upon the provisional registration of a player on the basis of the above-mentioned provision, the association concerned shall immediately notify the association of the player's former club, as well as FIFA, of the relevant provisional registration while indicating the status of the player (amateur or professional) with the new club.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions in this connection.

We thank you for taking note and for informing your clubs accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jérôme Valcke  
Secretary General

cc: FIFA Executive Committee  
Players' Status Committee  
Disciplinary Committee  
Confederations  
FIFA Transfer Matching System GmbH