

# Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players

## CONTENTS

Chapter	Article	Page
REGULATIONS FOR THE STATUS AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS		
		4
DEFINITIONS		
		5
I. INTRODUCTORY PROVISION		
	1 – Scope	6
II. STATUS OF PLAYERS		
	2 – Status of Players: Amateur and Professional Players	8
	3 – Reacquisition of Amateur Status	8
	4 – Termination of Activity	8
III. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS		
	5 – Registration	9
	6 – Registration Periods	9
	7 – Player Passport	10
	8 – Application for Registration	10
	9 – International Transfer Certificate	11
	10 – Loan of Professionals	11
	11 – Unregistered Players	11
	12 – Enforcement of Disciplinary Suspensions	12
IV. MAINTENANCE OF CONTRACTUAL STABILITY BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS AND CLUBS		
	13 – Respect of Contract	13
	14 – Terminating a Contract for Just Cause	13
	15 – Terminating a Contract for Sporting Just Cause	13
	16 – Restriction on Terminating a Contract During the Season	13
	17 – Consequences of Terminating a Contract Without Just Cause	14

Chapter	Article	Page
	18 – Special Provisions Relating to Contracts Between Professionals and Clubs	15
V. INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS INVOLVING MINORS		
	19 – Protection of Minors	16
VI. TRAINING COMPENSATION AND SOLIDARITY MECHANISM		
	20 – Training Compensation	18
	21 – Solidarity Mechanism	18
VII. JURISDICTION		
	22 – FIFA Competence	19
	23 – Players' Status Committee	20
	24 – Dispute Resolution Chamber	21
	25 – Procedural Guidelines	22
VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS		
	26 – Transitional Measures	23
	27 – Matters not Provided for	23
	28 – Official Languages	23
	29 – Annulment, Enforcement	24
	Annex 1: Release of players for Association teams	25
	Annex 2: Eligibility to play for Association teams for players whose nationality entitles them to represent more than one Association	29
	Annex 3: Administrative procedure governing the transfer of players between Associations	30
	Annex 4: Training Compensation	33
	Annex 5: Solidarity Mechanism	37

## REGULATIONS FOR THE STATUS AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

Based on art. 5 of the FIFA Statutes of 19 October 2003, the Executive Committee has issued the following Regulations and its annexes, which form an integral part thereof.

## DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these Regulations, the terms set out below are defined as follows:

1. Former Association: the Association to which the Former Club is affiliated.
2. Former Club: the club that the player is leaving.
3. New Association: the Association to which the New Club is affiliated.
4. New Club: the club that the player is joining.
5. Official Matches: matches played in the framework of Organised Football, such as national league championships, national cups and international championships for clubs, but not including friendly and trial matches.
6. Organised Football: association football organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations and the Associations, or authorised by them.
7. Protected Period: a period of three entire Seasons or three years, whichever comes first, following the entry into force of a contract, if such contract was concluded prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Professional, or to a period of two entire Seasons or two years, whichever comes first, following the entry into force of a contract, if such contract was concluded after the 28<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Professional.
8. Registration Period: a period fixed by the relevant Association in accordance with Article 6.
9. Season: the period starting with the first Official Match of the relevant national league championship and ending with the last Official Match of the relevant national league championship.
10. Training Compensation: the payments made in accordance with annex 4 to cover the development of young players.

Reference is also made to the "Definitions" section in the FIFA Statutes.

NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

## I. INTRODUCTORY PROVISION

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### Article 1 Scope

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1. These Regulations establish global and binding rules concerning the status of players, their eligibility to participate in Organised Football, and their transfer between clubs belonging to different Associations.
2. The transfer of players between clubs belonging to the same Association is governed by specific regulations issued by the Association concerned in accordance with Art. 1 par. 3 below, which must be approved by FIFA. Such regulations shall foresee rules for the settlement of disputes between clubs and players, in accordance with the principles stipulated in these Regulations. Such regulations should also foresee a system to reward the clubs investing in the training and education of young players.
3.
  - a) The following provisions are binding at national level and have to be included, without modification, in the Association's regulations: Art. 2 – 8, 10, 11 and 18
  - b) Each Association shall include in its regulations appropriate means to protect contractual stability, paying due respect to mandatory national law and collective bargaining agreements. In particular, the following principles should be considered:
    - Art. 13: The principle that contracts must be respected;
    - Art. 14: The principle that contracts may be terminated by either party without consequences in case of just cause;
    - Art. 15: The principle that contracts may be terminated by Professionals for sporting just cause;
    - Art. 16: The principle that contracts cannot be terminated during the course of the Season;
    - Art. 17 par. 1 and 2: The principle that in case of termination of contract without just cause, compensation shall be payable and that such compensation may be stipulated in the contract;

- Art. 17 par. 3-5: The principle that in case of termination of contract without just cause, sporting sanctions shall be taken against the party in breach.

4. These Regulations also govern the release of players for Association teams and players' eligibility to play for such teams in accordance with the provisions of annexes 1 and 2 respectively. These provisions are binding for all Associations and clubs.

## II. STATUS OF PLAYERS

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### Article 2 Status of Players: Amateur and Professional Players

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1. Players participating in Organised Football are either Amateurs or Professionals.
2. A Professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more than the expenses he effectively incurs in return for his footballing activity. All other players are considered as Amateurs.

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### Article 3 Reacquisition of Amateur Status

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1. A player registered as a Professional may not re-register as an Amateur until at least 30 days after his last match as a Professional.
2. No compensation is payable upon reacquisition of Amateur status. If a player re-registers as a Professional within 30 months of being reinstated as an Amateur, his New Club shall pay Training Compensation in accordance with Article 20.

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### Article 4 Termination of Activity

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1. Professionals who end their careers on expiry of their contracts and Amateurs who terminate their activity shall remain registered at the Association of their last club for a period of 30 months.
2. This period begins on the day the player made his last appearance for the club in an Official Match.

### III. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

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#### Article 5 Registration

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1. A player must be registered with an Association to play for a club as either a Professional or an Amateur in accordance with the provisions of Art. 2. Only registered players are eligible to participate in Organised Football. By the act of registering, a player agrees to abide by the Statutes and regulations of FIFA, the confederations and the Associations.
2. A player may only be registered for one club at a time.
3. Players may be registered for a maximum of three clubs during the period from 1 July until 30 June of the following year. During this period, the player is only eligible to play in Official Matches for two clubs.

#### Article 6 Registration Periods

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1. Players may only be registered during one of the two annual Registration Periods fixed by the relevant Association. As an exception to this rule, a Professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a Registration Period may be registered outside that Registration Period. Associations are authorised to register such Professionals provided due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition. In case of just cause for termination of a contract, FIFA may take provisional measures in order to avoid abuse and in accordance with Art. 22.
2. The first Registration Period shall begin after the completion of the Season and shall normally end before the new Season starts. This period may not exceed twelve weeks. The second Registration Period shall normally occur in the middle of the Season and may not exceed four weeks. The two Registration Periods for the Season shall be communicated to FIFA at least 12 months before they come into force. FIFA shall determine the dates for any Association that fails to communicate them on time.

### III. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

3. Players may only be registered – subject to the exception as foreseen in Art. 6 par. 1 – if an application from the club is validly submitted to the Association concerned during a Registration Period.
4. The provisions concerning Registration Periods do not apply to competitions in which only Amateurs participate. For such competitions, the relevant Association shall specify the periods when players may be registered, provided that due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition.

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#### Article **7** **Player Passport**

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The registering Association is obliged to provide the club for which the player is registered with a player passport containing the relevant details of the player. The player passport shall indicate the club(s) for which the player has been registered since the Season of his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. If a birthday falls between Seasons, the player shall be listed in the player passport for the club for which he was registered in the Season following his birthday.

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#### Article **8** **Application for Registration**

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The application for registration of a Professional must be submitted together with a copy of the player's contract. It shall be at the discretion of the relevant decision-making body to take account of any contractual amendments or additional agreements that have not been duly submitted to it.

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**Article 9 International Transfer Certificate**

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1. Players registered with one Association may only be registered with a New Association once the latter has received an International Transfer Certificate (hereinafter: ITC) from the Former Association. The ITC shall be issued free of charge without any conditions or time limitation. Any provisions to the contrary shall be null and void. The Association issuing the ITC shall deposit a copy with FIFA. The administrative procedures for issuing the ITC are contained in annex 3 of these Regulations.
2. An ITC is not required for a player under the age of 12 years.

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**Article 10 Loan of Professionals**

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1. A Professional may be loaned to another club on the basis of a written agreement between him and the clubs concerned. Any such loan is subject to the same rules as apply to the transfer of players, including the provisions on training compensation and solidarity mechanism.
2. Subject to Art. 5 par. 3, the minimum period of loan shall be the time between two Registration Periods.
3. The club that 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 that released the player on loan and of the player concerned.

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**Article 11 Unregistered Players**

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If a player who has not been registered with an Association appears for a club in any Official Match, that player will be considered as having played illegitimately. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and/or the club. The right to impose such sanctions lies in principle with the Association or the organiser of the competition concerned.

### III. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

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#### Article **12** Enforcement of Disciplinary Suspensions

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Any disciplinary suspension imposed on a player prior to a transfer must be enforced or applied by the New Association with which the player is registered. The Former Association is obliged to notify the New Association of any sanction in writing and upon issuing the ITC.

## IV. MAINTENANCE OF CONTRACTUAL STABILITY BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS AND CLUBS

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### Article 13 **Respect of Contract**

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A contract between a Professional and a club may only be terminated on expiry of the term of the contract or by mutual agreement.

### Article 14 **Terminating a Contract for Just Cause**

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A contract may be terminated by either party without consequences of any kind (either payment of compensation or imposition of sporting sanctions) in the case of just cause.

### Article 15 **Terminating a Contract for Sporting Just Cause**

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An established Professional who has, in the course of the Season, appeared in less than 10% of the Official Matches in which his club has been involved may terminate his contract prematurely on the grounds of sporting just cause. Due consideration shall be given to the player's circumstances in the appraisal of such cases. The existence of sporting just cause shall be established on a case-by-case basis. In such a case, sporting sanctions shall not be imposed, though compensation may be payable. A Professional may only terminate his contract on this basis in the 15 days following the last Official Match of the Season of the club for which he is registered.

### Article 16 **Restriction on Terminating a Contract During the Season**

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A contract cannot be unilaterally terminated during the course of a Season.

#### IV. MAINTENANCE OF CONTRACTUAL STABILITY BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS AND CLUBS

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##### Article **17** Consequences of Terminating a Contract Without Just Cause

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The following provisions apply if a contract is terminated without just cause:

1. In all cases, the party in breach shall pay compensation. Subject to the provisions of Art. 20 and annex 4 in relation to Training Compensation, and unless otherwise provided for in the contract, compensation for breach shall be calculated with due consideration for the law of the country concerned, the specificity of sport, and any other objective criteria. These criteria shall include, in particular, the remuneration and other benefits due to the player under the existing contract and/or the new contract, the time remaining on the existing contract up to a maximum of five years, the fees and expenses paid or incurred by the Former Club (amortised over the term of the contract) and whether the contractual breach falls within a Protected Period.
2. Entitlement to compensation cannot be assigned to a third party. If a Professional is required to pay compensation, the Professional and his New Club shall be jointly and severally liable for its payment. The amount may be stipulated in the contract or agreed between the parties.
3. In addition to the obligation to pay compensation, sporting sanctions shall also be imposed on any player found to be in breach of contract during the Protected Period. This sanction shall be a restriction of four months on his eligibility to play in Official Matches. In the case of aggravating circumstances, the restriction shall last six months. In all cases, these sporting sanctions shall take effect from the start of the following Season of the New Club. Unilateral breach without just cause or sporting just cause after the Protected Period will not result in sporting sanctions. Disciplinary measures may, however, be imposed outside of the Protected Period for failure to give due notice of termination (i.e. within fifteen days following the last match of the Season). The Protected Period starts again when, while renewing the contract, the duration of the previous contract is extended.

4. In addition to the obligation to pay compensation, sporting sanctions shall be imposed on any club found to be in breach of contract or found to be inducing a breach of contract during the Protected Period. It shall be presumed, unless established to the contrary, that any club signing a Professional who has terminated his contract without just cause has induced that Professional to commit a breach. The club shall be banned from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, for two Registration Periods.
5. Any person subject to the FIFA Statutes and FIFA regulations (club officials, players' agents, players etc.) who acts in a manner designed to induce a breach of contract between a Professional and a club in order to facilitate the transfer of the player shall be sanctioned.

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**Article 18** **Special Provisions Relating to Contracts Between Professionals and Clubs**

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1. If an agent is involved in the negotiation of a contract, he shall be named in that contract.
2. The minimum length of a contract shall be from the date of its entry into force to the end of the Season, while the maximum length of a contract shall be five years. Contracts of any other length shall only be permitted if consistent with national laws. Players under the age of 18 may not sign a professional contract for a term longer than three years. Any clause referring to a longer period shall not be recognised.
3. A club intending to conclude a contract with a Professional must inform his current club in writing before entering into negotiations with that Professional. A Professional shall only be free to conclude a contract with another club if his contract with his present club has expired or will expire within six months. Any breach of this provision shall be subject to appropriate sanctions.
4. The validity of a contract may not be made subject to a positive medical examination and/or the granting of a work permit.
5. If a Professional enters into more than one contract covering the same period, the provisions set forth in Chapter IV shall apply.

## V. INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS INVOLVING MINORS

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### Article 19 Protection of Minors

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1. International transfers of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18.
2. The following three exceptions to this rule apply:
  - a) The player's parents move to the country in which the New Club is located for reasons not linked to football; or
  - b) The transfer takes place within the territory of the European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) and the player is aged between 16 and 18. In this case, the New Club must fulfil the following minimum obligations:
    - i. It shall provide the player with an adequate football education and/or training in line with the highest national standards.
    - ii. It shall guarantee the player an academic and/or school and/or vocational education and/or training, in addition to his football education and/or training, which will allow the player to pursue a career other than football should he cease playing professional football.
    - iii. It shall make all necessary arrangements to ensure that the player is looked after in the best possible way (optimum living standards with a guest family or in club accommodation, appointment of a mentor at the club etc.).
    - iv. It shall, on registration of such a player, provide the relevant Association with proof that it is complying with the aforementioned obligations; or
  - c) The player lives no further than 50km from a national border, and the club for which the player wishes to be registered in the neighbouring Association is also within 50km of that border. The maximum distance between the player's domicile and the club's quarters shall be 100km. In such cases, the player must continue to live at home and the two Associations concerned must give their explicit consent.

3. The conditions of this article shall also apply to any player who has never previously been registered for a club and is not a national of the country in which he wishes to be registered for the first time.
4. Each Association shall ensure the respect of this provision by its clubs.
5. The Players' Status Committee shall be competent to decide on any dispute arising in relation to these matters and shall impose appropriate sanctions in case of violation of this provision.

## VI. TRAINING COMPENSATION AND SOLIDARITY MECHANISM

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### Article **20** Training Compensation

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Training Compensation shall be paid to a player's training club(s): (1) when a player signs his first contract as a Professional, and (2) on each transfer of a Professional until the end of the Season of his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The obligation to pay Training Compensation arises whether the transfer takes place during or at the end of the player's contract. The provisions concerning Training Compensation are set out in annex 4 of these Regulations.

### Article **21** Solidarity Mechanism

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If a Professional is transferred before the expiry of his contract, any club that has contributed to his education and training shall receive a proportion of the compensation paid to his previous club (solidarity contribution). The provisions concerning solidarity contributions are set out in annex 5 of these Regulations.

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### Article 22 FIFA Competence

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Without prejudice to the right of any player or club to seek redress before a civil court for employment-related disputes, FIFA is competent for:

- a) Disputes between clubs and players in relation to the maintenance of contractual stability (Art. 13 – 18) if there has been an ITC Request and if there is a claim from an interested party in relation to such ITC Request, in particular regarding its issuance, regarding sporting sanctions or regarding compensation for breach of contract;
- b) Employment-related disputes between a club and a player that have an international dimension, unless an independent arbitration tribunal guaranteeing fair proceedings and respecting the principle of equal representation of players and clubs has been established at national level within the framework of the Association and/or a collective bargaining agreement;
- c) Employment-related disputes between a club or an Association and a coach that have an international dimension, unless an independent arbitration tribunal guaranteeing fair proceedings exists at national level;
- d) Disputes related to Training Compensation (Art. 20) and Solidarity Mechanism (Art. 21) between clubs belonging to different Associations;
- e) Disputes between clubs belonging to different Associations that do not fall within the cases foreseen in a) and d).

## VII. JURISDICTION

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### Article **23** Players' Status Committee

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1. The Players' Status Committee shall adjudicate on all disputes in accordance with Art. 22 c) and e) as well as on all other disputes arising from the application of these regulations, subject to Art. 24.
2. In case of uncertainty as to the jurisdiction of the Players' Status Committee or the Dispute Resolution Chamber, the chairman of the Players' Status Committee shall decide which body has jurisdiction.
3. The Players' Status Committee shall adjudicate in the presence of at least three members, including the chairman or the deputy chairman, unless the case is of such a nature that it may be settled by a single judge. In cases that are urgent or raise no difficult factual or legal issues, and in decisions on the issuance of a provisional ITC in accordance with annex 3, the chairman or a person appointed by him, who must be a member of the committee, may adjudicate as a single judge. Each party shall be heard once during the proceedings. Decisions reached by the single judge or the Players' Status Committee may be appealed before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

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Article **24** **Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC)**

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1. The DRC shall adjudicate on any dispute in accordance with Art. 22 a), b) and d), with the exception of the issuance of the ITC.
2. The DRC shall adjudicate in the presence of at least three members, including the chairman or the deputy chairman, unless the case is of a nature that may be settled by a DRC judge. The members of the DRC shall designate a DRC judge for the clubs and one for the players from among its members. The DRC judge may adjudicate in the following cases:
  - i) all disputes up to a litigious value of CHF 100,000;
  - ii) disputes relating to the calculation of Training Compensation;
  - iii) disputes relating to the calculation of solidarity contributions.

The DRC judge is compelled to submit fundamental issues to the chamber. The chamber shall consist of equal numbers of club and player representatives, except in those cases that may be settled by a DRC judge. Each party shall be heard once during the proceedings. Decisions reached by the Dispute Resolution Chamber or the DRC judge may be appealed before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

## VII. JURISDICTION

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### Article 25 Procedural Guidelines

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1. As a rule, the single judge and the DRC judge shall adjudicate within 30 days of receipt of a valid request and the Players' Status Committee or the Dispute Resolution Chamber shall adjudicate within 60 days. The proceedings shall be governed by the FIFA General Procedural Rules.
2. The maximum cost for proceedings before the Players' Status Committee, including the single judge, shall be set at CHF 25,000 and will normally be paid by the unsuccessful party. The allocation of costs shall be explained in the decision. Proceedings before the DRC and the DRC judge are free of charge.
3. Disciplinary proceedings for violation of these Regulations shall, unless otherwise stipulated herein, conform with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
4. If there is reason to believe that a case raises a disciplinary issue, the Players' Status Committee, the Dispute Resolution Chamber, the single judge or the DRC judge (as the case may be) shall submit the file to the Disciplinary Committee together with a request for the commencement of disciplinary proceedings, in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
5. The Players' Status Committee, the Dispute Resolution Chamber, the single judge or the DRC judge (as the case may be) shall not hear any case subject to these Regulations if more than two years have elapsed from the event giving rise to the dispute. Application of this time limit shall be examined ex officio in each individual case.
6. The Players' Status Committee, the Dispute Resolution Chamber, the single judge or the DRC judge (as the case may be) shall, when taking their decisions, apply these Regulations whilst taking into account all relevant arrangements, laws and/or collective bargaining agreements that exist at national level, as well as the specificity of sport.
7. The detailed procedure for the resolution of disputes arising from the application of these Regulations shall be further outlined in the FIFA General Procedural Rules.

## VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

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### Article 26 Transitional Measures

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1. Any case that has been brought to FIFA before these Regulations come into force shall be assessed according to the previous regulations.
2. All other cases shall be assessed according to these Regulations.
3. Member Associations shall amend their regulations in accordance with Art. 1 to ensure that they comply with these Regulations and shall submit them to FIFA for approval by 30 June 2007. Notwithstanding this, each Member Association shall implement Art. 1 par. 3 (a) as from 1 July 2005.

### Article 27 Matters Not Provided for

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Matters not provided for in these regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by the FIFA Executive Committee, whose decisions are final.

### Article 28 Official Languages

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In the case of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English, French, Spanish or German texts of these regulations, the English text is authoritative.

## VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

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### Article 29 Annulment, Enforcement

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1. These Regulations shall replace the special regulations governing players' eligibility to play for Association teams dated 4 December 2003 and the Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players of 5 July 2001 as well as all subsequent amendments, including all relevant circular letters issued before the date of entry into force of these regulations.
2. These Regulations were adopted by the FIFA Executive Committee on 18 December 2004 and come into force on 1 July 2005.

Zurich, December 2004

FOR THE FIFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joseph S. Blatter  
President

Urs Linsi  
General Secretary

### RELEASE OF PLAYERS FOR ASSOCIATION TEAMS

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#### Article **1** Principles

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1. Clubs are obliged to release their registered players for representative teams of the country for which the player is eligible to play on the basis of his nationality, if he is called up by the Association concerned. Any divergent agreement between a player and a club is prohibited.
2. The release of players under the terms of par. 1 of this article is mandatory for matches on dates listed in the Coordinated International Match Calendar and for all matches for which a duty to release players exists on the basis of a special decision of the FIFA Executive Committee.
3. It is not compulsory to release players for matches scheduled on dates not listed in the Coordinated International Match Calendar.
4. Players must also be released for the period of preparation before the match, which is laid down as follows:
  - a) for friendly matches: 48 hours
  - b) for qualifying matches for an international tournament: four days (including the day of the match). The release period shall be extended to five days if the match concerned is held in a different confederation to the one in which the player's club is registered.
  - c) for qualifying matches for an international tournament that are staged on a date earmarked for friendly matches: 48 hours
  - d) for the final competition of an international tournament: 14 days before the first match in the competition.

Players shall join the Association team no later than 48 hours before kick-off.

## ANNEX 1

5. The players of Associations that have automatically qualified for the final competition of the FIFA World Cup™ or for continental championships for 'A' national teams shall be released for friendly matches on dates earmarked for official qualifying matches in accordance with the directives that would apply for Official Matches staged on these dates.
6. The clubs and Associations concerned may agree a longer period of release.
7. Players complying with a call-up from their Association under the terms of this article shall resume duty with their clubs no later than 24 hours after the end of the match for which they were called up. This period shall be extended to 48 hours if the match concerned took place in a different confederation to the one in which the player's club is registered. Clubs shall be informed in writing of a player's outward and return schedule ten days before the match. Associations shall ensure that players are able to return to their clubs on time after the match.
8. If a player does not resume duty with his club by the deadline stipulated in this article, the next time the player is called up by his Association, the period of release shall be shortened as follows:
  - a) for a friendly match: to 24 hours
  - b) for a qualifying match: to three days
  - c) for the final competition of an international tournament: to ten days.
9. Should an Association repeatedly breach these provisions, the FIFA Players' Status Committee may impose appropriate sanctions, which may include but not be limited to:
  - fines
  - reduction of the period of release
  - ban on calling up a player(s) for the subsequent match(es)

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**Article 2 Financial Provisions and Insurance**

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1. Clubs releasing a player in accordance with the provisions of this annex are not entitled to financial compensation.
2. The Association calling up a player shall bear the costs of travel actually incurred by the player as a result of the call-up.
3. The club for which the player concerned is registered shall be responsible for his insurance cover against illness and accident during the entire period of his release. This cover must also extend to any injuries sustained by the player during the international match(es) for which he was released.

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**Article 3 Calling up Players**

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1. As a general rule, every player registered for a club is obliged to respond affirmatively when called up by the Association he is eligible to represent on the basis of his nationality to play for one of its representative teams.
2. Associations wishing to call up a player who is playing abroad must notify the player in writing at least 15 days before the day of the match for which he is required. The player's club shall also be informed in writing at the same time. The club must confirm the release of the player within the following six days.
3. Associations that request FIFA's help to obtain the release of a player playing abroad may only do so under the following two conditions:
  - a) The Association with which the player is registered must have been asked to intervene without success.
  - b) The case is submitted to FIFA at least five days before the day of the match for which the player is needed.

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### Article 4 **Injured Players**

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A player who is unable to comply with a call-up from the Association that he is eligible to represent on the basis of his nationality 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. If the player so wishes, such medical examination shall take place on the territory of the Association where he is registered.

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### Article 5 **Restrictions on Playing**

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A player who has been called up by his Association for one of its representative teams is, unless otherwise agreed by the relevant Association, not 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 the provisions of this annex. 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 call-up.

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### Article 6 **Disciplinary Measures**

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1. Violations of any of the provisions set forth in this annex shall result in the imposition of disciplinary measures.
2. If a club refuses to release a player or neglects to do so despite the provisions of this annex, the FIFA Players' Status Committee shall furthermore request the Association to which the club belongs to declare any match(es) in which the player took part to have been lost by the club concerned. Any points thus gained 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 with his club more than once after being called up by an Association, the FIFA Players' Status Committee may, at the request of the player's club, impose additional sanctions on the player and/or his Association.

### ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FOR ASSOCIATION TEAMS FOR PLAYERS WHOSE NATIONALITY ENTITLES THEM TO REPRESENT MORE THAN ONE ASSOCIATION

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#### Article 1 Conditions

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1. A player who, under the terms of Art. 15 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes, is eligible to represent more than one Association on account of his nationality, may play in an international match for one of these Associations only if, in addition to having the relevant nationality, he fulfils at least one of the following conditions:
  - a) he was born on the territory of the relevant Association;
  - b) his biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant Association;
  - c) his grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant Association;
  - d) he has lived on the territory of the relevant Association for at least two years without interruption.
  
2. Notwithstanding par. 1 of this article, Associations sharing a common nationality may make an agreement under which item d) of par. 1 of this article is deleted completely or amended to specify a longer time limit. Such agreements must be lodged with and approved by FIFA.

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE GOVERNING THE TRANSFER OF PLAYERS BETWEEN ASSOCIATIONS

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#### Article 1 Principles

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1. Any player who is registered for a club that is affiliated to one Association shall not be eligible to play for a club affiliated to a different Association unless an ITC has been issued by the Former Association and received by the New Association in accordance with the provisions of this annex. Special forms provided by FIFA for this purpose or forms with similar wording shall be used.
2. In the case of Professionals, the Association issuing the ITC shall also attach a copy of the player passport to it.

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#### Article 2 Issuance of an ITC for a Professional

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1. All applications to register a Professional must be submitted by the New Club to the New Association during one of the Registration Periods established by that Association. All applications shall be accompanied by a copy of the contract between the New Club and the Professional. A Professional is not eligible to play in Official Matches for his New Club until an ITC has been issued by the Former Association and received by the New Association.
2. Upon receipt of the application, the New Association shall immediately request the Former Association to issue an ITC for the Professional (the "ITC Request"). The last date on which the ITC Request can be made is the last day of the Registration Period of the New Association. An Association that receives an unsolicited ITC from another Association is not entitled to register the Professional concerned for one of its clubs.
3. Upon receipt of the ITC Request, the Former Association shall immediately request the Former Club and the Professional to confirm whether the Professional's contract has expired, whether early termination was mutually agreed or whether a contractual dispute exists.

4. Within seven days of receiving the ITC Request, the Former Association shall either:
  - a) issue the ITC to the New Association; or,
  - b) inform the New Association that the ITC cannot be issued because the contract between the Former Club and the Professional has not expired or that there has been no mutual agreement regarding its early termination.
5. If the New Association does not receive a response to the ITC Request within 30 days of the ITC Request being made, it shall immediately register the Professional with the New Club on a provisional basis ("Provisional Registration"). A Provisional Registration shall become permanent one year after the ITC Request. The Players' Status Committee may withdraw a Provisional Registration, if, during this one-year period, the Former Association presents valid reasons explaining why it did not respond to the ITC Request.
6. The Former Association shall not issue an ITC if a contractual dispute has arisen between the Former Club and the Professional. In such a case, the Professional, the Former Club and/or the New Club are entitled to lodge a claim with FIFA in accordance with Art. 22. FIFA shall then decide on the issuance of the ITC and on sporting sanctions within 60 days. In any case, the decision on sporting sanctions shall be taken before the issuance of the ITC. The issuance of the ITC shall be without prejudice to compensation for breach of contract. FIFA may take provisional measures in case of exceptional circumstances.
7. The New Association may grant a player temporary eligibility to play on the basis of an ITC sent by fax until the end of the Season that is underway. If the original ITC is not received by that time, the player's eligibility to play shall be considered definitive.
8. Associations are forbidden from requesting the issuance of an ITC in order to allow a player to participate in trial matches.
9. The foregoing rules and procedures also apply for Professionals who, upon moving to their New Club, acquire Amateur status.

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### Article 3 Issuance of an ITC for a Amateur

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1. All applications to register an Amateur player must be submitted by the New Club to the New Association during one of the Registration Periods established by that Association.
2. Upon receipt of the application, the New Association shall immediately request the Former Association to issue an ITC for the player (the "ITC Request").
3. The Former Association shall, within seven days of receiving the ITC Request, issue the ITC to the New Association.
4. If the New Association does not receive a response to the ITC Request within thirty days, it shall immediately register the Amateur with the New Club on a provisional basis ("Provisional Registration"). A Provisional Registration shall become permanent one year after the ITC Request. The Players' Status Committee may withdraw a Provisional Registration, if, during this one-year period, the Former Association presents valid reasons explaining why it did not respond to the ITC Request.
5. The foregoing rules and procedures also apply for Amateurs who, upon moving to their New Club, acquire Professional status.

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### Article 4 Loan of Players

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1. The rules set out above also apply to the loan of a Professional from a club affiliated to one Association to a club affiliated to another Association.
2. The terms of the loan agreement shall be enclosed with the ITC Request.
3. On expiry of the period of loan, the ITC shall be returned, upon request, to the Association of the club that released the player on loan.

### TRAINING COMPENSATION

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#### Article 1 Objective

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1. 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, Training Compensation shall be payable until the end of the Season in which the player reaches the age of 23, but the calculation of the amount payable shall be based on the years between 12 and the age when it is established that the player actually completed his training.
2. The obligation to pay Training Compensation is without prejudice to any obligation to pay compensation for breach of contract.

#### Article 2 Payment of Training Compensation

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Training Compensation is due:

- i) when a player is registered for the first time as a Professional; or,
- ii) when a Professional is transferred between clubs of two different Associations (whether during or at the end of his contract)

before the end of the Season of his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Training Compensation is not due:

- i) if the Former Club terminates the player's contract without just cause (without prejudice to the rights of the previous clubs); or
- ii) if the player is transferred to a Category 4 club; or
- iii) if a Professional reacquires Amateur status on being transferred.

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### Article 3 Responsibility to Pay Training Compensation

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1. When a player is registering as a Professional for the first time, the club for which the player is being registered is responsible for paying Training Compensation within 30 days of registration to every club for which the player was registered (in accordance with the players' career history as provided for in the player passport) and that has contributed to his training starting from the Season in which he had his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. The amount payable is calculated on a pro rata basis according to the period of training that the player spent with each club. In the case of subsequent transfers of the Professional, Training Compensation will only be owed to his Former Club for the time he was effectively trained by that club.
2. In both of the above cases, the deadline for payment of Training Compensation is 30 days following the registration of the Professional with the New Association.
3. If a link between the Professional and any of the clubs that trained him cannot be established, or if those clubs do not make themselves known within 18 months of the player's first registration as a Professional, the Training Compensation shall be paid to the Association(s) of the country (or countries) where the Professional was trained. This compensation shall be earmarked for youth football development programmes in the Association(s) in question.

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### Article 4 Training Costs

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1. In order to calculate the compensation due for training and education costs, Associations are instructed to divide their clubs into a maximum of four categories in accordance with the clubs' financial investment in training players. The training costs are set for each category and correspond to the amount needed to train one player for one year multiplied by an average "player factor", which is the ratio between the number of players who need to be trained to produce one professional player.

2. The training costs, which are established on a confederation basis for each category of club, as well as the categorisation of clubs for each Association, are published on the FIFA website ([www.FIFA.com](http://www.FIFA.com)). They will be updated at the end of every calendar year.

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**Article 5**    **Calculation of Training Compensation**

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1. As a general rule, to calculate the Training Compensation due to a player's Former Club(s), it is necessary to take the costs that would have been incurred by the New Club if it had trained the player itself.
2. Accordingly, the first time a player registers as a Professional, the Training Compensation payable is calculated by taking the training costs of the New Club multiplied by the number of years of training in principle from the Season of the player's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday to the Season of his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. In the case of subsequent transfers, Training Compensation is calculated based on the training costs of the New Club multiplied by the number of years of training with the Former Club.
3. To ensure that Training Compensation for very young players is not set at unreasonably high levels, the training costs for players for the Seasons between their 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> birthday (i.e. four Seasons) shall be based on the training and education costs for category 4 clubs.
4. The Dispute Resolution Chamber may review disputes concerning the amount of Training Compensation payable and shall have discretion to adjust this amount if it is clearly disproportionate to the case under review.

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### Article 6 Special Provisions for the EU/EEA

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1. For players moving from one Association to another inside the territory of the EU/EEA, the amount of Training Compensation payable shall be established based on the following:
  - a) If the player moves from a lower to a higher category club, the calculation shall be based on the average of the training costs of the two clubs.
  - b) If the player moves from a higher to a lower category, the calculation shall be based on the training costs of the lower category club.
2. Inside the territory of the EU/EEA, the final Season of training may occur before the Season in which the player had his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday if it is established that the player completed his training before that time.
3. If the Former Club does not offer the player a contract, no Training Compensation is payable unless the Former Club can justify that it is entitled to such compensation. The Former Club must offer the player a contract in writing via registered mail at least 60 days before the expiry of his current contract. Such an offer shall furthermore be at least of an equivalent value to the current contract. This provision is without prejudice to the rights to Training Compensation of the player's previous club(s).

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### Article 7 Disciplinary Measures

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The FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs or players that do not observe the obligations set out in this annex.

## SOLIDARITY MECHANISM

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Article **1** **Solidarity Contribution**

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If a Professional moves during the course of a contract, 5% of any compensation, with the exception of Training Compensation, paid to his Former Club shall be deducted from the total amount of this compensation and distributed by the New Club as a solidarity contribution to the club(s) involved in his training and education over the years. This solidarity contribution will reflect the number of years (calculated pro rata if less than one year) he was registered with the relevant club(s) between the Seasons of his 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> birthdays, as follows:

- Season of 12<sup>th</sup> birthday: 5% (i.e. 0.25% of total compensation)
- Season of 13<sup>th</sup> birthday: 5% (i.e. 0.25% of total compensation)
- Season of 14<sup>th</sup> birthday: 5% (i.e. 0.25% of total compensation)
- Season of 15<sup>th</sup> birthday: 5% (i.e. 0.25% of total compensation)
- Season of 16<sup>th</sup> birthday: 10% (i.e. 0.5% of total compensation)
- Season of 17<sup>th</sup> birthday: 10% (i.e. 0.5% of total compensation)
- Season of 18<sup>th</sup> birthday: 10% (i.e. 0.5% of total compensation)
- Season of 19<sup>th</sup> birthday: 10% (i.e. 0.5% of total compensation)
- Season of 20<sup>th</sup> birthday: 10% (i.e. 0.5% of total compensation)
- Season of 21<sup>st</sup> birthday: 10% (i.e. 0.5% of total compensation)
- Season of 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday: 10% (i.e. 0.5% of total compensation)
- Season of 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday: 10% (i.e. 0.5% of total compensation)

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Article **2** **Payment Prodedure**

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1. The New Club shall pay the solidarity contribution to the training club(s) pursuant to the above provisions no later than 30 days after the player's registration or, in case of contingent payments, 30 days after the date of such payments.
2. It is the responsibility of the New Club to calculate the amount of the solidarity contribution and to distribute it in accordance with the player's career history as provided for in the player passport. The player shall, if necessary, assist the New Club in discharging this obligation.
3. If a link between the Professional and any of the clubs that trained him cannot be established within 18 months of his transfer, the solidarity contribution shall be paid to the Association(s) of the country (or countries) where the Professional was trained. This solidarity contribution shall be earmarked for youth football development programmes in the Association(s) in question.
4. The Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs that do not observe the obligations set out in this annex.