

## TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1650

Zurich, 6 November 2018

SG/bas/sjb

### Women's international match calendar 2020-2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to provide you with the women's international match calendar for the 2020-2023 period (see enclosure), which was approved by the FIFA Council at its meeting on 26 October 2018. Please be informed that the updated calendar has also been published on FIFA.com.

The new four-year cycle has been devised based on extensive consultation involving representatives of the confederations, the leagues, the clubs and the players, and we would like to thank you for your contribution and support during this process.

This circular outlines the main aspects of the calendar as well as the information you will need to understand the calendar before it comes into force in January 2020, while focusing on the principal changes.

#### 1. Publication of the calendar

- All international windows have been included in the calendar as well as the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament (WOFT) and blocked periods for the championships of women's "A" representative teams of the confederations as well as for the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the WOFT.
- Confederations are required to notify FIFA, in writing, of the dates of their respective championships for women's "A" representative teams and final-round qualification tournaments for the WOFT (to be played within the specified blocked periods) at the latest two years in advance. They will then be added to the calendar.

#### 2. Types of windows

- Amended type II window: this was extended to ten days to allow for one extra rest day before matchday 1 (Monday to Wednesday night the following week). Matches can be scheduled as from Thursday. This window permits three matches. Furthermore, a minimum of two full calendar

rest days must be respected between matches. This window will be used for friendly tournaments of the representative teams and qualifying matches.

- Amended type III window: this was extended to 13 days starting on Monday and ending on Saturday night the following week. This window permits four matches as of Thursday in the first week while respecting the minimum of two full calendar days rest period between the matches, and is exclusively reserved for qualifying matches for the championships of the women's "A" representative teams of the confederations.

### **3. Release period prior for final competitions**

The release period prior to final competitions is from Monday morning of the week preceding the week when the relevant final competition commences.

### **4. Release period prior to confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the WOFT**

In addition to the above (cf. point 3.), the following restriction applies: the maximum release period for confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the WOFT is 16 days (including the duration of the tournament).

To reflect the above, at the same meeting, the FIFA Council also approved the necessary amendments to Annexe 1, art. 1bis of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, which are required in order to provide the adequate regulatory basis in support of the release of players to association teams in line with the amended concept. Please find enclosed a copy of the relevant provisions for your perusal.

As mentioned above, the new principles will apply as of January 2020. Consequently, the amended provisions concerned will only come into effect as of 1 January 2020.

We thank you for your kind attention to the above and remain at your disposal should you have any queries in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura  
Secretary General

Encl: - as mentioned  
cc: - FIFA Council  
- Confederations  
- Players' Status Committee  
- ECA  
- FIFPro

## **Amendments to art. 1bis of Annexe 1 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players**

New text (amendments in **bold**)  
(to come into force on 1 January 2020)

Paragraph 1 - unchanged

Paragraph 2

The release of players under the terms of paragraph 1 of this article is mandatory for all international windows listed in the women's international match calendar (cf. paragraphs 3 and 4 below) as well as for the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™, the **Women's Olympic Football Tournament**, the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations, subject to the relevant association being a member of the organising confederation, and the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament.

Paragraph 3

After consultation with the relevant stakeholders, FIFA publishes the women's international match calendar for a period of four years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph 4 below), **as well as the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament and blocked periods for the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations as well as for the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament.** Following the publication of the women's international match calendar, only the **specific dates for the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations and the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament will be added within the respective blocked periods. The championships for the women's "A" representative teams of the confederations and the final-round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament must be played within the respective stipulated blocked periods and confederations are required to notify FIFA of the dates, in writing, at the latest two years in advance of the respective championships for women's "A" representative teams or final-round tournament.**

Paragraph 4

There are three types of international windows:

- a) unchanged
- b) Type II is defined as a period of **ten** days starting on a Monday morning and ending on **Wednesday** night the following week, which is reserved for **friendly tournaments of the representative teams and qualifying matches**. During the type II international window, a maximum of three matches may be played by each representative team. **The pertinent**

**matches can be scheduled on any day as from Thursday during the international window, provided that a minimum of two full calendar days are left between two matches (e.g. Thursday/Sunday/Wednesday).**

- c) Type III is defined as a period of **13** days starting on Monday morning and ending on **Saturday** night the following week, which is reserved **exclusively** for **qualifying matches for the championships of the women's "A" representative teams of the confederations**. During the type III international window, a maximum of four matches may be played by each representative team. **The pertinent matches can be scheduled on any day as from Thursday during the international window, provided that a minimum of two full calendar days are left between matches (e.g. Thursday/Sunday/Wednesday/Saturday).**

Paragraph 5 - unchanged

Paragraph 6

For all three types of international windows, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than Monday morning and must start the travel back to their club no later than the next Wednesday morning (type I), **the next Thursday morning (type II)** or the next **Sunday** morning (type III) following the end of the international window. For the confederations' final-round qualification tournaments for the **Women's Olympic Football Tournament**, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than Monday morning before the opening match of the qualification tournament and must be released by the association **on** the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament. **For the latter qualification tournaments, the maximum total period of release (between leaving Monday morning and the day of release back to the club by the association) is 16 days.** For **the other** final competitions in the sense of paragraphs 2 and 3 above, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team no later than **the Monday morning of the week preceding the week when the relevant final competition starts**, and must be released by the association **on** the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.

Paragraph 7 - unchanged

Paragraph 8 - unchanged

Paragraph 9 - unchanged

Paragraph 10 - unchanged

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH CALENDAR 2020-2023

2020	Dates	Window type	Max. number of matches
	13 January – 9 February	<b>BLOCKED PERIOD</b> Final round of qualification tournaments for the Olympic Football Tournaments (AFC & CONCACAF) – 16 days in total (includes tournament and release period)	
	2-11 March	Type II	3
	6-14 April	Type I	2
	1-9 June	Type I	2
	or 1-10 June	Type II (non-UEFA confederations)	3
	22 July – 7 August	Women's Olympic Football Tournament	
	14-22 September	Type I	2
	19-27 October	Type I	2
	or 19-31 October	Type III (confederation qualification tournaments only, for all confederations excluding UEFA)	3
	23 November – 1 December	Type I	2
	or 23 November – 20 December	<b>BLOCKED PERIOD</b> 2020 Africa Women Cup of Nations (includes release period)	

**Type I:** release of players to national associations: Monday to Wednesday (following week)

**Type II:** release of players to national associations: Monday to Thursday (following week)

**Type III:** release of players to national associations: Monday to Sunday (following week)

**Final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament and blocked periods for the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations:**

Monday morning of the week preceding the week when the relevant final competition starts. Players must be released by the association on the morning of the day after their team's last match in the tournament.

2021	Dates	Window type	Max. number of matches
	15-24 February	Type II	3
	5-13 April	Type I	2
	June/July *	Type I	2
		Type II (except UEFA)	3
		Type III (confederation qualification tournaments only, for all confederations excluding UEFA)	4
	4-31 July	<b>BLOCKED PERIOD</b> UEFA Women's EURO	
	13-21 September	Type I	2
	18-26 October	Type I	2
	22-30 November	Type I	2
	or 22 November – 1 December	Type II (non-UEFA)	3

2022	Dates	Window type	Max. number of matches
	14-23 February	Type II	3
	4-12 April	Type I	2
	13-21 June	Type I	2
	4 July – 7 August	<b>BLOCKED PERIOD</b> Final competitions for the championships of the confederations (including release period), except UEFA	
	29 August – 6 September	Type I	2
	3-11 October	Type I	2
	31 October – 20 November	<b>BLOCKED PERIOD</b> Final competitions for the championships of the confederations (including release period), except UEFA	
	7-15 November	Type I	2

\* Start of the international window to be aligned with the start of the release period for the UEFA Women's EURO. Dates to be announced via circular at least 18 months in advance.

2023	Dates	Window type	Max. number of matches
	13-22 February or 13-25 February	Type II  Type III (confederation qualification tournaments only, for all confederations excluding UEFA)	3  4
	3-11 April	Type I	2
	June/July **	Type I	2
	10 July – 20 August	<b>BLOCKED PERIOD</b> FIFA Women's World Cup™	
	18-26 September	Type I	2
	23-31 October	Type I	2
	27 November – 5 December or 27 November – 6 December	Type I  Type II (non-UEFA)	2  3

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\*\* Start of the international window to be aligned with the start of the release period for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup™. Dates to be announced via circular at least 18 months in advance.