

## **NEW REGULATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER AND FIRST REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS UNDER THE AGE OF 18**

Clubs at all levels will need to be aware of new FIFA Regulations and related procedures which have been introduced to strengthen FIFA's position on the protection of minors.

Since FIFA introduced revised Regulations in 2001 they have prohibited the international transfer of minors in all but a few exceptional circumstances. FIFA's updated Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players, which became effective on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009, introduced a sub-committee to monitor and control every international transfer of a minor **and** every first registration of a minor who is not a national of the country in which he wishes to be registered. This sub-committee is responsible for overseeing the movement of players in the 12-18 age bracket.

For clarification a minor player holding a UK Passport and crossing borders to register for a Club under the jurisdiction of one of the National Associations for the first time within the UK (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales) **IS EXEMPT** from this new system but international clearance will still apply.

The new Regulations will be implemented through a web-based system that FIFA have introduced for National Associations. FIFA TMS (Transfer Matching System) is designed to allow FIFA to monitor the international transfers of professional players. It also has an element devoted to monitoring the international transfers and registration of all minors.

You should note that the sub committee's approval must be in place before the new Association is able to process the final piece of the jigsaw – the International Clearance Certificate.

The implications for clubs at every level of the game are:

- Comprehensive written evidence will be required by The FA to support the request for an International Transfer Certificate for a minor.
- The evidence will need to be provided in PDF format as this is the only format accepted by FIFA TMS.
- There may be delays in obtaining permission for the international transfer of a minor compared with applications under the previous system. The days of quick turnarounds are over.
- Standard decisions are expected to take 2-3 weeks and longer delays of up to six weeks may be encountered where the foreign Association disputes the request for the international transfer.

Please see FIFA Article 19 – List of Mandatory documents, which gives further details of exactly what evidence is required in order for The FA's Registration Department to complete a request for a minor's transfer or first registration. You will note from this document that the documentary evidence varies depending on the status of the player (amateur or professional) and the reason for the request.

Analysis of the players transferred internationally over the past 12 months suggests that the number of applications The Football Association will receive in any 12 month period is likely to be no more than 1,000. Of those many will fall within the National Game where players' families are moving to England for reasons not linked to football. In addition there will be a number of young players who will be registered at Football Academies or Centres of Excellence within the Professional Game between the ages of 16 and 18 and who will fall into the categories to be monitored by FIFA.

We have already experienced difficulties in respect of foreign national players in the under 16 category who are in full time education (principally borders) in England who simply want to play football but who do not tick the boxes.

As part of the information gathering exercise applications for players in this category will also need supporting documentation and, if necessary, we will highlight special circumstances to be considered on a case by case basis.

Should you require further information or have any questions on the new procedure when you have cause to request international clearance for a minor please contact our Registrations Team at [Registrations@TheFA.com](mailto:Registrations@TheFA.com)