To the national associations
affiliated to FIFA

Circular no. 818

Zurich, 12 September 2002
GS/gmo-hdh

Players unemployed after the expiry of the registration period

Dear General Secretary,

It has come to FIFA's attention that in various countries worldwide several non-amateur players have been unable to find employment with a club for the forthcoming season within the transfer registration period.

The strict application of the transfer registration periods would cause serious inconvenience to such players still looking for a club to sign them on, since on the one hand they would have no income and on the other they would not be allowed to register either domestically or internationally for a new club when the official transfer window has already closed.

The aforementioned situation involves significant social and sportive issues such as a player's fundamental right to employment, his right to set forth his football career, and the need to protect players from facing financial hardship. These aspects are particularly relevant in our present world economy that is currently going through a difficult time, the consequences of which are also directly reflected in the world of football.

In view of the abovementioned circumstances we hereby authorize the national associations to register outside of the established transfer registration periods all football players who were not bound by an employment contract before the expiry of the registration period, in the event they have ultimately found a club to register with. It falls within the purview of the national association to keep vigil over the maintenance of the integrity of the ongoing championships and hinder any potential abuse.

We thank you for taking note of the above and for duly communicating it to your affiliated clubs and players.

Yours faithfully,
FIFA

Dr. Urs Linsi
Acting General Secretary

cc: - Executive Committee
    - Players’ Status Committee
    - Confederations-
    - FIFPRO