To the members of FIFA

Circular no. 1129

Zurich, 28 December 2007
GS/mav-ebr

National Dispute Resolution Chamber (NDRC) Standard Regulations, Standard Electoral Code and Standard Cooperation Agreement

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that the above-mentioned regulations were approved at the FIFA Executive Committee meeting on 29 October 2007. We would like to comment on said documents as follows:

1. National Dispute Resolution Chamber (NDRC) Standard Regulations

Only a few FIFA member associations have a judicial body that adjudicates on employment disputes between players and clubs. Because of this, FIFA or its Dispute Resolution Chamber have had to decide on a great many employment disputes in the past, regardless of whether the contractual disputes also concerned the issue of an International Transfer Certificate. To strengthen the jurisdiction of the member associations, FIFA has set itself the task of entrusting member associations with initial responsibility for adjudicating on employment disputes not involving international player transfers. This procedure will also enable the decision-making bodies to be closer to the circumstances giving rise to the disputes. In order to achieve this aim, FIFA has drawn up these National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations, which have been approved by the FIFA Executive Committee.

In order to make the regulations as acceptable as possible and in keeping with the composition of FIFA's own Dispute Resolution Chamber, the regulations state that the NDRC members must be composed of an equal number of player and club representatives. The NDRCs must also guarantee fair proceedings. In this regard, we make particular reference to circular no. 1010 of 20 December 2005.

The member associations are obliged to issue procedural rules based on the standard regulations passed by the FIFA Executive Committee and establish a judicial body accordingly. Member associations that have traditionally relied on a particular body for this purpose and have developed
their own procedural rules to this end may retain them provided that they are able to prove to FIFA that the principles of the standard regulations are duly respected. Furthermore, the member associations are naturally welcome to apply to FIFA for assistance with the introduction and implementation of their dispute resolution procedures.

In order to introduce the system as smoothly as possible, in the new year FIFA will contact member associations whose clubs have a high number of disputes pending before the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber. FIFA will work closely with these members to assist them with the implementation.

2. **Standard Electoral Code**

Elections at FIFA and its member associations must follow such democratic principles as the separation of powers and transparency. It has come to FIFA’s attention that certain member associations have paid too little heed to such democratic principles in the past. In particular, FIFA has noted governmental interference in elections at member association level on several occasions. In order to unify electoral procedures at FIFA’s member associations and ensure compliance with basic democratic guidelines during member association elections, the FIFA Executive Committee has passed a Standard Electoral Code.

Member associations are obliged to implement the Standard Electoral Code with immediate effect. Those associations that have traditionally entrusted another person or body within the association to supervise elections may continue with this practice provided that they are able to prove to FIFA that the basic principles of the Standard Electoral Code are respected.

3. **Standard Cooperation Agreement**

In the past, cooperation between member associations and government authorities has continually led to differences of opinion. These differences have come about because the scope of the parties' responsibilities has not been defined clearly enough. With a view to providing a basic reference work for future cooperation between member associations and government bodies, FIFA has drawn up a Standard Cooperation Agreement, which has been approved by the FIFA Executive Committee. Members are encouraged to use this draft agreement in future to improve cooperation with government bodies. Please be informed that this Standard Cooperation Agreement will be sent to you at the beginning of next year.

We request you to take note of their contents and implement them in a timely manner and would be pleased to provide any further information you may require.
Yours faithfully,

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Jerôme Valcke
General Secretary

cc: 
- FIFA Executive Committee
- Legal Committee
- Players' Status Committee
- Dispute Resolution Chamber
- Confederations
- FIFPro

Enc.: 
- National Dispute Resolution Chamber (NDRC) Standard Regulations
- Standard Electoral Code