TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1542

Zurich, 1 June 2016
MAV/mku

Amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you of several amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (hereinafter: the Regulations), which were approved by the FIFA Executive Committee on the occasion of its meeting held in Zurich, Switzerland, on 17 and 18 March 2016.

All of the relevant changes and additions will come into force on 1 June 2016.

You will find the various articles and provisions concerned enclosed to this circular letter, for your and your clubs’ perusal. The relevant parts have been emphasised for ease of reference. Equally, the revised edition of the Regulations will be available soon on FIFA.com. Finally, three hard copies of the pertinent documents will be sent to all member associations in due course.

As you will note from the enclosed provisions, most of the amendments concern Annexe 1 to the Regulations, which governs the release of players to association teams.

First, the amendment to Annexe 1, art. 6 of the Regulations aims at having a uniform approach with respect to possible breaches of FIFA regulations. As a matter of principle, they should be dealt with by FIFA’s judicial bodies in application of the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

Nevertheless, and secondly the very specific provisions of Annexe 1, art. 1 par. 11 of the Regulations concerning the consequences of a late return of a player to his club after international duty will remain within the competence of the Players’ Status Committee, since they relate to the typical particularity of the release rules and to avoid a disproportionate adaptation of the FIFA Disciplinary Code. Finally, a linguistic simplification of Annexe 1, art. 5 of the Regulations has been approved.

The other amendments concern the provisions on the protection of minors. The wording of art. 19 paras 3 and 4 of the Regulations has been amended in order for it to adequately reflect the well-established jurisprudence of the Sub-Committee of the Players’ Status Committee in relation to the so-called “five-year rule”..

...
The aforementioned rule created by jurisprudence allows for the first registration of a minor player for a club in a territory of a country of which he is not a national, provided that he has lived continuously for at least five years in that territory immediately prior to the intended first registration. It is worth mentioning that said rule is already included as an application of its own in the transfer matching system (TMS). As such, the current amendment of the provision does not constitute any change to the existing practice and constant jurisprudence.

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

We thank you for your kind attention to the above.

Yours faithfully,

Fédération Internationale de Football Association

[Signature]

Marco Villiger
Deputy Secretary General

Encl. as mentioned

cc: - FIFA Council
- Players' Status Committee
- Dispute Resolution Chamber
- Sub-Committee of the Players' Status Committee
- Disciplinary Committee
- Confederations
- ECA
- FIFPro
- EPFL
Amendments to Annexe 1 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players: Release of players to association teams

New text (amendments in bold)

Art. 1 Principles

...  

10. 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 window: by two days
   b) final competition of an international tournament: by five days

11. Should an association repeatedly breach these provisions, the FIFA Players' Status Committee may decide:
   a) to further reduce the period of release;
   b) to ban the association from calling up a player(s) for subsequent representative teams' activities.

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New text (amendments in bold)

Art. 5 Restrictions on playing

A player who has been called up by his association for one of its representative teams is, unless otherwise agreed by the relevant association, not entitled to play for the club with which he is registered during the period for which he has been released or should have been released pursuant to the provisions of this annexe, plus an additional period of five days.

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New text (amendments in bold)

Art. 6 Disciplinary measures

Violations of any of the provisions set forth in this annexe shall result in the imposition of disciplinary measures to be decided by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee based on the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

(paragraphs 2. and 3. to be deleted)

Amendments to art. 19 par. 3 and 4 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players: Protection of minors

New text (amendments in bold)

Art. 19 Protection of minors
3. The conditions of this article shall also apply to any player who has never previously been registered with a club, is not a national of the country in which he wishes to be registered for the first time and has not lived continuously for at least the last five years in said country.

4. Every international transfer according to paragraph 2 and every first registration according to paragraph 3, as well as every first registration of a foreign minor player who has lived continuously for at least the last five years in the country in which he wishes to be registered, is subject to the approval of the subcommittee appointed by the Players’ Status Committee for that purpose. The application for approval shall be submitted by the association that wishes to register the player. […]