TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1516

Zurich, 11 December 2015
ASG/sco/jya

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

On the occasion of its meeting no. 33 held in Marrakech on 18 and 19 December 2014, the FIFA Executive Committee approved the first-ever futsal international match calendar as well as the relevant dates for the 2016-2020 period (cf. FIFA circular no. 1471 of 27 January 2015). The relevant principles shall be applied as of January 2016. The updated futsal international match calendar comprising the confirmed dates for the continental qualification competitions for the FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016 due to take place in the first half of 2016 was published in October 2015.

We would now like to inform you that at its meeting held on December 2015, the FIFA Executive Committee approved the required new art. 1ter of 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 futsal players to association teams. Please find enclosed a copy of the relevant provisions for your perusal.

As mentioned above, the new principles will apply as of January 2016. Consequently, the new article will come into effect on 1 January 2016. The new printed edition 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,

FIFA

[Signature]

Markus Kattner
Acting Secretary General

Enc. as mentioned

cc:  - FIFA Executive Committee
     - Confederations
     - Futsal Committee
     - Players’ Status Committee
Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

Release of players to association teams

New art. 1ter of Annexe 1

1 Priniciples for futsal

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 futsal international match calendar (cf. paragraphs 3 and 4 below) as well as for the final competitions of the FIFA Futsal World 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 futsal international match calendar for the period of five years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph 4 below). Following the publication of the futsal international match calendar, only the final competitions of the FIFA Futsal World Cup and of the championships for “A” representative teams of the confederations will be added.

4. There are two types of international windows:
   a. Type I 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 representative teams’ activities. During a Type I international window, a maximum of four matches may be played by each representative team, irrespective of whether these matches are qualifying matches for an international tournament or friendlies. Representative teams can play the maximum of four matches within an international window of Type I in no more than two confederations.
   b. Type II is defined as a period of four days starting on a Sunday morning and ending on Wednesday night the following week, which is reserved for representative teams’ activities. During a Type II 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. Representative teams shall play the maximum of two matches within an international window of Type II on the territory of the same confederation.

5. It is not compulsory to release players outside an international window or outside the final competitions as per paragraph 2 above included in the futsal international match calendar.

6. For both types of international windows, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than the first morning of the window (i.e. Sunday or Monday, respectively), and must start the travel back to their club no later than the Thursday morning following the end of the international window. For a final competition of the championships for “A” representative teams of the confederations, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team in the morning 12 days before 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. For the FIFA Futsal World Cup, players must be released and start the travel to their
representative team in the morning 14 days before the World Cup starts 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 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 windows: 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.