

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1816

Zurich, 8 November 2022

Amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players concerning the international transfer of minors and the international transfer process for football and futsal players, as well as rules governing the status and transfer of futsal players

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you of several amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (**RSTP**), which were approved by the FIFA Council at its meeting on 22 October 2022. The following paragraphs briefly set out the amendments concerning:

- (a) the third reform package – international transfer of minors; and
- (b) the international transfer process for football and futsal players, as well as rules governing the status and transfer of futsal players.

(a) Third reform package – international transfer of minors

In May 2021, [the Football Stakeholders Committee endorsed](#) a series of objectives, principles and work areas for the third reform package, which includes the topic of the international transfer of minors. These principles were subsequently [approved by the FIFA Council](#) on 20 May 2021.

Similarly, the amendments and additions to the RSTP in respect of the international transfer of minors reflect the general principles endorsed by the Football Stakeholders Committee and approved by the FIFA Council.

In particular, the relevant amendments concern the definition of the term “trial” and article 5 paragraphs 1 and 2, article 9 paragraph 2, article 19 paragraph 2 d), article 19 paragraph 8 (new), article 19bis, and article 19ter (new) of the RSTP. They focus on:

- the establishment of a clear regulatory framework for trials (of minors or adults), including rules concerning medical care, minimum age and an effective way to seek legal protection;
- amendments to the humanitarian exception in article 19 paragraph 2 d) of the RSTP to modernise and apply it more flexibly in order to reflect real-life cases that are currently rejected;
- introducing additional minimum protection standards (safeguarding) for minors transferring internationally concerning a club’s duty of care towards minors and principles to protect minors against abuse; and
- more stringent regulation in relation to private academies to increase oversight of minors within this environment.

(b) International transfer process for football and futsal players, as well as rules governing the status and transfer of futsal players

Annexe 3 of the RSTP currently governs the international transfer of professional and amateur 11-a-side football players (both men and women), a process which is currently undertaken in the Transfer Matching System (TMS).

In the same vein, Annexe 3a of the RSTP currently governs the international transfer of professional and amateur futsal players (both men and women). However, this is currently undertaken outside TMS. Likewise, Annexe 6 of the RSTP currently governs the status and transfer of futsal players.

In this respect, the relevant amendments concern the definition of the terms “matching exception”, “TMS user”, “TMS manager”, “transfer instruction”, and “validation exception”, along with a redraft of Annexe 3 of the RSTP, with the aim of modernising and streamlining the regulatory framework, while simplifying the international transfer process in line with the activities provided in TMS.

The new draft of Annexe 3 has the following main features:

- A more agile structure that follows the procedure to create and complete a transfer in TMS;
- Clear codification of FIFA's practices (e.g. clubs' obligation to declare in TMS the training compensation waiver as an "engage/release" instruction);
- Clear codification of special procedures affecting international transfers of players, namely: Player confirmation, Validation exceptions and Cancellation.

Likewise, please take note that the existing Annexe 3a (governing the international transfer procedure for futsal players) has been consolidated into the existing Annexe 6 (governing the status and transfer of futsal players), while the language of Annexe 6 has been updated in order to reflect the changes made to the RSTP in recent years. As a result, all rules governing futsal players are now included in one single annexe.

All of the amendments will come into force on **16 November 2022**.

The revised edition of the RSTP, as well as explanatory notes concerning the new provisions in relation to the international transfer of minors are available on legal.fifa.com.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at psdfifa@fifa.org if you have any questions in this regard.

We thank you for taking note of the above and for informing your affiliated clubs accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'FS', is written between two horizontal lines.

Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

cc: - FIFA Council
- Confederations
- FIFPRO
- ECA
- World Leagues Forum