TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1479

Zurich, 11 March 2015
DSG/mfa/tgi

Compliance with the men’s international match calendar stipulations for the September 2014 to July 2018 period

Dear Sir or Madam,

As communicated in FIFA circulars 1355 and 1356, new international match calendar stipulations came into effect following the completion of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil™. The stipulations were accompanied by alterations to annexe 1 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

FIFA would like to remind you of several points arising from the new international match calendar and the respective aforementioned annexe 1:

• An “international window” is a period of nine days from a Monday morning to the Tuesday night of the following week. During this period a representative team may play a maximum of two matches from the first Wednesday (i.e. matches shall not be played on the first Monday or Tuesday).

• There shall be a minimum of three days between the two matches (i.e. two full days without matches).

• As a general rule, the representative teams shall play the two matches on the territory of the same confederation. If a representative team’s two matches are not played on the territory of the same confederation the maximum flight time between the venues of the two matches shall be five hours over a maximum of two time zones.

• If representative teams exceptionally play matches outside an international window established in the international match calendar, clubs are not obligated to release their registered players for these matches. The possible release of players for these matches is to be determined between the clubs and the member associations.

As determined by article 82 of the FIFA Statutes, all international matches shall be authorised in accordance with the Regulations Governing International Matches.
The international match calendar was conceived in order to provide a structure balancing the needs of the various stakeholders, including confederations, member associations, clubs, leagues and players. FIFA's attention has been called to instances of non-compliance with the relevant stipulations and regulations, particularly with regards to the scheduling of matches and the call-up of players. FIFA requests your compliance with the relevant stipulations and regulations in order to maintain the integrity of this structure.

It must be emphasised that the release of players for matches exceptionally played outside the international windows established in the international match calendar is not an obligation for clubs and is a matter of goodwill on their behalf.

If you or your affiliated clubs have any questions with regard to the international match calendar, please do not hesitate to contact FIFA.

Yours faithfully,

Fédération Internationale de Football Association

Markus Kattner
Deputy Secretary General

cc: - FIFA Executive Committee
- Confederations