TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1489

Zurich, 12 June 2015
DSG/dse

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

On the occasion of its meeting on 25 and 26 September 2014, the FIFA Executive Committee approved the new concept for the women’s international match calendar as well as the relevant dates for the 2015-2016 period (cf. FIFA circular no. 1448 of 13 October 2014). The relevant principles shall be applied as of August 2015, i.e. following the completion of the FIFA Women’s World Cup Canada 2015™. Please be informed that the updated women’s international match calendar comprising the dates for the period second half of 2015 until 2016 in accordance with this new concept is accessible 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 25/26 May 2015, the FIFA Executive Committee approved the required new art. 1bis to Annexe 1 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, which will provide the adequate regulatory basis in support of the release of female players to association teams in line with the pertinent 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 2015. Consequently, the amended provisions concerned will also only come into effect as of 1 August 2015. The new booklet of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players will be released in due course.

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
Enc. as mentioned

cc:  - FIFA Executive Committee
     - Confederations
     - Player's Status Committee
     - Committee for Women's Football and the FIFA Women's World Cup™
Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

New art. 1bis of Annexe 1

1 Principles for women’s football

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 her 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 women’s international match calendar (cf. paragraphs 3 and 4 below) as well as for the final competitions of the FIFA Women’s World Cup™, the Women’s Olympic Football Tournament, the championships for “A” women’s representative teams of the confederations, subject to the relevant association being a member of the organising confederation, and the confederations’ final round qualification tournaments for the Women’s Olympic Football Tournament (maximum release period of 12 days).

3. After consultation with the relevant stakeholders, FIFA publishes the women’s international match calendar for the period of two or four years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph 4 below). Following the publication of the women’s international match calendar, only the final competitions of the FIFA Women’s World Cup™, the Women’s Olympic Football Tournament, the championships for “A” women’s representative teams of the confederations and the confederations’ final round qualification tournaments for the Women’s Olympic Football Tournament will be added.

4. There are three types of international windows:
   a. Type I 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 the type I 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 on 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).
   b. Type II 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 the confederations’ qualifying mini-tournaments of representative teams. During the type II international window, a maximum of three matches may be played by each representative team.
   c. Type III is defined as a period of ten days starting on a Monday morning and ending on Wednesday night the following week, which is reserved for a friendly tournament of representative teams to be played in February/March of every calendar year. During the type III international window, a maximum of four matches may be played by each representative team.

5. It is not compulsory to release players outside an international window or outside the competitions listed in paragraph 2 above that are included in the women’s international match calendar.
6. For all three types of 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 (types I and II) or the next Thursday morning (type III) following the end of the international window. For the confederations’ final round qualification tournaments for the Women’s Olympic Football Tournament, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than Monday morning before the opening match of the qualification tournament and must be released by the association in the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament. 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 14 days before the opening match of the relevant final competition in the morning, and must be released by the association in the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.

7. The clubs and associations concerned may agree a longer period of release or different arrangements with regard to paragraph 6 above.

8. 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.

9. If a player does not resume duty with her 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 her 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

10. 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.