

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1729

Zurich, 24 August 2020
SG/egs/kja

Release of players to association teams for the upcoming September 2020 international window

Dear Sir or Madam,

This circular letter concerns the release of players to associations teams in the upcoming international windows for men (31 August 2020 to 8 September 2020) and women (14-22 September 2020), which the Bureau of the FIFA Council recently decided are only applicable for member associations from the UEFA territory ([Circular no. 1727](#)).

On 13 March 2020 and 6 April 2020, the Bureau suspended the obligations of clubs pursuant to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (**RSTP**) to release players to associations for international windows in March and April 2020 ([Circular no. 1712](#)) and June 2020 ([Circular no. 1714](#)).

Between May and July 2020, several countries relaxed their travel and immigration restrictions following a decrease in COVID-19 infections. Football activities subsequently resumed in the majority of associations, with the implementation of strict health and safety protocols.

At present, many national governments have again implemented travel and immigration restrictions due to a renewed increase in COVID-19 infections. Some of these measures directly impact international competition, such as mandatory periods of quarantine or self-isolation and temporary travel bans.

In order to ensure that the well-being and health of all individuals involved in international competition is respected, on 24 August 2020 the Bureau decided to temporarily amend the operation of the RSTP relating to the release of players to association teams, as follows:

1. *these temporary amendments to the FIFA RSTP apply to the following international windows on the relevant international match calendar:*
 - (i) *for men: 31 August 2020 to 8 September 2020;*
 - (ii) *for women: 14-22 September 2020;*
2. *the rules relating to release of players to association teams in Annexe 1 of the FIFA RSTP shall apply as normal, except where:*

- (i) *there is a mandatory period of quarantine or self-isolation of at least five days upon arrival in:*
 - a. *the location of the club which has an obligation to release the player to an association team; or*
 - b. *the location where a representative team match is scheduled to take place; or*
 - (ii) *there is a travel restriction to or from either location (a. or b. above); and*
 - (iii) *a specific exemption from the relevant authorities relating to the above decisions has not been granted to players of a representative team;*
3. *all participants in matches during international windows must abide by the health and safety protocols established by the relevant competition organiser.*

Should you require any clarifications, please contact Erika Montemor Ferreira, Head of Players' Status via the Players' Status Department at psdfifa@fifa.org.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

CC: FIFA Council
Confederations
FIFPRO
European Clubs Association
World Leagues Forum