

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1209

Zurich, 30 October 2009
SG/mku

Protection of minors

Dear Sir or Madam,

We refer to the amendments and additions to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (hereinafter: the regulations) regarding the protection of minors, particularly to art. 19 par. 4 and Annexe 2, which came into force on 1 October 2009.

In view of the implementation of the new provisions concerning the protection of minors, several workshops in connection with the proceeding related to this matter have been conducted by FIFA TMS with the members of the Sub-Committee of the Players' Status Committee (hereinafter: the sub-committee) and some FIFA member associations, leading to profound discussions regarding this issue. In particular, concerns in connection with the proportionality between the aim of safeguarding the protection of minors and the practicability of the new computer-based system have been raised.

Consequently, the Players' Status Committee, on the occasion of its meeting of 28 October 2009, assessed the appropriate use of the relevant computer-based system within the adequate scope of application of the new provisions regarding the protection of minors and passed a general decision in this respect. In particular, the Players' Status Committee came to the conclusion that in order to ensure the proper functioning of the system to safeguard the principle of the protection of minors, an association, under special circumstances, may submit to the sub-committee a written request for a limited exemption from the obligation to refer applications for approval in the sense of art. 19 par. 4 of the regulations for amateur minor players.

In this regard, the Players' Status Committee emphasised that in any case, such limited exemptions, if granted, are only applicable to amateur minor players intending to be registered with purely amateur clubs. In other words, any registration of a minor player for a professional club or any club or academy with legal, financial or de facto links to a professional club will still be subject to the approval of the sub-committee.

The Players' Status Committee stated that if such a request for a limited exemption is granted by the sub-committee to a member association, the association concerned has to ensure that the principles regarding the protection of minors as contained in art. 19 and 19bis of the regulations are indeed respected.



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Furthermore, it was also clarified that only if the association concerned can prove that the principles regarding the protection of minors have been strictly respected and fulfilled any registration of an amateur minor player made without prior approval of the sub-committee on the basis of a limited exemption will entitle the club registering the player to possible future training compensation or solidarity contributions in the sense of annexes 4 and 5 of the regulations.

Finally, the Players' Status Committee held that it falls under the competence of the sub-committee to decide on the granting of exemptions to art. 19 par. 4 of the regulations on a case-by-case basis.

We believe that these clarifications by the Players' Status Committee concerning the use of the computer-based system will contribute towards better achieving the aims of the regulations regarding the protection of minors.

We thank you for taking note of the above.

Yours faithfully,

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

cc: FIFA Executive Committee
Players' Status Committee
Sub-Committee of the Players' Status Committee