



For the Game. For the World.

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1093

Zurich, 21 June 2007

GS/oon-mjo

Eligibility to play for association teams

Dear Sir or Madam,

Recently, a new situation regarding players' eligibility for association teams was brought to the attention of FIFA.

Certain players, who had never previously represented any national team and who fulfilled the conditions of FIFA circular letter no. 901 dated 19 March 2004 (that is, continuous residence for at least two years on the territory of the relevant association), had obtained the nationality of the country in question and been issued with a passport. However, under the designation "*nationality*", their passports indicated that the players were resident in that country. In response to a request for clarification from FIFA, the association in question produced a formal declaration from the country's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Nationality, certifying that the players were full nationals of the country, with all the rights and obligations and the same status as all other native nationals there.

FIFA was therefore unable to dispute the eligibility of the players concerned to play for the national team of their new association, as art. 15 par. 1 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes stipulates that any person holding the nationality of a country is eligible to play for that country's national team.

However, it has since transpired in the above-mentioned case that these players have been granted full nationality only for as long as they remain resident in the country and lose that status if they leave the country permanently.

As art. 2 (e) of the FIFA Statutes states that "the objectives of FIFA are ... to prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardise the integrity of matches or competitions or give rise to abuse of Association Football", the case clearly required further clarification.

According to article 15 par. 1 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes, the Executive Committee decides on the conditions of eligibility for any player who has not played international football by representing one association in a match (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category and acquires a new nationality.

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This situation was therefore presented to the Executive Committee for consideration at its last meeting on 27 May 2007.

The Executive Committee decided that, to avoid any abuse of the regulations, players would be entitled to represent the association of a certain country only if they had been granted nationality on a permanent basis, and it ruled that article 15 par. 1 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes must therefore include the following provision:

Eligibility shall be based on permanent nationality that is not dependent on residence, i.e. conditional nationality – the so-called “resident’s passport” – is insufficient.

It was also resolved that the new provision did not have a retroactive effect and would therefore not affect the results of previous matches in which an association had fielded a player who did not hold nationality in accordance with the amended terms.

The new provision comes into force immediately upon notification via this circular letter. Players who do not fulfil the amended criteria will therefore no longer be eligible to play for the association teams in question, even if they have represented the association previously.

Thank you for complying fully with these instructions.

Yours faithfully,
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Markus Kattner
Acting General Secretary

Cc: - FIFA Executive Committee
- Confederations