

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1587

Zurich, 13 June 2017

SG/MAV/kop

International transfers of professional minor players

Dear Sir or Madam,

We refer to the administrative procedure governing the international transfers of minor players to be registered at an association for a club as professionals.

With the purpose of avoiding any possible future misunderstandings concerning this matter, we would like to clarify the interpretation of the applicable provisions of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (hereinafter: *the Regulations*).

As you are certainly aware, the approval of the sub-committee of the Players' Status Committee (hereinafter: *the sub-committee*) is a compulsory requirement for any international transfer of a minor player and must be obtained prior to any request for an International Transfer Certificate (ITC; cf. art. 19 par. 4 of the Regulations).

In this regard, we wish to point out that art. 19 par. 4 of the Regulations does not affect the contents and applicability of the rules relating to the obligation of a club wishing to register a minor player as a professional to **enter all compulsory data and upload all mandatory documents to support the information** entered in the Transfer Matching System (TMS) **during one of the relevant registration periods** when creating the pertinent transfer instruction. In other words, the provisions pertaining to the registration periods apply to the registration of any player, regardless of whether the player is a minor or not.

In particular, we wish to draw your attention to art. 8.2 par. 1 of Annexe 3 in combination with art. 4 paras 2 and 3 of Annexe 3 of the Regulations, which stipulate, *inter alia*, that all data relating to the transfer instruction allowing the new association to request an ITC, including for a professional minor player, shall be entered into the TMS by the club wishing to register the (minor) player during one of the registration periods established by that association. When entering the relevant data, the new club shall, depending on the selected instruction type, upload all mandatory documents prior to the end of the relevant registration period. The required application to the sub-committee does not relieve the new club from the aforementioned obligations and from respecting such time limits.

Furthermore, in consideration of the aforementioned provisions of the Regulations, we would like to emphasise that the club wishing to register a minor player as a professional must immediately confirm and match the relevant data in the TMS as soon as the sub-committee's decision, whereby the sub-committee accepts the pertinent application for approval, is notified to the association concerned via the TMS. Please note that it is the responsibility of the association in question to immediately forward

decisions of the sub-committee notified to them via the TMS to their affiliated clubs concerned (cf. art. 2 of Annexe 2 of the Regulations).

Nevertheless, since art. 19 par. 4 of the Regulations makes it compulsory to receive the approval of the sub-committee prior to any ITC request for a minor player, the time needed to handle the relevant minor application leading to the decision of the sub-committee could possibly justify the ITC request being made by the association concerned after the end of the relevant registration period, if applicable.

If the relevant decision of the sub-committee is passed and notified to the association concerned during the registration period in question, resulting in the new club having not only to enter but also confirm and match the relevant data in the TMS before the end of that registration period in order to allow the new association to request the ITC for the minor player in the TMS on time, i.e. prior to the end of the relevant registration period (cf. art. 4 par. 5 of Annexe 3 and art. 8.1 par. 2 of Annexe 3 of the Regulations), the new association is not entitled to request the ITC for the minor player outside the relevant registration period.

If the relevant decision of the sub-committee is, however, passed and notified to the association concerned after the end of the registration period in question, the new club may confirm and match the relevant data in the TMS after the end of that registration period and the new association, for its part, may be entitled to request the ITC outside the registration period in question.

In view of the above, and in order to prevent any potential issues related to the application of the pertinent articles of the Regulations and respective registration proceedings, we kindly ask you to take due note of these clarifications and inform your affiliated clubs, in particular those intending to sign new minor players as professionals, accordingly.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Players' Status Department of FIFA if you have any questions in connection with any of the above.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Marco Villiger
Deputy Secretary General

cc: FIFA Council
Players' Status Committee
Confederations