

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1335

Zurich, 14 January 2013

SG/mav

Research on third-party ownership of players' economic rights

Dear Sir or Madam,

The issue of third-party ownership of players' economic rights is currently being discussed at different levels of the European and international football family as well as within various FIFA standing committees.

Article 18bis par. 1 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (hereinafter: *the Regulations*) states that "No club shall enter into a contract which enables any other party to that contract or any third party to acquire the ability to influence in employment and transfer-related matters its independence, its policies or the performance of its teams."

According to art. 1 par. 3 a) of the Regulations, the above-mentioned provision is "binding at national level and must be included without modification in the association's regulations".

Certain member associations have adopted even more restrictive provisions while, at the same time, third-party ownership of players' economic rights has become a widespread practice in football in different regions of the world, raising a series of questions that need to be addressed. Discussions are currently on-going about the most appropriate and effective solutions to be adopted in the future.

Within this context, FIFA has decided to mandate the International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES) in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, to carry out a mapping of the various regulatory approaches and practices at national level regarding third-party ownership of players' economic rights.


The primary aims of this research are to find out what rules are currently applied in the different member associations, to establish what the practical importance of the issue at stake is, and to determine the position of the member associations on this subject. Subsequently, the collected information will be incorporated into the on-going consultations and discussions within the competent FIFA bodies.

With this in mind, we kindly ask you to fill in the attached questionnaire and return it to CIES directly by **5 February 2013**: pierre.cornu@cies.ch. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact CIES on the following number: +41 32 718 39 00. Likewise, the FIFA administration remains, as always, at your disposal.

Thank you in advance for your most appreciated cooperation and for your efforts in meeting the above deadline.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

Encl: - Questionnaire

cc: - FIFA Executive Committee
- Confederations