



Regulations

for the Status
and Transfer of Players

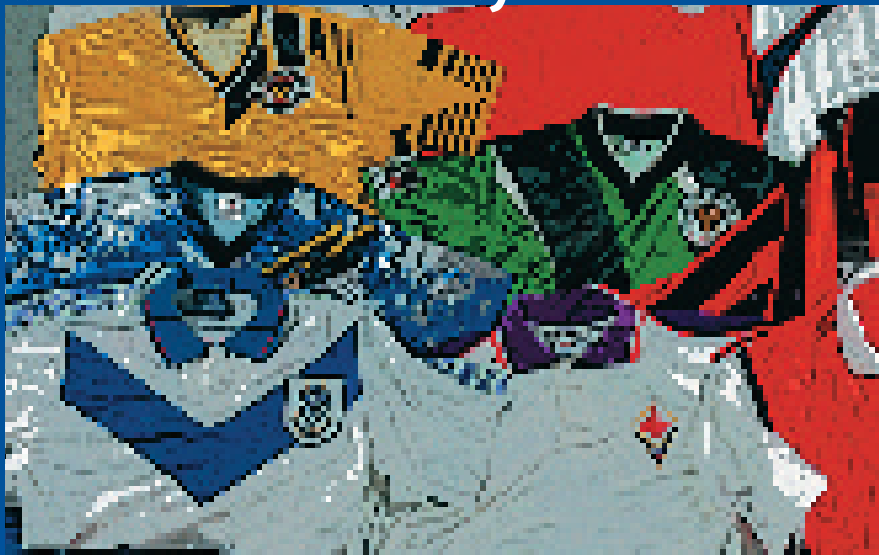


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The FIFA Executive Committee passed the following regulations in compliance with Art. 61 of the FIFA Statutes.

To simplify matters, the use of the male gender in these regulations applies to both males and females.

Preamble

¹ These regulations deal with the status and eligibility of players, as well as with the rules applicable whenever players move between clubs belonging to different national associations.

² The principles outlined under Art. 30, 31, 32 and 35 and under Chapters I, II, III, X, XI and XIII of these regulations are also binding at national level.

³ Each national association is obliged to provide a system for transfers that are effected within its own association and to draw up appropriate regulations which shall be approved by FIFA. Such regulations shall observe the general principles stipulated in the following articles and contain provisions for any dispute that may arise in connection with a national transfer (i.e. a transfer within the same national association).

Chapter I. Player categories

Art. 1

Players at national associations affiliated to FIFA are classified either as amateur or non-amateur.

Art. 2

¹ Players who have never received any remuneration other than reimbursement of their actual expenses incurred during the course of their participation in any activity connected with association football are regarded as amateur.

² Travel and hotel expenses incurred through involvement in a match and the costs of a player's equipment, insurance and training may be reimbursed without jeopardising a player's amateur status.

³ Any player who has ever received remuneration in excess of the expenses and costs described in par. 2 of this article in respect of participation in an activity connected with association football shall be regarded as non-amateur unless he has reacquired amateur status under the terms of Art. 26 par.1 below.

Art. 3

¹ A player's status shall be determined by the national association with which he is registered.

² Any dispute regarding the status of a player involved in an international transfer shall be settled by the FIFA Players' Status Committee.

Chapter II. Non-amateur players

Art. 4

¹ Every player designated as non-amateur by his national association shall have a written contract with the club employing him.

² Such contracts shall have a minimum duration of one year and a maximum duration of five years. Contracts for a different period are only permitted if consistent with national laws. The contracts shall observe the laws applicable as well as the principles set out in FIFA regulations, and any additional rules laid down in accordance with par. 2 and 3 of the Preamble by the national association of the club employing the player.

³ A copy of these contracts shall be deposited with the national association concerned and, upon demand, made available to FIFA.

⁴ If the parties agree to terminate a contract before the stipulated date, they shall notify the national association accordingly.

Chapter III. Player registration

Art. 5

¹ Every player wishing to play as an amateur or non-amateur in any competition organised or recognised by a national association shall be registered with that association.

² Players may only be registered to play with a national association during one of two registration periods per year, as laid down by the national association for this purpose, with a limit of one transfer of registration per player in the same sports season in a period of 12 months. One of these periods ("registration periods") is fixed for the end of the season and another period for the middle of the season.

³ National associations can only register players coming from another association subsequent to the receipt of (i) a certificate of transfer of registration from that other association (hereunder referred to as the "international registration transfer certificate") and (ii), in the case of a non-amateur, a copy of the player's contract with his new club.

⁴ Extracts from this register shall, upon demand, be made available to FIFA.

⁵ The regulations governing the application of these regulations (hereunder referred to as the Application Regulations) will set out the rules governing the registration periods and the information to be contained in the register in more detail.

Chapter IV.

International registration transfer certificates

Art. 6

¹ An amateur or non-amateur player who has become eligible to play for a club affiliated to a national association may not be registered with a club affiliated to another national association unless the latter has received an international registration transfer certificate issued by the national association which the player wishes to leave.

² A national association may only request an international registration transfer certificate from the national association which the player wishes to leave if the club which the player wishes to join submits its request for registration in a timely manner, i.e., during a registration period fixed by the national association which is to request the certificate.

³ Upon receiving the request, the national association of the former club shall immediately request that club and the player to confirm whether the contract has expired, whether early termination was mutually agreed, or whether a contractual dispute exists.

⁴ A national association shall produce an international registration transfer certificate within 7 days of a demand from another national association, while simultaneously sending a copy to the FIFA general secretariat.

⁵ However, by way of exception to par. 4, if a contractual dispute has arisen in the context of the player changing clubs (i.e. the contract has not expired and there has been no mutual agreement on early termination of a contract), the national association concerned shall not produce an international registration transfer certificate. The national association may only produce an international registration transfer certificate upon being notified of the decision on the sanction imposed in the case of unjustified breach of contract. The national association shall inform the requesting national association of the existence of a contractual dispute within 7 days of receipt of the request for the certificate.

⁶ If, after a period of 14 days from the date of the request from the prospective national association, the national association which a player wishes to leave has not issued an international registration transfer certificate, the new association is entitled to contact the FIFA general secretariat requesting FIFA's intervention.

⁷ A player shall not, under any circumstances, be authorised to play in official matches for his new club until an international transfer registration certificate has been issued.

Art. 7

¹ Only the national association of the club which the player wishes to join is entitled to request the necessary international registration transfer certificate. Consequently, a national association which receives an unsolicited international regis-

tration transfer certificate from another association shall not register the player concerned for one of its clubs before it has requested another certificate from the national association which the player wishes to leave.

² The international registration transfer certificate, duly signed by the national association which the player intends to leave, shall be issued in triplicate. Special forms provided by FIFA for this purpose or forms with similar wording shall be used.

³ The original shall be sent to the national association requesting the transfer, the first copy to the FIFA general secretariat and the second shall remain in the possession of the national association which the player is leaving.

⁴ A national association may grant a player temporary eligibility to play on the basis of an international registration transfer certificate sent by telefax, for a maximum period of a sports season within a period of 12 months. If the international registration transfer certificate is not received within this period of one year, the player's eligibility to play shall be considered definitive.

A national association resorting to this temporary eligibility clause as a deliberate ploy to enable one of its registered players to play temporarily in another country shall be referred to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

Art. 8

¹ The international registration transfer certificate may not be made subject to any conditions.

In particular, the validity of an international registration transfer certificate shall not be restricted to a certain period and any clauses to this effect appended to the certificate shall be considered null and void.

² National associations are strictly forbidden from charging expenses or demanding payment of a fee for issuing an international registration transfer certificate.

Art. 9

¹ A national association issuing an international registration transfer certificate at the request of another national association shall indicate in an attachment to the certificate whether the player wishing to transfer is under suspension on disciplinary grounds.

² The national association receiving the international registration transfer certificate shall enforce the remainder of the disciplinary measures applying to the player and shall confirm in writing to the former national association that it has done so.

³ Any dispute as to what does or does not constitute disciplinary grounds under par. 1 above shall be referred to the FIFA Players' Status Committee.

Art. 10

¹ Under the provisions of these regulations, the loan of a player by one club to another is dealt with administratively like a transfer. An international registration transfer certificate shall therefore be issued:

- whenever a player leaves a national association to join another national association to which the club to which he has been released on loan belongs;
- whenever, on expiry of the period of loan, a player rejoins the national association of the club which released him on loan.

² The conditions governing the loan of a non-amateur player (duration of the loan, obligations to which the loan is subject) shall be regulated by concluding a separate written contract between the two clubs and the player concerned. Any clause in this respect appended to the certificate itself shall be null and void.

³ A club which has accepted a player on a loan basis is not entitled to transfer him to a third club without the written authorisation of the club which lent him out and of the player concerned.

Chapter V. Player eligibility

Art. 11

¹ Only a player who is currently registered with a national association to play for one of its clubs shall be admitted to competitions organised by that national association.

² Eligibility to play shall only be granted by a national association to a player who fulfils one of the following conditions:

- (a) if the player in question has never previously been registered with a club belonging to a national association;
- (b) if the player in question has transferred from one club to another within the national association concerned in accordance with the association's regulations;
- (c) if the player in question:
 - (i) has transferred from a club in one national association to another in a different national association,
 - (ii) holds an international registration transfer certificate (cf. Art. 6) issued by the national association of the player's former club,

- (iii) has not been found to have breached his contract without just cause or sporting just cause,
- (iv) is not subject to any sports sanctions imposed by the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber in accordance with Art. 42, and
- (v) is not subject to disciplinary measures regarding the period he played for the club he now wishes to leave (cf. Art. 9).

³ The foregoing provisions are without prejudice to cases in which the FIFA Players' Status Committee specifically authorises temporary eligibility.

Chapter VI. Protection of Minors

Art. 12

¹ International transfers of players under the age of 18 shall only be permitted under the following conditions:

- (a) as a general rule, when the family of the player moves to the country in which the new club is located for reasons that are not linked to football
- (b) within the territory of the EU/EEA and in the case of players between the minimum working age in the new training club's country and the age of 18, suitable arrangements are guaranteed for their sports training and academic education by the new training club. For this purpose a code of conduct will be established and enforced by the football authorities.

² The same principles apply to the first registration of players under 18 who have a nationality other than that of the country in which they first request to be registered.

Chapter VII. Training compensation for young players

Art. 13

A player's training and education takes place between the ages of 12 and 23. Training compensation shall be payable, as a general rule, up to the age of 23 for training incurred up to the age of 21, unless it is evident that a player has already terminated his training period before the age of 21. In the latter case, compensation shall be due until the player reaches the age of 23, but the calculation of the amount of compensation shall be based on the years between 12 and the age when it is established that the player actually completed his training.

Art. 14

When a player signs his first contract as a non-amateur, a sum of compensation shall be paid to the club(s) involved in the training and education of the player.

Art. 15

Compensation shall be paid each time a player changes from one club to another up to the time his training and education is complete, which, as a general rule, occurs when the player reaches 23 years of age.

Art. 16

The amount of compensation to be paid for training and education shall be calculated in accordance with parameters set out in the Application Regulations, which shall also set out how the compensation amount shall be allocated between the clubs involved in the training and education of the player.

Art. 17

When a player signs his first contract as a non-amateur, or when a player moves as a non-amateur at the end of his contract but before reaching the age of 23, the amount of compensation shall be limited to compensation for training and education, calculated in accordance with the parameters set out in the Application Regulations.

Art. 18

If a player moves during the course of a contract but before reaching the age of 23, compensation for training and education shall be paid and calculated in accordance with the parameters set out in the Application Regulations. However, in the case of unilateral breach of contract, this provision is without prejudice to the application of Art. 22 below.

Art. 19

If a link between the player and his former club cannot be established, or if the training club does not make itself known within two years of the player signing his first non-amateur contract, training compensation is paid to the national association of the country where the player was trained. This compensation shall be earmarked for youth football development programmes in the country in question.

Art. 20

No training compensation shall be payable when a player over the age of 23 changes clubs.

Chapter VIII. Maintenance of Contractual Stability

Art. 21

- ¹ (a) In the case of all contracts signed up to the player's 28th birthday: if there is unilateral breach without just cause or sporting just cause during the first 3 years, sports sanctions shall be applied and compensation payable.

- (b) In the case of contracts signed after the 28th birthday, the same principles shall apply but only during the first 2 years.
 - (c) In the cases cited in the preceding two paragraphs, unilateral breach of contract without just cause is prohibited during the season.
- ² (a) Unilateral breach without just cause or sporting just cause after the first 3 years or 2 years respectively will not result in sanctions. However, sports sanctions may be pronounced on a club and/or a players' agent for inducing a breach of contract. Compensation shall be payable.
- (b) A breach of contract as defined in the preceding paragraph is prohibited during the season.
 - (c) Disciplinary measures may be applied by the Dispute Resolution Chamber if notice is not given in the 15 days following the last official match of the national season of the club with which the player is registered.

Art. 22

Unless specifically provided for in the contract, and without prejudice to the provisions on training compensation laid down in Art. 13 ff, compensation for breach of contract (whether by the player or the club), shall be calculated with due respect to the national law applicable, the specificity of sport, and all objective criteria which may be relevant to the case, such as:

- (1) Remuneration and other benefits under the existing contract and/or the new contract,
- (2) Length of time remaining on the existing contract (up to a maximum of 5 years),
- (3) Amount of any fee or expense paid or incurred by the former club, amortised over the length of the contract,
- (4) Whether the breach occurs during the periods defined in Art. 21.1.

Art. 23

Other than in exceptional circumstances, sports sanctions for unilateral breach of contract without just cause or sporting just cause shall be applied:

- ¹ In the case of the player:
- (a) If the breach occurs at the end of the first or the second year of contract, the sanction shall be a restriction of four months on his eligibility to participate in any official football matches as from the beginning of the new season of the new club's national championship.
 - (b) If the breach occurs at the end of the third year of the contract (or at the end of the second year if the contract was signed after the age of 28), no sports sanction shall be applied unless there was failure to give appropriate notice after the last match of the season. In such a case the sanction shall be proportionate.
 - (c) In the case of aggravating circumstances, such as failure to give notice or recurrent breach of contract, sports sanctions may be imposed for up to a maximum of six months.

- ² In the case of the club breaching a contract or inducing such a breach:
- (a) If the breach occurs at the end of the first or second year of the contract, the sanction shall be a ban on registering any new player, either nationally or internationally, until the expiry of the second transfer period following the date on which the breach became effective. In all cases, no restriction for unilateral breach of contract shall exceed a period of 12 months following the breach or inducement of the breach.
 - (b) If the breach occurs at the end of the third year of the contract (or at the end of the second year if the contract was signed after the age of 28), no sanctions shall be applied unless there was failure to give appropriate notice after the last match of the season. In such a case the sanction shall be proportionate.
 - (c) A club seeking to register a player who has unilaterally breached a contract during the periods defined in Art. 21.1 will be presumed to have induced a breach of contract.
 - (d) Without prejudice to the foregoing rules, other sports sanctions may be imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee on clubs, where appropriate, and may include, but shall not be limited to, the following:
 - fines,
 - deduction of points,
 - exclusion from competitions.

Appeals against such sanctions may be lodged to the Arbitration Tribunal for Football (TAF).

- ³ In the case of a players' agent involved in such a breach:

Sanctions can also be imposed by the FIFA Players Status Committee on players' agents involved in a breach of contract, in compliance with the FIFA Players' Agents Regulations. Appeals against such sanctions may be lodged to the Arbitration Tribunal for Football (TAF).

Art. 24

In addition to termination for just cause, it will also be possible for a player to terminate his contract for a valid sporting reason ("sporting just cause").

Sporting just cause will be established on a case-by-case basis pursuant to the procedure set out in Art. 42. Each case will be evaluated on its individual merits, taking account of all relevant circumstances (injury, suspension, player's field position, player's age etc.). Furthermore, sporting just cause shall be examined at the end of the football season and before expiry of the relevant registration period in the former club's national association.

If sporting just cause has been established, it shall be determined whether compensation is payable and to what amount.

Chapter IX. Solidarity mechanism

Art. 25

¹ If a non-amateur player moves during the course of a contract, a proportion (5%) of any compensation paid to the previous club will be distributed to the club(s) involved in the training and education of the player. This distribution will be made in proportion to the number of years the player has been registered with the relevant clubs between the ages of 12 and 23.

² Details of the distribution mechanism are set out in the Application Regulations, including disciplinary measures to be imposed by the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber, in accordance with Art. 42, in case of non-observance of the obligation set forth in the previous paragraph.

Chapter X. Reacquisition of amateur status

Art. 26

¹ Any player who has been registered as a non-amateur with a national association may not be reclassified as amateur until a period of 30 days has elapsed.

² This period shall start as from the day the player competed in his last match with the club with which he was registered as a non-amateur.

Art. 27

¹ A club which a non-amateur player has left shall not be entitled to any compensation from the new club with which the player has regained amateur status pursuant to these regulations.

² If there is any doubt as to whether a player who has regained amateur status actually plays as an amateur in his new club, the club with which he was registered before regaining amateur status may ask the FIFA Players' Status Committee to investigate the matter and, if necessary, to take appropriate action.

³ If, within three years of the date on which he regained amateur status, a player reverts to non-amateur status, the club with which he was registered before regaining amateur status may ask the FIFA Players' Status Committee to investigate whether any compensation is due pursuant to these regulations.

Chapter XI. Termination of activity

Art. 28

¹ A non-amateur player who stops playing competitive football shall remain registered as a player at the national association's club with which he was last employed for a period of 30 months.

² The period shall begin as from the end of the season in which the player stops playing football.

³ The club of a non-amateur player who stops playing football upon expiry of his contract is not entitled to claim compensation of any kind from him.

Art. 29

¹ If, within the period mentioned in Art. 28 par. 1, a non-amateur player who has stopped playing football wishes to start playing again with the same status, he shall remain registered with the club with which he was last employed, which will be entitled to training compensation pursuant to Chapter VII above if the player transfers to a new club before the age of 23. (In the event of a transfer within the same national association, the national regulations regarding compensation, if different, shall apply).

² If the period mentioned in Art. 28, par.1 has elapsed, the club with which the player was last registered will no longer be entitled to any compensation.

Chapter XII. Special provisions

Art. 30

¹ The validity of a transfer contract or of an employment contract between a player and a club cannot be made conditional upon the positive results of a medical examination or upon the acquisition of a work permit.

² The player's prospective new club is required to make any necessary investigations, studies, tests and/or medical examination or to take any appropriate action before concluding the contract, otherwise it will be liable to pay the full amount of compensation for training and development agreed upon (and/or the amount of the salary due).

Art. 31

If the services of a licensed players' agent have been used to conclude a contract for the transfer of a player between two clubs and/or an employment contract between a player and a club, reference shall be made to this fact in the relevant contract(s). These contracts shall, moreover, clearly mention the name of any agent who has been given such a mandate.

Art. 32

Only clubs and players are entitled to compensation as defined under these regulations.

Art. 33

Any problems arising in connection with the status of refugee players shall be settled definitively by the FIFA Players' Status Committee.

Art. 34

An international registration transfer certificate is not required for a player under the age of 12 years.

Art. 35

A player who has not reached his eighteenth birthday may sign a contract as a non-amateur only for a period not exceeding three years. Any clause referring to a longer period shall not be recognised by FIFA or a national sports tribunal.

Chapter XIII.

Release of players for national association representative matches

Art. 36

¹ Any club which has concluded a contract with a player who is ineligible to play for the national association of which the club is a member is obliged to release him to the national association of which he is a national, if he is selected for one of its representative teams, irrespective of his age.

The same provision applies to a club of a national association for any of its players who are nationals of the same national association, if they are summoned to play in a representative match.

² This provision is binding for the following matches:

(a) a total of five international matches per calendar year.

If during the course of the same calendar year and after five matches have been played, a national association is still required to play matches in the FIFA World Cup™ preliminary competition, in the Olympic Football Tournaments preliminary competition and/or in the preliminary competition of confederation championships for “A” national teams, then the compulsory release of the player shall be extended to include such matches.

(b) additionally, any match in FIFA final competitions or the final competition of confederation championships for “A” national teams and of other competitions organised by the confederations, provided these competitions lead to qualification for a FIFA competition;

(c) additionally, any other match in respect of which the FIFA Executive Committee has taken a special decision.

³ If a national association’s representative team has qualified ex officio for a final competition, the compulsory release, as prescribed in par. 2 (a) above, shall comprise eight international matches per calendar year.

⁴ **It is not compulsory to release players for friendly matches scheduled on dates outside the coordinated international match calendar.**

⁵ The player shall also be released for the period of preparation. The extent of this period is laid down as follows:

- (a) for a friendly international match: 48 hours;
- (b) for a qualifying match for an international competition: 4 days (including the day of the match). The period of release shall be prolonged to 5 days if the match in question is held on a different continent from that on which the club is domiciled.
- (c) for the final competition of an international competition: 14 days before the first match of the tournament. Any friendly matches played during this preparatory period do not count among the five international matches stipulated under par. 2 (a), or the eight matches stipulated under par. 3.

In any event, a player is obliged to arrive at the match venue at least 48 hours before kick-off.

⁶ The clubs and national associations concerned may, if desired, agree to extend the period of release. Where such an agreement has been made at the time of transfer of the player, a copy of it shall be attached to the international registration transfer certificate.

⁷ Any player who has complied with the summons from his national association pursuant to this article shall resume duty with his club not later than 24 hours after the match to which he was summoned. This period may be prolonged to 48 hours if the match took place on a different continent from that of the club with which the player is registered. The club shall be notified in writing of the player's expected outward and return journey ten days before the match. The national association shall ensure that the player returns to his club on time after the match.

⁸ If a player does not resume duty with his club by the deadlines stipulated in this article, the period of release for his national association shall be shortened for the subsequent summons as follows:

- (a) for a friendly match : to 24 hours
- (b) for a qualifying match : to 3 days
- (c) for the final competition of an international competition: to 10 days

In the case of recurrent breach of this provision, the FIFA Players' Status Committee can impose appropriate sanctions, which may include but not be limited to:

- fines
- reduction of the period of release
- interdiction of a summons to the subsequent match/matches

⁹ A player shall not be permitted to remain with his national team in the interval between two matches for which he has been summoned if the interval is eight days or more.

Art. 37

¹ Any club which releases a player pursuant to Art. 36 above is not entitled to financial compensation except that compensation agreed upon in the case of an extended period of release (cf. Art. 36, par. 5).

² The national association summoning the player shall bear the costs of travel actually incurred by the player as a result of this summons.

³ The club with which the summoned player is registered shall be responsible for his insurance cover against illness and accident during the entire period of his release including insurance for injury sustained in the international match (or matches) for which he has been released.

Art. 38

¹ As a general rule, any player registered with a club is obliged to respond affirmatively when called upon by the national association of which he is a national to play for one of its representative teams.

² A national association wishing to summon one of its players who is playing abroad must notify him in writing at least 15 days before the date of the match for which the player is required. The player's club shall also be informed in writing at the same time. The club shall confirm the release of the player within the ensuing six days.

³ A national association which requests FIFA's help to obtain the release of a player playing abroad may do so only under the following two conditions:

- (a) the national association with which the player is registered must have been asked to intervene but without success;
- (b) the file must have been submitted to FIFA at least five days before the date of the match for which the player is needed.

Art. 39

A player who is unable to comply with a summons from the national association of which he is a national owing to injury or illness shall, if the association so requires, agree to undergo a medical examination by a doctor of that association's choice.

Art. 40

A player who has been summoned by his national association for one of its representative teams is, under no circumstances, entitled to play for the club with which he is registered during the period for which he has been released or should have been released, pursuant to Art. 36 above. This restriction on playing for the club shall, moreover, be prolonged by five days in the event that the player, for whatsoever reason, did not wish to or was unable to comply with the summons.

Art. 41

¹ If a club refuses to release a player or neglects to do so despite the provisions of Art. 36 to Art. 40 above, the FIFA Players' Status Committee shall apply the following sanctions:

- (a) a fine
- (b) a caution, censure or suspension of the club involved.

² Any violation by a club of the restriction on playing mentioned under Art. 40 shall be subject to the following sanctions by the FIFA Players' Status Committee:

- (a) all or part of the sanctions mentioned in par. 1 above;
- (b) the national association to which the club belongs shall declare the match (or matches) in which the player took part as lost by the club concerned. Any points thus won by the club in question shall be forfeited. Any match contested according to the cup system shall be regarded as having been won by the opposing team, irrespective of the score.

³ If a player reports late for duty more than once, then, in addition to the consequences described in Art. 36, par. 8, the FIFA Player's Status Committee may, ex officio or at the request of the player's club, impose additional sanctions on the player and/or his national association.

Chapter XIV. Dispute resolution, disciplinary and arbitration system

Art. 42

¹ Without prejudice to the right of any player or club to seek redress before a civil court in disputes between clubs and players, a dispute resolution and arbitration system shall be established, which shall consist of the following elements:

- (a) Conciliation facilities, through which a low-cost, speedy, confidential and informal resolution of any dispute will be explored with the parties at their request by an independent mediator. Such mediation will not be a precondition to, nor suspend the resolution of the dispute according to formal mechanisms described in (b).
- (b) (i) The triggering elements of the dispute (i.e. whether a contract was breached, with or without just cause, or sporting just cause), will be decided by the Dispute Resolution Chamber of the FIFA Players' Status Committee or, if the parties have expressed a preference in a written agreement, or it is provided for by collective bargain agreement, by a national sports arbitration tribunal composed of members chosen in equal numbers by players and clubs, as well as an independent chairman. This part of the dispute must be decided within 30 days after the date on which the dispute has been submitted to the parties' tribunal of choice.

- (ii) If the decision reached pursuant to (i) is that a contract has been breached without just cause or sporting just cause, the Dispute Resolution Chamber shall decide within 30 days whether the sports sanctions or disciplinary measures which it may impose pursuant to Art. 23 shall be imposed. This decision shall be reasoned, also in respect of the findings made pursuant to (b)(i), and can be appealed against pursuant to (c).
 - (iii) Within the period specified in (ii), or in complex cases within 60 days, the Dispute Resolution Chamber shall decide any other issues related to a contractual breach (in particular, financial compensation). This decision shall be reasoned, and can be appealed against pursuant to (c).
 - (iv) In addition, the Dispute Resolution Chamber may review disputes concerning training compensation fees and shall have discretion to adjust the training fee if it is clearly disproportionate to the case under review. Furthermore, the Dispute Resolution Chamber can impose disciplinary measures on the basis of Art. 34, par. 4 of the FIFA Statutes where these regulations or the Application Regulations so provide, or pursuant to a specific written mandate by the FIFA Players' Status Committee. The Dispute Resolution Chamber shall rule within 60 days after the date on which a case has been submitted to it by one of the parties to the dispute (with the exception of those disciplinary measures referred to in Art. 23, which are covered by (ii)). These decisions shall be reasoned, and can be appealed against pursuant to (c).
 - (v) The Dispute Resolution Chamber may award financial compensation and/or impose disciplinary measures on the club concerned, if it is established pursuant to (b)(i) that a player terminated his contract with this club with just cause or sporting just cause and the player, as a result of the procedural provisions in these regulations, has been suspended from playing in the national championship of his new club. The Dispute Resolution Chamber shall rule within 60 days after the date on which a case has been submitted to it by the player concerned. This decision shall be reasoned, and can be appealed against pursuant to (c).
 - (vi) All other measures provided for in these regulations will be taken by the FIFA Players' Status Committee, with the exception of those measures which are under the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Committee.
 - (vii) All rulings taken pursuant to these regulations shall be published.
- (c) Appeals contemplated in (b) shall be brought before a chamber of the Arbitration Tribunal for Football (TAF) provided for under Art. 63 of the FIFA Statutes, irrespective of the severity of any sanction or the amount of any financial award. This chamber of the Arbitration Tribunal for Football (TAF) shall be composed of members chosen in equal numbers by players and clubs and with an independent chairman, in compliance with the principles of the New York Convention of 1958. The tribunal must rule within 60 days or, in exceptional and particularly complex cases, within 90 days, after the date on which a case decided by the Dispute Resolution Chamber pursuant to (b)

has been submitted to it. These appeals shall not have a suspensive effect. The tribunal's rulings shall be published.

² The conciliation facilities envisaged under 1(a) above shall be supplied by FIFA. The Dispute Resolution Chamber provided for under 1 (b) above shall be instituted in the FIFA Players' Status Committee. The rules of procedure of the Dispute Resolution Chamber are set out in the Application Regulations and may be reviewed from time to time by the FIFA Players' Status Committee.

³ Before reaching its decision on the matters covered under 1(b) above, the Dispute Resolution Chamber shall ask the national association which held the player's registration before the dispute arose to give its opinion.

Art. 43

The dispute resolution system and arbitration system shall take account of all relevant arrangements, laws and/or collective bargaining agreements, which exist at national level, as well as the specificity of sport.

Art. 44

The FIFA Players' Status Committee shall not address any dispute under these regulations if more than two years have elapsed since the facts leading to the dispute arose.

XV. Final provisions

Art. 45

Any matter not provided for under these regulations shall be settled by the FIFA Players' Status Committee, subject to review by the FIFA Executive Committee.

Art. 46

These regulations were initially adopted in April 1991 and subsequently amended in December 1991, December 1993, December 1996, May 1997, September 1997 and July 2001 by the FIFA Executive Committee.

They shall come into force in their present form two weeks after official notification of the new regulations by FIFA to the national associations and at the latest on 1 September 2001.

Contracts between players and clubs concluded before 1 September 2001 will continue to be governed by the previous version of these regulations, which came into force on 1 October 1997, unless the clubs and the players expressly agree to subject their agreements signed after 5 July 2001 to these regulations.

Buenos Aires/Zurich, 5 July 2001

For the FIFA Executive Committee

President	General Secretary
Joseph S. Blatter	Michel Zen-Ruffinen

Regulations governing the Application of the Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players

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Chapter I.

Player registration

Art. 1 **Registration**

¹ No player may be registered to play for two different clubs affiliated to the same or to different national associations at any given time. The registration constitutes the licence for a player to play football.

² Once registration has been effected, the club and the player will receive an extract from the register, which will contain, inter alia, the details of every club the player has been registered with, or affiliated to, since the age of twelve, the nationality and the date of birth of the player, as well as the date from which the player is eligible to play for his club in competitions organised by the national association to which his club is affiliated.

Art. 2 **Registration periods**

¹ Each national association will decide upon the establishment of two registration periods per year, according to the following principles:

- (a) The first registration period will start, at the earliest, when the national championship has ended and finish, at the latest, before the subsequent national championship begins. This period should, in principle, last for no longer than six weeks.
- (b) The second registration period will occur approximately in the middle of the season. This period should, in principle, last for no longer than four weeks and should be limited to registrations for strictly sport related reasons, such as technical adjustments to a team or the replacement of injured players, or in exceptional circumstances.

² The national associations shall notify FIFA of the two periods they have established as registration periods pursuant to par. 1 above.

Chapter II.

Protection of Minors in the EU/EEA

Art. 3 **Code of conduct for transfers in the EU/EEA**

¹ FIFA and UEFA will adopt a Code of Conduct to ensure that the sports training and academic education of minors are guaranteed in the case of transfer in the EU/EEA. The Code of Conduct establishes guidelines which shall be followed by national associations and leagues.

² The Code of Conduct shall be enforced and applied by the national associations.

³ The national associations shall, in particular, ensure that in every case where a club applies for the registration of a player who is under 18 years of age, the requirements set out in the Code of Conduct are observed.

⁴ If a club does not comply with the requirements of the Code of Conduct, the national association shall not register the player. Where appropriate, the national association may also impose disciplinary sanctions on the club. Such disciplinary measures may include, but are not limited to:

- the annulment of wrongful registrations
- a ban on registering any players under 18 years of age for a given time
- fines
- deduction of points
- exclusion from competitions.

⁵ In addition, without prejudice to par. 2, the disciplinary measures listed in Art. 23 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players may be imposed by the FIFA Players' Status Committee, pursuant to Art. 34 of the FIFA Statutes, whenever a national association has failed to implement the principles set out in the Code of Conduct.

⁶ National associations may carry out on-the-spot investigations to ensure that any club which has registered a player under 18 years of age continues to comply with the obligations set out in the Code of Conduct. If a club has failed to meet these obligations, disciplinary measures may be imposed, in accordance with the terms of par. 4 above.

⁷ If third parties, such as agents, have been involved in a registration, or an application for registration, of a player who is under 18 years of age, and have failed to comply with the Code of Conduct, disciplinary measures may be imposed on the agents pursuant to the FIFA Players' Agents Regulations, and on other third parties in accordance with the jurisdiction of the FIFA Players' Status Committee, pursuant to Art. 34 of the FIFA Statutes.

⁸ Appeals against decisions imposing disciplinary measures pursuant to par. 4, 5, 6 and 7 above can be lodged to the Arbitration Tribunal for Football (TAF).

⁹ If in doubt regarding the interpretation of the above-mentioned provisions and of the Code of Conduct, the national association may seek the joint assistance of FIFA and UEFA.

Art. 4 Other Registrations of Minors

¹ National associations in the EU/EEA shall refuse the registration of players under 18 years of age who are nationals of countries outside the EU/EEA and who are not moving for family reasons under the terms of Chapter VI of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.

² National associations outside the EU/EEA shall refuse the registration of players under 18 years of age who are nationals of foreign countries and who are not

moving for family reasons under the terms of Chapter VI of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.

³ Where appropriate, the national association may also impose disciplinary sanctions on the club. Such disciplinary measures may include, but shall not be limited to:

- the annulment of wrongful registrations
- a ban on registering any players under 18 years of age for a given time
- fines
- deduction of points
- exclusion from competitions.

⁴ In addition, the disciplinary measures listed in Art. 23 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players may be imposed by the FIFA Players' Status Committee, pursuant to Art. 34 of the FIFA Statutes, whenever a national association has failed to implement the ban on transfers and first registration of players under 18 years of age.

⁵ If third parties, such as agents, have been involved in the wrongful registration or application for registration of a player who is under 18 years of age, disciplinary measures may be imposed on the agents pursuant to the FIFA Players' Agents Regulations, and on other third parties in accordance with the jurisdiction of the FIFA Players' Status Committee, pursuant to Art. 34 of the FIFA Statutes.

⁶ Appeals against decisions imposing disciplinary measures pursuant to par. 3, 4 and 5 above can be lodged to the Arbitration Tribunal for Football (TAF).

Chapter III. **Training compensation for young players**

Art. 5 Principles

¹ For the purposes of calculating compensation, the training period starts at the beginning of the season of the player's 12th birthday, or at a later age, as the case may be, and finishes at the end of the season of his 21st birthday.

² Compensation for training is due:

- (a) for the first time, when the player acquires non-amateur status according to Art. 1 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players
- (b) afterwards, for every transfer up to the age of 23, depending on the player's status, i.e.:
 - from amateur to non-amateur status
 - from non-amateur status to non-amateur status

- ³ Compensation for training is not due:
- (a) for transfers from amateur status to amateur status or for transfers from non-amateur status to amateur status (reacquisition of amateur status), unless the player (re)acquires non-amateur status within a period of three years
 - (b) if a club unilaterally terminates a player's contract without just cause, but without prejudice to the compensation due to the previous training clubs.

⁴ Payment of compensation for training:

- (a) As a general rule, the amount due shall reflect the costs which were necessary to train the player and shall be paid for the benefit of every club which has contributed to the training of the player in question, starting from the age of 12.
- (b) First payment (as mentioned in par. 2 (a)): The amount to be paid is for the benefit of every club which has contributed to the training of the player in question, starting from the age of 12. The money shall be distributed on a pro-rata basis depending on the full years of proper and proven training, and in relation to the category to which the training clubs belong.
- (c) In the case of subsequent transfers (as mentioned in par. 2 (b)) from clubs belonging to the third or fourth categories (as defined in Art. 6 par. 2), the new club shall pay the former club the costs which it incurred in training the player as well as the training compensation costs which it incurred when registering the player.
- (d) In the case of a player moving from a club belonging to the third or fourth categories to a club in a higher category, a cascade principle will apply as defined in Art. 8 below.
- (e) In the case of a player moving clubs within the same category, a cascade principle will apply as defined in Art. 8 below.
- (f) In the case of a player moving from a club in the first or second category, the amount of training compensation payable shall be the training cost of the previous club.

⁵ In the EU/EEA, if the training club does not offer the player a contract, this shall be taken into account in determining the training compensation payable by the new club, without prejudice to the rights to compensation of the previous training clubs.

Art. 6 Calculation parameters

¹ In order to calculate the compensation due for training and education costs, the clubs will be categorised in accordance with their financial investments in training players.

² Four categories shall be established according to the following guidelines:

(a) Category 1 (top level, e.g. high quality training centre):

all first-division clubs of national associations investing on average a similar amount in training players. These national associations will be defined

based on actual training costs, and this categorisation can be revised on a yearly basis.

(b) Category 2 (still professional, but at a lower level):

all second-division clubs of national associations in category 1

all first-division clubs in all other countries with professional football

(c) Category 3:

all third-division clubs of national associations in category 1

all second-division clubs in all other countries with professional football

(d) Category 4:

all fourth- and lower division clubs of the national associations in category 1

all third- and lower division clubs in all other countries with professional football

all clubs in countries with only amateur football.

³ National associations may propose other criteria for categorising the training and education costs incurred by clubs affiliated to them. The training and education costs per category shall be calculated by multiplying the cost of training one player by an average player factor. The player factor determines the ratio between the number of players who need to be trained to produce one professional player.

⁴ Each year national associations in the EU/EEA shall determine the categories to which their clubs belong, after hearing the views of representatives of players and clubs. The national associations shall notify FIFA of this categorisation at the latest by the mid-season registration period every year and FIFA will publish this information via a circular letter and its internet sites. The categorisation shall be valid for 12 months or two registration periods.

⁵ National associations in the EU/EEA shall determine the criteria for calculating the training compensation, after hearing the views of representatives of players and clubs. FIFA will acknowledge these criteria, subject to their proportionality. The national associations shall notify FIFA of these criteria at the latest by the mid-season registration period every year and FIFA will publish them via a circular letter and its internet sites. These criteria may be reviewed after a lapse of 24 months or four registration periods.

⁶ Guidelines on what type of costs may be included in the calculation of training and education costs will be set out in a circular letter from FIFA.

Art. 7

Calculation of compensation for training and education

¹ The compensation for training and education shall be obtained by multiplying the amount corresponding to the category of the training club for which the player was registered by the number of years of training from 12 to 21.

² To ensure that training compensation for very young players is not set at unreasonably high levels, the amount for players aged 12 to 15 shall be based on the training and education costs for category 4.

³ As a general principle, compensation for training is based on the training and education costs of the country in which the new club is located.

⁴ However, in the EU/EEA area, compensation for training is based on the training and education costs of the country in which the training club was located. The following rules apply:

- (a) the player moves from a lower to a higher category: calculation is the average of the training costs for the two categories;
- (b) the player moves from a higher to a lower category: calculation is based on training costs of the lower category club
- (c) the player moves from a club in category 1, 2 or 3 to a club in category 4: no compensation for training is payable.

⁵ In the EU/EEA area, every national association shall notify FIFA of a ceiling for the training compensation for every club category at the beginning of the sports season, after hearing the views of representatives of players and clubs. FIFA will acknowledge such ceilings, subject to their proportionality. FIFA will publish the ceilings via a circular letter and its internet sites at the latest by the mid-season registration period every year.

Art. 8

Distribution of the compensation payment

The amount paid by the new club as compensation for training and education of the player concerned shall be distributed according to the following principles:

- (a) For the transfer of a player from a club in the third or fourth category to a club in a higher category, 75% of the amount exceeding the costs of the category of the former club shall be redistributed on a pro-rata basis to all the clubs that have trained the player from the age of 12 onwards.
- (b) For the transfer of a player from a club in the second category to a club in the first category, 50% of the amount exceeding the costs of the category of the former club shall be redistributed on a pro-rata basis to all the clubs that have trained the player from the age of 12 onwards.
- (c) For the transfer between two clubs of the same category, 10% of the amount calculated as described under Art. 7, pars. 3 and 4 shall be redistributed on a pro-rata basis to all the clubs that have trained the player from the age of 12 onwards.
- (d) If a player's career cannot be traced back to the age of 12, any missing years will be based on category four for the purposes of determining training compensation and the amount will be distributed to the player's national association of origin and be earmarked for training young players.

Art. 9

Payment of compensation

¹ The new club shall pay the training clubs the amount due as compensation for training and education pursuant to the above provisions at the latest within 30 days of the signature of the first contract under the terms of Art. 4 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players or for any subsequent transfer, within 30 days of the player's new registration.

² It is the responsibility of the new club to calculate the amount of the compensation for training and education and the way in which it shall be distributed in accordance with the player's career history. The player shall, if necessary, assist the new club in discharging this obligation.

³ The FIFA Players' Status Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs or players that do not observe the obligations stipulated in the previous paragraphs. Appeals against these measures may be lodged to the Arbitration Tribunal for Football (TAF).

Chapter IV.

Solidarity mechanism

Art. 10

Principles

If a non-amateur player moves during the course of a contract, a proportion (5%) of any compensation paid to the former club will be redistributed as a solidarity contribution to the clubs involved in the training and education of the player concerned over the years. This solidarity contribution shall be apportioned between the clubs concerned according to the age of the player at the time they provided him with training and education, as follows:

- 12 - 13 years: 5%
- 13 - 14 years: 5%
- 14 - 15 years: 10%
- 15 - 16 years: 10%
- 16 - 17 years: 10%
- 17 - 18 years: 10 %
- 18 - 19 years: 10 %
- 19 - 20 years: 10 %
- 20 - 21 years: 10 %
- 21 - 22 years: 10%
- 22 - 23 years: 10%

Art. 11

Payment of solidarity contribution

¹ The new club shall pay the amount due as a solidarity contribution to the training clubs pursuant to the above provisions at the latest within 30 days of the player's registration.

² It is the responsibility of the new club to calculate the amount of the solidarity contribution and the way in which it shall be distributed in accordance with the player's career history. The player shall, if necessary, assist the new club in discharging this obligation.

³ The FIFA Players' Status Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs or players that do not observe the obligations stipulated in the previous paragraphs. Appeals against these measures may be lodged to the Arbitration Tribunal for Football (TAF).

Chapter V.

Stability of contracts

Art. 12

A player is entitled to terminate his contract with his club unilaterally for sporting just cause where he can show at the end of a season that he was fielded in less than 10% of the official matches played by his club. The existence of such sporting just cause shall be established on a case-by-case basis and shall depend on the particular circumstances of the player (including but not limited to injury, suspension, player's field position, position in the team (e.g. reserve goal keeper), player's age, reasonable expectations on the basis of past career, etc.).

Art. 13

¹ A club wishing to engage the services of a player who is at present under contract with another club is obliged to inform the club and the player before commencing negotiations with either of them.

² For any violations of the foregoing obligation, the offending club will be subject to a fine of at least CHF 50,000.

³ Such a fine can be imposed by the Dispute Resolution Chamber, pursuant to Art. 42 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players. Appeals against any decision to impose a fine can be lodged pursuant to the provisions of the same article.

Chapter VI.

Enforcement of compensation awards

Art. 14

¹ The party responsible for a breach of contract is obliged to pay the sum of compensation determined pursuant to Art. 42 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and

Transfer of Players within one month of notification of the relevant decision of the Dispute Resolution Chamber.

² If the party responsible for the breach has not paid the sum of compensation within one month, disciplinary measures may be imposed by the FIFA Players' Status Committee, pursuant to Art. 34 of the FIFA Statutes. Appeals against these measures may be lodged to the Arbitration Tribunal for Football (TAF).

³ If a player is registered for a new club and has not paid a sum of compensation within the one month time limit referred to above, the new club shall be deemed jointly responsible for payment of the amount of compensation.

⁴ If the new club has not paid the sum of compensation within one month of having become jointly responsible with the player pursuant to the previous paragraph, disciplinary measures may be imposed by the FIFA Players' Status Committee, pursuant to Art. 34 of the FIFA Statutes. Appeals against these measures may be lodged to the Arbitration Tribunal for Football (TAF).

Chapter VII.

Rules and procedures for dispute resolution

Art. 15

Composition of the Dispute Resolution Chamber

¹ The Chairman of the Players' Status Committee shall chair the Dispute Resolution Chamber.

² The Dispute Resolution Chamber shall be composed of representatives of players and clubs in equal number.

³ The members of the Dispute Resolution Chamber shall be designated by the Executive Committee at the proposal of the President of FIFA based upon nominations from representative players' associations and clubs and/or leagues.

Art. 16

Procedure before the Dispute Resolution Chamber

¹ The Dispute Resolution Chamber of the FIFA Players' Status Committee shall review disputes coming under its jurisdiction pursuant to Art. 42 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players at the request of one of the parties to the dispute. Failure by one of the parties to appear before the Dispute Resolution Chamber does not impact on the jurisdiction of the Chamber, which shall adjudicate on the dispute based on all the facts known to it.

² In order to submit a dispute to the Dispute Resolution Chamber, a party shall file a written request with the FIFA general secretariat. Such a request must contain the following elements:

- (a) the complainant's name and other relevant details,
- (b) if the complainant is not a natural person, a copy of its statutes and relevant certificates of incorporation as well as proof that the person filing the

request on behalf of the complainant is entitled to represent it in legal proceedings,

- (c) the name and other relevant details of the legal representative assisting the complainant, if any,
- (d) the name and other relevant details of other clubs and/or players involved in the dispute, including e.g. the club accused of having induced a breach of contract.
- (e) a summary presentation of the relevant factual, legal and regulatory considerations.
- (f) ruling of any national arbitration tribunal or national court regarding this dispute.

In addition, the request shall be accompanied by a copy of all the relevant documents pertaining to the dispute.

³ The FIFA Players' Status Committee shall issue detailed internal rules of procedure for the Dispute Resolution Chamber. These rules of procedure shall ensure that the following principles be observed:

- (a) The Dispute Resolution Chamber shall afford the parties the opportunity to make their views known in full knowledge of the relevant facts of the case.
- (b) Parties shall have the opportunity to make written observations and their oral explanations may be heard, if deemed necessary, by the Dispute Resolution Chamber.
- (c) Parties shall be given enough time to prepare their defence, having due regard to the need for a speedy resolution within the deadlines provided for in Art. 42 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.
- (d) Parties will be able to rely on professional legal assistance.
- (e) Hearings before the Dispute Resolution Chamber shall not be open to the public.
- (f) Decisions by the Dispute Resolution Chamber shall be published promptly, in extract or in full.

⁴ The Dispute Resolution Chamber shall send a copy of all the relevant documents pertaining to the dispute to the national association which held the registration of the player involved in the dispute when the dispute arose and set a deadline within which the association may send its written observations on the dispute. A copy of these observations shall be forwarded to the parties to the dispute.

Art. 17 Mediation

¹ At the request of a party to a dispute, the FIFA general secretariat shall appoint an independent mediator which shall contact the parties to attempt mediation.

² Mediation attempts shall not suspend the procedure before the Dispute Resolution Chamber, unless all the parties to the dispute agree to such suspension.

Chapter VIII. Statistics register

Art. 18

National associations shall keep a register of the statistics of the number of registrations they have effected of players coming from other national associations, as well as of the number of international registration transfer certificates they have issued for a player transferring his registration to another national association. This register shall also mention the age and nationality of the player, the country which he is leaving or joining and any information the national association obtains on the reason for the player's transfer of registration (amicable termination, transfer at the end of the contract, or unilateral breach by the player or the club within or outside the period defined under Art. 21, par. 1 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players).

Chapter IX. Final provisions, enforcement

Art. 19

Any matter not provided for under these regulations shall be settled by the FIFA Players' Status Committee, subject to review by the Executive Committee.

Art. 20

These regulations shall come into force in their present form at the same time as the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players adopted on the same day.

Buenos Aires/Zurich, 5 July 2001

For the FIFA Executive Committee

President
Joseph S. Blatter

General Secretary
Michel Zen-Ruffinen

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