

# Decision

of the

## FIFA Disciplinary Committee

Mr Anin Yeboah [GHA] Chairman;  
Mr Alejandro Piera [PAR], Deputy Chairman;  
Mr Gudni Bergsson [ISL], Member;  
Ms Theresa Pitcairn [CAY], Member

on 25 June 2019,

to discuss the case of:

the Swedish Football Association

(Decision 190271 TMS)

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*regarding:*

International transfers of minor players without the prior approval of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Players' Status Committee and/or without an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) being requested and/or without the correct administrative procedure governing transfers being respected

(Arts. 5 par. 1, 9 par. 1, 19 pars. 1 and 4 of the RSTP (2012 to 2016 editions) as well as art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2 of the RSTP and art. 1 par. 3 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP)

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## I. Having noted that

1. This case relates to the registration of several minor players by the Swedish Football Association (hereinafter: *the Swedish FA*) between 2014 and 2016.

### A. Factual circumstances

2. More specifically, the relevant facts of the case at hand concerned the following players:
  - i. SELBEKK Charlotte Marie (nationality: NOR, date of birth: 31.05.1997), hereinafter: *Player 1*;
  - ii. PLLANA Leonard (nationality: K VX, date of birth: 26.08.1996), hereinafter: *Player 2*;
  - iii. ASGEIRSSON Johan (nationality: ISL, date of birth: 19.04.1997), hereinafter: *Player 3*;
  - iv. ALBERTSSON Jan Samuel (nationality: SWE, date of birth: 18.01.1998), hereinafter: *Player 4*;
  - v. OPSAL Emil (nationality: SWE, date of birth: 07.02.1999), hereinafter: *Player 5*;
  - vi. STENSNESS Gianni (nationality: AUS, date of birth: 11.09.1998), hereinafter: *Player 6*;
  - vii. WIEST Niklas (nationality: GER, date of birth: 06.11.1998), hereinafter: *Player 7*;
  - viii. GLORIA Giovanni (nationality: USA, date of birth: 02.09.1999), hereinafter: *Player 8*;
  - ix. SCHJELDERUP Helene Raedergard (nationality: NOR, date of birth: 29.04.1999), hereinafter: *Player 9*;
  - x. HECHER Evita Katharina (nationality: AUT, date of birth: 06.05.1998), hereinafter: *Player 10*;
  - xi. JÖRGENSEN Nils Kasper (nationality: ESP, date of birth: 07.06.2000), hereinafter: *Player 11*;
  - xii. KAMARA Brian (nationality: DEN, date of birth: 10.01.2000), hereinafter: *Player 12*;
  - xiii. BJÖRKQVIST Tobias (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 28.03.2000), hereinafter: *Player 13*;
  - xiv. HÖGMO UTSTÖL Gustav (nationality: NOR, date of birth: 14.07.1997), hereinafter: *Player 14*;

- xv. ALEXANDER Lukas (nationality: USA, date of birth: 04.11.2000), hereinafter: *Player 15*;
- xvi. FROM Isac (nationality: NOR, date of birth: 22.07.1998), hereinafter: *Player 16*;
- xvii. ALAHEIKKA Johannes (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 05.06.1998), hereinafter: *Player 17*;
- xviii. HAUG Christina (nationality: NOR, date of birth: 20.09.1997), hereinafter: *Player 18*;
- xix. ORCZECH Tristan (nationality: GER, date of birth: 16.10.1998), hereinafter: *Player 19*;
- xx. STECCO Davide (nationality: ITA, date of birth: 15.12.1997), hereinafter: *Player 20*;
- xxi. TUOMA Laura (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 23.08.2001), hereinafter: *Player 21*;
- xxii. KUNNARI Jenna (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 24.12.2000), hereinafter: *Player 22*;
- xxiii. SUOMELA Meri-Maria (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 31.08.2000), hereinafter: *Player 23*;
- xxiv. KOIVUROVA Noora (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 17.07.2001), hereinafter: *Player 24*;
- xxv. ILPOINEN Jenny (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 08.02.2001), hereinafter: *Player 25*;
- xxvi. HIRVONEN Jenni (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 02.05.2000), hereinafter: *Player 26*;
- xxvii. NIEMI Emmi (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 28.09.2000), hereinafter: *Player 27*;
- xxviii. KEISU Senja (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 03.12.2001), hereinafter: *Player 28*;
- xxix. UUSITALO Hanna-Maria (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 11.10.2000), hereinafter: *Player 29*;
- xxx. MUOTKA Laura (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 12.01.2000), hereinafter: *Player 30*;
- xxxi. HUTTUNEN Roosa (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 09.12.2000), hereinafter: *Player 31*;
- xxxii. BJERKE Axel (nationality: SWE, date of birth: 19.08.2003), hereinafter: *Player 32*;
- xxxiii. SCHÄFER Anna (nationality: GER, date of birth: 25.11.1999), hereinafter: *Player 33*;
- xxxiv. HARSDORF Sönke (nationality: GER, date of birth: 13.12.1998), hereinafter: *Player 34*;

- xxxv. KNIGHT Rickard (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 05.05.1998), hereinafter: *Player 35*;
- xxxvi. AZURMENDI Hector (nationality: USA, date of birth: 17.12.1997), hereinafter: *Player 36*;
- xxxvii. GRANCEA Petru Emil (nationality: ROM, date of birth: 18.03.2001), hereinafter: *Player 37*;
- xxxviii. RABAZA JIMENEZ Ramir (nationality: ESP, date of birth: 12.12.1998), hereinafter: *Player 38*;
- xxxix. LINDH SKOGSTAD Thea (nationality: NOR, date of birth: 16.09.1999), hereinafter: *Player 39*;
- xl. PIHLAVIRTA Liida (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 19.08.1999), hereinafter: *Player 40*;
- xli. JANSSON Emma (nationality: SWE, date of birth: 14.08.1999), hereinafter: *Player 41*;
- xlii. NAVA Rafael (nationality: MEX, date of birth: 04.08.2000), hereinafter: *Player 42*;
- xliii. BRONTS Luuk (nationality: NED, date of birth: 15.12.1998), hereinafter: *Player 43*;
- xliv. RAHKOLA Malla (nationality: FIN, date of birth: 27.01.2000), hereinafter: *Player 44*;
- xlv. LESEMANN Inken (nationality: GER, date of birth: 02.09.2000), hereinafter: *Player 45*;
- xlvi. HYEON In Seung (nationality: KOR, date of birth: 14.10.1998), hereinafter: *Player 46*;
- xlvii. TEARE Jaan Philip (nationality: GER, date of birth: 22.02.1998), hereinafter: *Player 47*;
- xlviii. SESLAK Jovana (nationality: USA, date of birth: 27.06.2000), hereinafter: *Player 48*;
- xlix. SOLANO Mateo Caceres (nationality: ARG, date of birth: 03.10.1996), hereinafter: *Player 49*;
- l. CARTER Janet (nationality: USA, date of birth: 11.09.1998), hereinafter: *Player 50*;
- li. LINDUP Nathan (nationality: ENG, date of birth: 20.10.2000), hereinafter: *Player 51*;
- lii. SPROESSER MATHIAS Marcel (nationality: BRA, date of birth: 12.10.1998), hereinafter: *Player 52*.

3. Between 2014 and 2016, Players 1-45 were internationally transferred from:

- i. Norway (Players 1, 4-5, 9, 14, 16, 18 and 39)

- ii. Kosovo (Player 2),
- iii. Iceland (Player 3),
- iv. Australia (Player 6),
- v. Germany (Player 7, 19, 33-34 and 45),
- vi. the USA (Players 8, 15, 36 and 41),
- vii. Austria (Player 10)
- viii. Spain (Players 11 and 38),
- ix. Denmark (Player 12),
- x. Finland (Players 13, 17, 21-31, 35, 40 and 44)
- xi. Italy (Player 20)
- xii. Sweden (Player 32)
- xiii. Romania (Player 37)
- xiv. Mexico (Player 42)
- xv. the Netherlands (Player 43)

and were subsequently registered in Sweden for clubs of professional status (Players 1 to 13) or of amateur status (Players 14 to 45).

4. During the same period of time, Players 46 o 55 were registered for the first time with amateur clubs in Sweden.
5. In particular, the factual circumstances relating to the present case can be summarised as follows, including the information which the FIFA Disciplinary Committee has taken into account and considered as having been proved:
  - i. these players were all minors when joining the Swedish clubs concerned;
  - ii. they were all transferred to and/or registered for Swedish clubs without or before the prior approval of the Sub-Committee appointed by the FIFA Players' Status Committee (hereinafter: *the Sub-Committee*);
  - iii. some of them participated in matches for the Swedish clubs concerned.

## B. Procedure

6. On 13 May 2019, following investigations conducted by the FIFA TMS Global Transfer Compliance Department (hereinafter: *FIFA TMS*)<sup>1</sup>, disciplinary proceedings were opened against the Swedish FA with respect to potential violations of:
  - i. arts. 5 par. 1, 9 par. 1, 19 pars. 1, 3 and 4 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (2012 to 2016 editions, hereinafter: *the Regulations* or *the RSTP*),
  - ii. art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2 of the Regulations;
  - iii. art. 1 par. 3 of Annexe 3 of the Regulations.
7. The Swedish FA was given a deadline until 20 May 2019 to provide the Secretariat to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter: *the Secretariat*) with its position.
8. Upon request of the Swedish FA, said deadline was extended until 5 June 2019.
9. On 5 June 2019, the Swedish FA provided its position. Said position can be summarised as follows<sup>2</sup>:
  - i. Background:

*"[I]t is crucial for the Swedish FA that international regulations and administrative procedures doesn't prevent amateur minor players from playing football in purely amateur clubs, when there are no justifiable reasons for such a prohibition. To safeguard the protection of minor players, the administrative procedures within the Swedish FA regarding minor players is of course created in a well-structured and legally secured way"*
  - ii. Regarding the 52 players concerned:

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<sup>1</sup> All documents included in the proceedings conducted by FIFA TMS were duly analysed and considered by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in its discussion and deliberations.

<sup>2</sup> The summary does not purport to include every single contention put forth by the Swedish FA. However, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee has thoroughly considered in its discussion and deliberations any and all evidence and arguments submitted, even if no specific or detailed reference has been made to those arguments in the following outline of its position and in the ensuing discussion on the merits.

- (a) 37 were amateur players who visited Sweden as exchange students or for school education, 4 were amateur players who was granted provisional registration with Swedish clubs due to a very long administrative procedure and 11 were players from Finland who were granted a provisional registration for the Swedish club Haparanda FF (a purely amateur club) based on the exception in art. 19 par. 2 c) of the Regulations;
  - (b) 28 of the 52 players on the list are citizens from the Nordic countries, and therefore outside the scope of the rationale behind the RSTP which is *"to protect minor players from trafficking and being abandoned on the streets in foreign countries"*;
  - (c) All 52 players were monitored by the Swedish FA during their time in Sweden *"to make sure the clubs they were granted registration for have acted in the best interest of the players"*;
- iii. Regarding the 37 players considered as "exchange students" (namely Players 1-8, 10, 13-20, 32-37 and 39-52):
  - (a) *"[W]ithin the European Union, every youth has the right to study in another European Union country for one year". More specifically, "within the Nordic countries every youth has the right to study all his or her high school years in one of the other Nordic countries"*;
  - (b) All of them were *"granted a provisional registration for a Swedish club based on an extraordinary decision by the national Competitions Committee" as they "were visiting Sweden as exchange students or to take part in educational programmes over a limited period of time. Everyone of them were amateur players and played only with purely amateur clubs during their stay in Sweden"*;
  - (c) *"Due to the Nordic climate the football season in Sweden is very short" and a "prolonged registration process for these 37 players should have limited the players to only take part in a petite part of [the] season"*;
  - (d) *"In January 2017 the Swedish FA noted that FIFA (...) had changed its jurisprudence to allow exceptions for minor players moving from one country to another as exchange"*

*students or to take part in educational programmes over a limited period of time. The Swedish FA were unaware of the new jurisprudence, since FIFA hadn't informed the associations about it. The new jurisprudence is in line with how the Swedish FA had dealt with similar cases before. After the Swedish FA were informed about the new jurisprudence, [it hasn't] granted one single provisional registration for a player based on his or her status as an exchange student";*

- iv. Regarding the 4 players provisionally registered due to a very long administrative procedure (namely Players 9, 11-12 and 38):
  - (a) *"Because of an extra ordinary decision made by the national Competitions Committee these 4 amateur players were granted a provisional registration for different Swedish clubs";*
  - (b) This decision was:
    - *"based on the players social situation, a prolonged administrative process to register them and the fact that the Swedish football season is shortened due to the Nordic climate";*
    - *"taken after a thorough analysis of the FIFA minor Regulations" as the Committee considered that the players "met the requirements in the Regulations for being transferred internationally";*
  - (c) *The players' registration was "only provisional until FIFA had rendered its decisions". In fact, "[s]hould FIFA have rejected the applications the registration of the players would have been revoked by the Swedish FA and the players wouldn't have been eligible to represent the Swedish clubs".*
  
- v. Regarding the 11 players from Finland provisionally registered for Haparanda FF (namely Players 21-31):
  - (a) *"Everyone of these 11 amateur players were previously registered for the Finnish football club Tornion Jalkapalloklubi, based in the city of Tornio in Finland" which is "situated 750 meters from the Swedish border and 1.8 km*



*from the Swedish city Haparanda, where Haparanda FF is based”;*

- (b) *As such, “the national Competitions Committee decided to grant the players provisional registrations for the Swedish club Haparanda FF” on the basis of “the exception in art. 19 par. 2 c) of the Regulations” but also to avoid “a prolonged administrative process to seek an exemption from FIFA”. In fact, “[s]hould FIFA have rejected the applications the players would no longer have been eligible to represent Haparanda FF”;*
- (c) *The rationales behind the Regulations of international transfers of minors were not at hand for these players as they “could still live together with their parents in Finland and they even had the opportunity to walk across the boarder to Haparanda to take part in the football activities in their new club”;*

vi. Summary:

- (a) *“[A]ll the 52 minor players on the list are amateur players who have been playing purely amateur football on grassroot level in Sweden”. They were all monitored by the Swedish FA during their time in Sweden;*
- (b) *The Swedish FA considers that “we must let young people play football and that administrative procedures shouldn’t prevent this from happening”, “[e]specially in situations when there’s no justifiable reasons for such a prohibition”;*
- (c) *“[E]ven if the Disciplinary Committee – from a formal/semantic point of view – will find a violation of the regulations concerning minor players, there should be no sanction at all or, considering the mitigating facts in this case, a warning”.*

## II. and considered

### A. Jurisdiction

1. In accordance with art. 53 par. 2 of the FIFA Statutes, the Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter also referred to as *the Committee*) may pronounce the sanctions described in the Statutes and the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC) on member associations, clubs, officials, players, intermediaries and licensed match agents.
2. Pursuant to art. 25 par. 3 of the Regulations, disciplinary proceedings for violation of the Regulations shall, unless otherwise stipulated by the Regulations, be in accordance with the FDC.
3. In continuation, art. 9.2 par. 1 of Annexe 3 of the Regulations provides that the Committee is responsible for imposing sanctions in accordance with the FDC with respect to violations of the provisions of Annexe 3 of the Regulations.
4. With the above in mind, the Committee first noted that the Swedish FA at no point during the present proceedings challenged the jurisdiction of the Committee or the applicability of the FDC.
5. As a result of the foregoing considerations, the Committee deemed that it is competent to evaluate the matter at hand and to pronounce sanctions in case of corresponding violations.

### B. Applicable regulations

6. With respect to the applicable regulations, the Committee first emphasised that, in accordance with art. 19 par. 1 of the Regulations, "*[i]nternational transfers of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18*". In accordance with art. 19 par. 3 of the Regulations, "*[t]he conditions of this article shall also apply to any player who has never previously been registered with a club, is not a national of the country in which he wishes to be registered for the first time and has not lived continuously for at least the last five years in said country*".

7. In this respect, the Committee recalled that art. 19 par. 4 of the Regulations establishes that *"[e]very international transfer according to paragraph 2 and every first registration according to paragraph 3, as well as every first registration of a foreign minor player who has lived continuously for at least the last five years in the country in which he wishes to be registered, is subject to the approval of the sub-committee appointed by the Players' Status Committee for that purpose. The application for approval shall be submitted by the association that wishes to register the player (...). The sub-committee's approval shall be obtained prior to any request from an association for an International Transfer Certificate and/or a first registration (...)"*.
8. In continuation, reference shall also be made to art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2 of the Regulations which establishes that *"[a]ll applications for a first registration of a minor according to article 19 paragraph 3, or an international transfer involving a minor according to article 19 paragraph 2, must be submitted and managed through TMS"*, as well as to art. 1 par. 3 of Annexe 3 of the Regulations in accordance with which *"TMS [the Transfer Matching System] helps safeguard the protection of minors. If a minor is being registered as a non-national for the first time or is involved in an international transfer, an approval must be given by a sub-committee appointed by the Players' Status Committee for that purpose (cf. article 19 paragraph 4). The request for approval by the association that wishes to register the minor on the basis of article 19 paragraphs 2 and 3 and the subsequent decision-making workflow must be conducted through TMS (cf. Annexe 2)"*.
9. Notwithstanding the above, the Committee equally recalled that according to art. 5 par. 1 of the Regulations *"[a] player must be registered at an association to play for a club as either a professional or an amateur in accordance with the provisions of article 2. Only registered players are eligible to participate in organised football"*, while art. 9 par. 1 of the Regulations provides that *"[p]layers registered at one association may only be registered at a new association once the latter has received an International Transfer Certificate (hereinafter: ITC) from the former association"*.

### **C. Analysis of the violations by the Swedish FA**

10. The relevant provisions having been recalled, as a preliminary remark, the Committee found it worthwhile to emphasise that the protection of minors constitutes one of the principles included in the agreement that was

concluded between FIFA, UEFA and the European Commission in March 2001 and is one of the essential pillars of the Regulations since then. All of the aforementioned authorities and members of the football community agreed that the measures to ensure the protection of minors and to combat abuses require robust rules which must be implemented in a consistent and strict manner. Such principles were recognised by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) which by a decision of 6 March 2009 (CAS 2008/A/1485 FC Midtjylland A/S v. FIFA), confirmed the legality of the relevant FIFA regulations, further emphasising that these provisions do not contravene any rule of public policy or European law.

11. In continuation, the Committee pointed out that FIFA's efforts to protect minors have since then been recognised by CAS on several occasions (CAS 2005/A/955 Cádiz C.F., SAD v. FIFA and Asociación Paraguaya de Fútbol & 956 Carlos Javier Acuña Caballero v. FIFA and Asociación Paraguaya de Fútbol, CAS 2008/A/1485 FC Midtjylland A/S v. FIFA, CAS 2011/A/2354 Elmir Muhic v. FIFA, CAS 2011/A/2494 FC Girondins de Bordeaux v. FIFA, CAS 2012/A/2787 Villareal CF. FIFA, CAS 2014/A/3611 Real Madrid FC v. FIFA, CAS 2014/A/3793 Fútbol Club Barcelona, CAS 2014/A/3813 Real Federación Española de Fútbol v. FIFA, CAS 2015/A/4312 John Kenneth Hilton v. FIFA, CAS 2016/A/4785 Real Madrid Club de Fútbol v. FIFA, CAS 2016/A/4805 Club Atlético de Madrid SAD v. FIFA and CAS 2017/A/5244 Oscar Bobb & Associação Juvenil Escola de Futebol Hernâni Gonçalves v. FIFA).

(1) General remarks

12. That having been established, the Committee subsequently analysed the evidence at its disposal (*i.e.* the documentation and information provided by the Swedish FA, as well as by the Players' former associations in the scope of the proceedings before FIFA TMS but also the ones provided by the Swedish FA during the present proceedings) to determine the potential violations of the RSTP committed by the Swedish FA.
13. In continuation, the Committee turned its attention to the birth dates of the players involved and acknowledged that, at the time they joined the Swedish clubs, they were all minors in accordance with the definitions section of the Regulations.

14. The Committee subsequently highlighted that at no point during the present proceedings did the Swedish FA contest that the players concerned by the matter at hand joined Swedish clubs nor that they were registered by the Swedish FA. To the contrary, the Swedish FA explicitly confirmed their registration – also providing the relevant registration dates –, further stating that “[t]he list of the 52 players (...) contains 37 minor amateur players who visited Sweden as exchange students or for school education, 4 minor amateur players who was granted provisional registration with Swedish clubs due to a very long administrative procedure and 11 minor players from Finland granted a provisional registration for the Swedish club Haparanda FF (a purely amateur club) based on the exception in art. 19 par. 2 c) of the Regulations”.
15. With the above in mind, the Committee decided that it had to analyse as to whether the Swedish FA followed the appropriate procedure to register the Players subject to the matter at hand.
- (2) Art. 19 of the RSTP (in conjunction with art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2 of the RSTP and 1 par. 3 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP)
16. First and foremost, the Committee reiterated that, in principle, international transfers of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18 (art. 19 par. 1 of the RSTP). The same principle applies to the registration of foreign minor players (art. 19 par. 3 of the RSTP).
17. Notwithstanding the above, the Committee recognised that art. 19 par. 2 of the Regulations provides for three exceptions to the general principle of art. 19 par. 1 of the Regulations, under which circumstances an international transfer of a minor player or the first registration of a foreign minor player could be possible.
18. However, the Committee pointed out that, even in the event that one of the exceptions laid down under art. 19 par. 2 of the Regulations would have been applicable to the situation of a player, neither its “new” club nor the association concerned would be authorised to complete the player’s transfer/first registration unless and until the Sub-Committee had granted its approval. Indeed, in line with art. 19 par. 4 of the Regulations, such an international transfer / first registration “is subject to the approval of the sub-committee appointed by the Players’ Status Committee for that purpose” and

said approval shall be obtained prior to the registration of the minor player concerned.

19. With respect to the case at hand, and for the sake of completeness, the Committee emphasised that, on 8 June 2016, the bureau of the Sub-Committee granted the Swedish FA a "*limited exemption from the obligation to refer applications for approval for minor players to the Sub-Committee of the Players' Status Committee in accordance with art. 19 par. 4 of the Regulations*" (hereinafter: *the limited exemption*).
20. With this in mind, and in particular taking into consideration the dates on which the minor players at hand had been registered at the Swedish FA, the Committee emphasised that such exemption would only have been potentially applicable for Players 13, 43, 44 and 45 (who have been registered on 9 September 2016 – Player 13 –, 30 August 2016 – Players 43 and 44 – and 23 September 2016 – Player 45 – respectively). Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning:
  - i. On the one hand that the limited exemption was in any event not applicable to the registration of Player 13, said player having been registered for a club of professional status (the limited exemption being only valid for minor amateur players who only wish to be registered with purely amateur clubs);
  - ii. On the other hand that the Swedish FA never claimed having used the limited exemption granted to it to proceed with the registration of Players 43 to 45, nor were these players reported in the relevant report related to the limited exemption.
21. With respect to the other players subject to the matter at hand, it appears to be clear that, at the time they were registered, *i.e.* in prior to 8 June 2016, no limited exemption had been granted to the Swedish FA. In other words, any international transfer of a minor player and/or any first registration of a foreign minor player had to be approved by the Sub-Committee as per art. 19 par. 4 of the RSTP.

22. As a result of these considerations, the Committee concluded that the Players' international transfers to Sweden (Players 1-37, 39-41 and 43-45<sup>3</sup>) and/or their first registration in Sweden (Players 38, 42<sup>4</sup> and 46-52<sup>5</sup>) were undoubtedly subject to the prior approval of the Sub-Committee in line with art. 19 par. 4 of the RSTP.
23. In this regard, the Committee first observed that, except for Players 1, 9, 11-12, 21-31 and 38, no application had been submitted by the Swedish FA to the Sub-Committee.
24. As far as Players 9, 11-12, 21-31 and 38 are concerned, the Committee acknowledged that:
- i. for Player 9 a minor application has been submitted via TMS by the Swedish FA (H-0000852) and approved by the Sub-Committee on 4 October 2015;
  - ii. for Player 11, two minor applications have been submitted via TMS by the Swedish FA (D-0002520 and D-0002879), the second one being accepted on 14 January 2016;
  - iii. for Players 21-31, minor applications have been submitted via TMS by the Swedish FA and subsequently approved on 24 May 2015;
  - iv. for Player 38, two minor applications have been submitted via TMS by the Swedish FA (B-0002585 and B-0003415), the second one being accepted on 27 November 2015.

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<sup>3</sup> These players having all previously been registered at an association other than the Swedish FA, as confirmed by the relevant associations, the Committee highlighted that their potential registration in Sweden, *i.e.* a country other than their country of origin, and/or their international move to such country, would be considered as an international transfer

<sup>4</sup> With respect to Players 38 and 42, the Committee acknowledged that they were previously registered in Spain – until 30 June 2011 – and in Mexico – during the 2009-2010 season –, but do not seem to have been registered at another association since them. As a result, taking into consideration art. 4 par. 1 of the RSTP, these players did not appear to still be registered at the time of their move to Sweden. As such, their potential registration in Sweden would be considered a first registration.

<sup>5</sup> The Committee emphasised that, on the basis of the file at its disposal, it appeared to be clear that, prior to their move to Sweden, Players 46 to 52 had never been previously registered for any other club and/or at any other association. As a result, their potential registration in a country other than their country of origin, as is the case for their registration in Sweden, would be considered a first registration falling under the scope of art. 19 par. 3 of the Regulations.

Having said that, the Committee however emphasised that, as shown by the registration dates provided by the Swedish FA, all these players were registered by the latter prior to the relevant applications being accepted by the Sub-Committee. In these circumstances, the Committee found it worthwhile to transpose to the associations the developments made by CAS in its award CAS 2016/A/4785 Real Madrid Club de Fútbol v. FIFA in relation to clubs regarding art. 19 par. 4 of the RSTP: *"Nowhere in the RSTP is there an exception to the strict and mandatory requirements set out in Articles 19.4 (...) it is totally irrelevant (i) whether or not a club is certain that, based on the player's situation, the FIFA Subcommittee will eventually approve a minor's international transfer or his first registration, or (ii) whether such approval is actually later obtained, or (iii) whether the player refrained from playing Organised football during the interim [...]. Based on the current regulatory regime, a future, positive expectation does not relieve a club to obtain in advance the necessary authorizations"*. In continuation, the Committee referred to CAS 2016/A/4805 Club Atlético de Madrid SAD v. FIFA in which it was confirmed that the possibility to sanction the *"failure to timely request for approval from the Sub-Committee where this was required, despite the fact that such approval may have been granted by the Sub-Committee retrospectively"*.

25. In what concerns Player 1, the Committee observed that the minor application submitted via TMS by the Swedish FA (H-0000546) was subsequently rejected by the Sub-Committee on 5 September 2013. The Committee's attention was however drawn to the fact that, despite said decision, the Swedish FA proceeded to register the Player on 25 April 2014.

26. As a result of all the above, the Committee considered that, by registering:

- i. Players 2-8, 10, 13-20, 32-37 and 39-52 without an application being submitted and approved by the Sub-Committee;
- ii. Player 1 despite his minor application having been rejected by the Sub-Committee;
- iii. Players 9, 11-12, 21-31 and 38 prior to their minor application being approved by the Sub-Committee;

the Swedish FA failed to follow the correct procedure governing applications for international transfers of minor players and first registration of foreign



minor players and is therefore in violation of art. 19 par. 4 of the RSTP as read together with art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2 of the Regulations and art. 1 par. 3 of Annexe 3 of the Regulations<sup>6</sup>.

27. It also results from the above that:

- i. by moving from clubs affiliated to associations other than the Swedish FA to clubs affiliated to the Swedish FA, whilst being aged below 18 – and without any prior approval of the Sub-Committee –, Players 1-37, 39-41 and 43-45 were all internationally transferred in contravention of art. 19 par. 1 of the Regulations.

In this respect, and for the sake of good order, the Committee recalled that that *"[t]here should be no doubt that the ban on transferring under-aged players is addressed to both "associations" and clubs"* (CAS 2014/A/3793 FC Barcelona v. FIFA, par. 9.2). In addition, the Committee underlined that *"[t]his [art. 19.1], is the backbone of the FIFA RSTP provisions on the protection of minors and is a provision that must be complied by clubs and associations alike"* (CAS 2014/A/3813, par. 229).

As such, the Swedish FA has to be found liable for the breach of art. 19 par. 1 of the RSTP on 43 occasions.

- ii. by proceeding to the first registration of Players 38, 42 and 46-52 for Swedish clubs while they were still minors – and without any prior approval of the Sub-Committee –, the Swedish FA breached art. 19 par. 3 of the RSTP on 9 occasions.

28. At this stage, the Committee was of the opinion that the Swedish FA did not act with the requested diligence expected in circumstances such as the ones at hand. These deficiencies led to the current situation in which minor players were internationally transferred and/or registered without the relevant applicable procedures having been followed.

29. Notwithstanding the above, the Committee noted that the Swedish FA argued that it proceeded to register all these players *"in the best interest of the*

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<sup>6</sup> With respect to Players 9, 11, 21-31 and 38, the Committee wished to underline that the Swedish FA is to be found guilty of a violation of art. 19 par. 4 of the Regulations, regardless of whether their international transfer was retrospectively approved by the Sub-Committee. Indeed, as emphasised by CAS *"[a]lthough a procedural violation of article 19(4) FIFA RSTP is less serious than a substantive violation of article 19(1) or (3) FIFA RSTP, it is nonetheless a violation"* (par. 244).

*players” taking into consideration the length of the “administrative procedures”.*

30. In so far as Players 1-8, 10, 13-20, 32-37 and 39-52 are concerned, the Swedish FA considered them as *“exchange students”*, further explaining that they were *“granted a provisional registration for a Swedish club based on an extraordinary decision by the national Competitions Committee”* as they *“were visiting Sweden as exchange students or to take part in educational programmes over a limited period of time. Everyone of them were amateur players and played only with purely amateur clubs during their stay in Sweden”*.
31. In this respect, the Committee acknowledged that, in February 2017, FIFA released its *“Minor application guide”*, making reference to the jurisprudence of the Sub-Committee related to exchange students. According to the Swedish FA, such stance *“is in line with how the Swedish FA had dealt with similar cases before”* and after the issuance of this document, it did not grant *“one single provisional registration for a player based on his or her status as an exchange student”*.
32. In reply thereto, the Committee wanted to refer, once again, to art. 19 par. 4 of the Regulations which undoubtedly establishes that all international transfers of minor players and/or first registration of foreign minor players have to be approved by the Sub-Committee. As a matter of fact, in case the Swedish FA effectively deemed that the very particular circumstances of these minor players (which seemingly did not fulfil any of the regulatory exceptions) would have justified their registration, and in order to comply with the RSTP, it should have submitted a formal request for the Sub-Committee to consider these specific affairs and to pass a formal decision, in accordance with art. 19 par. 4 of the Regulations.
33. With regard to the 4 players provisionally registered allegedly due to a very long administrative procedure (namely Players 9, 11-12 and 38), the Committee first wishes to emphasise that the length in the procedure of the minor applications was partially due to the Swedish FA. As a matter of fact, for these Players, the applications submitted by the Swedish FA were incomplete and additional documentation and/or information had to be requested from the latter. On top of that, these requests remained unanswered by the Swedish FA for Players 11-12 and 38, leading to the rejection of some of the applications, therefore delaying even more the

process until a complete application could be assessed (and ultimately accepted) by the Sub-Committee.

34. Finally, the Committee notes that for the 11 players from Finland provisionally registered for Haparanda FF (namely Players 21-31), the Swedish FA considered that they complied with the exception of art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP and therefore granted them a *"provisional registration"*. In reply thereto, the Committee wishes once again to refer to the developments of CAS in its awards CAS 2016/A/4785 Real Madrid Club de Fútbol v. FIFA and CAS 2016/A/4805 Club Atlético de Madrid SAD v. FIFA (cf. para. 24 *supra*). In continuation, the Committee noted that the Swedish FA's intention with respect to these players was to avoid *"a prolonged administrative process to seek an exemption from FIFA"*. The Committee was however left unconvinced with respect to that argument, particularly considering that the minor application process *via* the Sub-Committee lasted for less than two weeks for all of them (the relevant minor applications being submitted by the Swedish FA on 12 May 2015 and accepted by the Sub-Committee on 24 May 2015).
35. As a result of all of the above, although it understands that the intention of the Swedish FA does not appear to have been to circumvent the Regulations, but was allegedly rather meant to avoid *"administrative procedures"* to prevent youth players from playing football *"[e]specially in situations when there's no justifiable reasons for such a prohibition"*, the Committee was eager to emphasise that the system would not serve its purpose and would not be viable, should all the stakeholders act in the same way as the Swedish FA did *in casu*, *i.e.* by allowing minor players to be internationally transferred and/or registered without any prior approval in accordance with art. 19 par. 4 of the Regulations. As a matter of fact, by no means can an association be in a position to assess the players' situation on behalf of the Sub-Committee, and substitute itself to the latter – unless it is granted a limited exemption –.

(3) Art. 9 par. 1 of the Regulations

36. As far as art. 9 par. 1 of the RSTP is concerned, that rule, in conjunction with art. 9 par. 4, stipulates the procurement of an ITC as a prerequisite for the registration of a player over the age of 12 (this age being lowered to 10 since 1 March 2015, cf. FIFA Circular no. 1468) with a new association and at a new club.

37. Against such background and for the sake of good order, the Committee observed from the file in its possession that Players 1-37, 39-41 and 43-45 were all duly registered at a foreign association prior to their move to Sweden.

*a) Players 1-2, 4, 9 and 11*

38. The above having been established, the Committee subsequently observed that:

- i. with respect to Player 1:
  - following the relevant request from the Swedish FA received on 4 June 2015 (*i.e.* once the Player became an adult), the Norwegian FA delivered the player's ITC on 12 June 2015;
  - the Player was however registered by the Swedish FA for a Swedish club on 25 April 2014, *i.e.* more than a year before the ITC was requested and while the player was still a minor (but also without the prior approval of the Sub-Committee as demonstrated above);
  
- ii. with respect to Player 2:
  - the Kosovan FA delivered the Player's ITC on 26 February 2015 (*i.e.* once the Player was an adult);
  - the Player was however registered by the Swedish FA for a Swedish club on 13 May 2014, *i.e.* while he was still a minor (and without the prior approval of the Sub-Committee as demonstrated above);
  
- iii. with respect to Player 4:
  - following the relevant request from the Swedish FA received on 22 January 2016 (*i.e.* once the Player became an adult), the Norwegian FA delivered the player's ITC on 1 February 2016;
  - the Player was however registered by the Swedish FA for a Swedish club on 7 July 2014, *i.e.* more than a year and a half before the ITC was requested and while the player was still a minor (but also without the prior approval of the Sub-Committee as demonstrated above);

- iv. with respect to Player 9:
  - following the relevant request from the Swedish FA received on 5 October 2015 (*i.e.* after the Player's transfer had been approved by the Sub-Committee), the Norwegian FA delivered the Player's ITC on the same day;
  - the Player was however registered by the Swedish FA for a Swedish club on 31 August 2015, *i.e.* more than a month prior to the approval of the Sub-Committee but also before his ITC had been correctly requested and received;
  
- v. with respect to Player 11:
  - following the relevant request from the Swedish FA received on 21 January 2016 (*i.e.* after the Player's transfer had been approved by the Sub-Committee), the Norwegian FA delivered the Player's ITC on 25 January 2016;
  - the Player was however registered by the Swedish FA for a Swedish club on 28 September 2015, *i.e.* approximately four months prior to the approval of the Sub-Committee but also before his ITC had been correctly requested and received.

39. In light of the above, it appears to be clear that all these players had been registered by the Swedish FA prior to their ITC being requested and received, therefore, in violation of art. 9 par. 1 of the RSTP.

40. In these circumstances, the Committee referred to CAS 2016/A/4805 Club Atlético de Madrid SAD v. FIFA (par. 306) in which it was clarified that "*(...) both the registration and the ITC are prerequisites for a player to be eligible to participate in organised football. A failure to obtain an ITC must therefore be regarded as a violation separate from the failure to validly register a player. By the same token, a club's failure to obtain an ITC prior to the participation of the player concerned in organised football must be considered a violation of article 9(1) FIFA RSTP*".

41. As a result, the Committee concludes that the Swedish FA is to be found liable for a breach of art. 9 par. 1 of the Regulations with regard to Players 1-2, 4, 9 and 11.

*b) Players 3, 5-8,10, 12-37, 39-41 and 43-45*

42. In continuation to the above, the Committee acknowledged from the file in its possession that, while being minors and registered at an association other than the Swedish FA, Players 3, 5-8,10, 12-37, 39-41 and 43-45 internationally moved to Sweden to join Swedish clubs without their ITC having been previously requested. As a matter of fact, the Committee noticed that the Players' former associations all confirmed having not received any ITC request from the Swedish FA.
43. As a consequence, the Committee deemed that it had no other alternative than to conclude that the Swedish FA breached art. 9 par. 1 of the RSTP with regard to Players 3, 5-8,10, 12-37, 39-41 and 43-45, for having registered them without an ITC having been requested to the relevant associations.

*(4) Art. 5 par. 1 of the Regulations*

44. As far as art. 5 par. 1 of the Regulations is concerned, the Committee first wanted to recall that a player must be registered at an association to participate in organised football.
45. In this context, the Committee was confident that it is each association's responsibility to ensure that the registration process of players – and in particular of minor players – for its affiliated clubs is duly conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Regulations. Indeed, the registration of players falls under the competence of each association, paying due attention to the relevant provisions of the Regulations and giving due consideration to the sporting integrity of its competitions. In addition, the Committee pointed out that it is the sole competence of the association concerned to ensure that its own national regulations including the provisions of the Regulations which are binding at national level, are respected, applied uniformly and that attempts to circumvent them are suppressed accordingly.
46. Having examined the documentation at its disposal as well as the factual circumstances relating to this case, the Committee noted that Players 9, 11-12 and 21-31 all participated in football matches for Swedish clubs.
47. In particular, the Committee acknowledged the following:

- i. between 5 September 2015 and 20 October 2017, Player 9 participated in at least 93 matches for the Swedish club Umea IK FF, 6 of them being played prior to the Player's application being approved and the relevant ITC being requested and received<sup>7</sup>;
- ii. Player 11 participated in at least 13 matches for GIF Nike (5 between 2 October 2015 and 18 October 2015 / 8 between 19 April 2017 and 17 September 2017) as well as in at least 28 matches for Lunds BK (between 13 March 2016 and 20 October 2016). 5 of these matches played prior to the Player's application being approved and the relevant ITC being requested and received<sup>8</sup>;
- iii. Player 12 participated in at least 9 matches for Trelleborgs FF<sup>9</sup>;
- iv. Players 21-31 all participated in the same match of the "Division 4 norra damer" on 20 May 2015.

48. In this respect, in order to determine as to whether a potential violation of art. 5 par. 1 of the RSTP exists, the Committee had to define whether the players concerned took part in what is to be considered as being organised football. In other words, the Committee had to assess if the aforementioned competitions/matches fall under the definition of organised football, i.e. if it is organised under the auspices of FIFA, a confederation or an association, or if it has been authorised by them.

49. In these circumstances, the Committee highlighted that at no point was it contested that the matches in which the aforementioned players took part fall under the qualification of organised football as defined by the definitions section of the Regulations.

50. Notwithstanding the above and for the sake of completeness, the Committee observed from information publicly available that:

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<sup>7</sup> These matches were played in the following competitions: "Div 2 Norra Norrland Syd Damer", "Svenska Spel F19 Norra" and "DM Damer Slutspel".

<sup>8</sup> These matches were played in the following competitions: "P15 Västra" and "P15 Skåne Gr.C".

<sup>9</sup> The matches were played in the following competitions: "U16 Nationell Grupp 5", "P16 Kompisligan Skane A", "DM P16 slutspel".

- i. the “Div 2 Norra Norrland Syd Damer” is one section of the fourth level in the league system of Swedish women's football, which, as such, is organised by the Swedish FA;
- ii. the “Division 4 norra damer” also appears to be organised by the Swedish FA<sup>10</sup>;
- iii. the “Svenska Spel F19 Norra” appears to be organised by the Swedish FA (or at least organised under its auspices)<sup>11</sup>;
- iv. the “DM Damer Slutspel” appears to be the playoffs of the female championship in Sweden and as such are organised under the auspices of the Swedish FA;
- v. the “P15 Västra”, the “P15 Skåne Gr.C”, the “U16 Nationell Grupp 5”, “P16 Kompsligan Skane A”, “DM P16 slutspel” all appear to be youth tournaments/championships organised under the auspices of the Swedish FA<sup>12</sup>.

51. Against such background, it is clear that, by playing the aforementioned matches, Players 9, 11-12 and 21-31 all participated in organised football for the Swedish clubs concerned.

52. With this in mind, the Committee went on to analyse as to whether these players were entitled to participate in organised football, and as such, complied with the requirements of art. 5 par. 1 of the RSTP:

- i. In what concerns Players 9 and 11, the Committee acknowledged from the information at its disposal that their international transfer was approved by the Sub-Committee, prior to their ITC being requested to and received from the relevant associations. Having said that, the Committee conceded that these players participated in some matches – considered as being part of organised football – prior to these steps being followed (6 matches each). As a result, the

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<sup>10</sup> See <https://fogis.se/information/?scr=table&ftid=57541>

<sup>11</sup> See in particular: <https://www.svenskfotboll.se/serier-cuper/tabell-och-resultat/svenska-spel-f19-norra/77866/>

<sup>12</sup> See in particular : <https://fogis.se/information/?scr=table&ftid=79350>; <https://fogis.se/om-svff/distrikten/?scr=table&ftid=58972>; <https://fogis.se/information/?scr=table&ftid=73477>; <https://fogis.se/information/?scr=table&ftid=63034> and <https://fogis.se/information/?scr=table&ftid=68034>



Committee concluded that Players 9 and 11 played these matches in contravention of the principles of art. 5 par. 1 of the RSTP.

- ii. Player 12 was registered at the Swedish FA on 11 May 2016. Nevertheless, the Committee recalled that, in any event, such registration is to be considered invalid as the correct procedure had not been followed, the transfer being conducted without the prior approval of the Sub-Committee. As a result, Player 12 played the aforementioned matches in contravention of the principles of art. 5 par. 1 of the RSTP, as he was not validly registered at the time of his participation.
- iii. With regard to Players 21-31, the Committee noted that they all took part in one match prior to their minor application being accepted by the Sub-Committee. As a consequence, the Committee considered that this match was played by these players violation of art. 5 par. 1 of the Regulations.

53. In the light of the above, considering that Players 1-4 and 8-10 have all been participating in organised football without being registered or without being validly registered, the Committee held that it had no other alternative but to conclude that the Swedish FA was to be found liable for the violation of art. 5 par. 1 of the Regulations on 14 occasions.

#### ***D. Determination of the sanctions***

54. The violations committed by the Swedish FA having been established, the Committee subsequently went on to consider the sanction(s) to be imposed.

55. To that end, the Committee recalled that, in accordance with arts. 10 and 12 of the FDC (2017 edition), legal persons, such as the Swedish FA, are punishable by the following sanctions: warning, reprimand, fine or return of awards, transfer ban, playing a match without spectators and/or on neutral territory, ban on playing in a particular stadium, annulment of the result of a match, expulsion, forfeit, deduction of points and relegation to a lower division.

56. As has established above, the Swedish FA is guilty of having infringed several provisions of the RSTP, namely arts. 5 par. 1, 9 par. 1, 19 pars. 1, 3 and 4 as

well as art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2. As a result, there are concurrent infringements within the meaning of art. 41 pars. 1 and 2 of the FDC (2017 edition). In accordance with the principles contained in the previous provisions, in such cases the sanction applicable to the most serious infringement should apply, which may be increased depending upon the specific circumstances as a result of the remaining concurrent infringements.

57. As a result, the following considerations refer to the sanctions that may be imposed for the most serious infringements committed by the Swedish FA, namely those directly related to the protection of minors, *i.e.* art. 19 pars. 1 and 3 of the RSTP together with art. 19 par. 4 (in conjunction with art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2 and art. 1 par. 3 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP). On the basis of the sanctions that are to be imposed for these infringements, it will be decided below whether the sanctions must be increased on the basis of the infringements of arts. 5 par. 1 and 9 par. 1 of the RSTP. All relevant factors of the case will be taken into account along with the degree of the offender's guilt (art. 39 par. 4 of the FDC, 2017 edition); it is therefore important to establish to which extent the Swedish FA can be considered individually guilty of misconduct.
58. When assessing the degree of guilt of the Swedish FA within the context of the sanction for the violations of art. 19 pars. 1, 3 and 4 of the RSTP (in conjunction with art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2 and art. 1 par. 3 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP), it is necessary to take into account the severity of the infringements with respect to the legal interest protected by that provision, namely the integrity of the minors' development. More generally, art. 19 of the RSTP seeks to protect minor players. In this context, the Committee stressed that it is clear that the Swedish FA's behaviour as described throughout this decision, breaches the general prohibition of transfers of minor players which is one of the pillars of the RSTP. In this respect, the Committee recalled that the breaches in question of art. 19 pars. 1, 3 and 4 of the RSTP (in conjunction with art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2 and art. 1 par. 3 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP) committed by the Swedish FA involved fifty-two (52) underage players.
59. In these circumstances, the Committee highlighted that the provision of art. 19 of the RSTP is not merely procedural but substantive and seeks to provide effective protection to the integrity and development of underage players. Therefore, the Committee considered that the Swedish FA's reprehensible

conduct required a sanction that recognises and takes account of all these factors.

60. Taking into account the facts described in the present case – and in particular that this matter involves improper transfers of underage players –, the Committee considered that the appropriate sanction to be imposed on the Swedish FA in relation to the violations of art. 19 pars. 1, 3 and 4 of the RSTP (in conjunction with art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2 and art. 1 par. 3 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP) would be a fine. In particular, the Committee deemed that the arguments raised by the Swedish FA could, in any event, not lead to an exemption from its responsibility with respect to the present matter.
61. In line with art. 15 par. 2 of the FDC (2017 edition), such fine shall not be less than CHF 300, and not more than CHF 1,000,000. Taking into account the relevant principles and conclusions set out above, but also considering the explanation of the Swedish FA (cf. para. 35 *supra*) as well as the amounts imposed in the past for violations similar to the present case, the Committee considered a fine of CHF 104,000 to be adequate on account of the violations of art. 19 pars. 1, 3 and 4 of the RSTP (in conjunction with art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2 and art. 1 par. 3 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP) related to 52 minor players.
62. As has been established above, in addition to the violations of the regulations related to the protection of minors, the Swedish FA also breached art. 5 par. 1 of the RSTP and art. 9 par. 1 of the RSTP on several occasions.
63. In this regard, the Committee emphasised that the aforementioned additional and concurrent breaches are different and independent from the violations of art. 19 pars. 1, 3 and 4 of the RSTP (in conjunction with art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2 and art. 1 par. 3 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP).
64. In this case, the most serious offence being the violation of the provisions related to the protection of minors, the Committee decided to supplement the fine of CHF 104,000 by a warning in application of art. 10 lit. a) and 13 of the FDC (2017 edition). In particular, the Swedish FA is ordered to undertake all appropriate measures in order to guarantee that the FIFA regulations (in particular the FDC as well as the Regulations and its provisions related to the protection of minors) are strictly complied with. Should such infringements occur again in the future, the Committee would be left with no other option than to impose harsher sanctions on the Swedish FA.

### III. therefore decided

1. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee found the Swedish Football Association responsible for the infringement of the relevant provisions of the RSTP related to the protection of minors (art. 19 pars 1 and 4; art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2; art. 1 par. 3 of Annexe 3 of the RSTP), the procedure governing international transfers of players (art. 9 par. 1) and the registration of players (art. 5 par. 1).
2. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee orders the Swedish Football Association to pay a fine to the amount of CHF 104,000.
3. In application of art. 10 a) and art. 13 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the Swedish Football Association is warned on its future conduct.
4. The above fine is to be paid within thirty (30) days of notification of the present decision.

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Anin Yeboah  
Chairman of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

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### Note relating to the payment of the fine

Payment can be made either in Swiss francs (CHF) to account no. 0230-325519.70J, UBS AG, Bahnhofstrasse 45, 8098 Zurich, SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A, IBAN: CH85 0023 0230 3255 1970 J or in US dollars (USD) to account no. 0230-325519.71U, UBS AG, Bahnhofstrasse 45, 8098 Zurich, SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A, IBAN: CH95 0023 0230 3255 1971 U, with reference to case number above mentioned.

### **Note relating to the legal action:**

This decision can be contested before the FIFA Appeal Committee (art. 57 of the FDC, 2019 edition). Any party intending to appeal must announce its intention to do so in writing within three (3) days of notification of the grounds of the decision. Reasons for the appeal must then be given in writing within a further time limit of five (5) days, commencing upon expiry of the first time limit of three (3) days (art. 56 par. 2 of the FDC, 2019 edition). The appeal fee of CHF 1,000 shall be transferred to the aforementioned bank account on the date of the expiry of the time limit of five days for submitting the reasons for appeal at the latest (art. 56 par. 6 of the FDC, 2019 edition).