

# Third-party ownership of players' economic rights

## FAQ

April 2015

### 1. What is third-party ownership?

[Third-party ownership](#), or TPO, refers to the circumstances in which a physical or legal person who is not a football club invests in the economic rights of a professional player, potentially in order to receive a share of the value of any future transfer of that player.

### 2. How does TPO affect the game?

FIFA believes that TPO has harmful effects on football and its essential values, thereby undermining the overall integrity of the game. Such negative aspects associated with the practice of TPO have also been raised as serious concerns by members of the international football community. Consequently, FIFA has had a responsibility to address this topic by means of a consultation process with the involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders from the international football community.

### 3. What has FIFA decided to do about TPO?

In order to protect the integrity of the game and the players, and the independence of clubs in making decisions on recruitment and the transfer of players, the FIFA Executive Committee took the decision in [December 2014](#) to ban TPO with a transitional period.

### 4. What was the process that led to this decision?

Given the complexity of the topic, a dedicated working group composed of football stakeholders from all levels of the game was set up. This ensured that experiences of TPO – particularly in countries where the practice has been more prevalent – could be shared and different perspectives considered when discussing and analysing all possible regulatory options.

FIFA's objective was to address TPO on the basis of a sound and detailed understanding of the practice, thereby considering the most appropriate solutions, and to do so within an inclusive and informed process involving all relevant members of the football community. This was also the reason why FIFA mandated two research studies with a broad scope in terms of deliverables, information and data sought, so that their findings could also contribute to the discussions and consultations that had been set up.

FIFA believes the solution reached is the one that best protects football. It came after a thorough consultation process involving all of the members of the football community including the confederations, which, in turn, should facilitate the acceptance of the TPO ban and ultimately contribute to its effective implementation by all those involved.

### 5. How is FIFA implementing this new approach?

Central to the implementation of the new provisions is the utilisation of the FIFA Transfer Matching System, which will help to ensure clubs' compliance with the ban through the mandatory disclosure of TPO-related arrangements. A transition period was in place from 1 January to 30 April 2015, as clubs and member associations needed time to become familiar with the new provisions and TMS users needed time to learn about the new disclosure requirements in relation to TPO.

**6. What research has been carried out concerning the influence of TPO on football?**

As previously mentioned, FIFA mandated two studies with the objective of gaining a better understanding of the practice and its impact from many perspectives. This was important given the complexity of the possible involvement of third parties in the transfers of football players, as well as the practice of TPO, the limited economic data that has previously been available and the varied relevance of TPO depending on the level of professional football in the various regions and countries. The findings of the studies contributed to the discussions that took place within FIFA's competent bodies and dedicated working groups. In addition, the FIFA Executive Committee and the FIFA Congress had been provided with regular updates regarding the findings of both studies, as well as discussions held within FIFA's standing committees.