

## TO THE MEMBERS ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1601

Zurich, 31 October 2017

SG/MAV/ktm

### Professional Female Players in ITMS – Amendments to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you of several amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (hereinafter: *the Regulations*), which were approved by the FIFA Council on 27 October 2017 and which will come into force on 1 January 2018. These amendments will make the use of the international transfer matching system (ITMS) mandatory for all international transfers of **professional female players**.

As you are aware, the use of the Transfer Matching System (TMS) has been a mandatory step for all international transfers of professional male players within the scope of eleven-a-side football since 1 October 2010. The objective of the TMS is and has always been, to make sure that football's authorities have more details available to them on each and every international transfer, and, to increase the transparency of individual transactions, thereby improving the credibility and standing of the entire transfer system.

In line with this objective, **as of 1 January 2018**, the use of ITMS to process the international transfers of **female professional players** within the scope of eleven-a-side football will also be mandatory. Any registrations of female professional players made after that date without the use of ITMS will be deemed invalid by FIFA.

To assist member associations and their affiliated clubs in their preparations for these amendments, a transition period will commence **on 7 November 2017 and run until 31 December 2017**. During this transition period, member associations and clubs will be able to use ITMS for the international transfer of female professional players and thereby familiarise themselves with the changes to the system. This transition period is also a valuable opportunity for member associations to provide training to their affiliated clubs on the relevant amendments, in accordance with their obligations under art. 5.3 of Annexe 3 of the Regulations, to ensure that all stakeholders are ready to meet their regulatory obligations starting on 1 January 2018.

You will find the provisions concerned annexed to this circular letter, for your and your clubs' perusal. The relevant parts have been emphasised for ease of reference. Equally, the revised edition of the Regulations will be available soon on FIFA.com

Please note that all obligations of clubs and associations as described in Annexe 3 of the Regulations that apply when processing an international transfer shall also apply to the international transfer of professional female players (e.g. providing compulsory data and documentation when creating transfer instructions, conducting the electronic process for the international transfer certificate (ITC), loan transfers, etc.)

Where the start and end dates of the registration periods and the season applicable to female professional football players are different from those concerning male professional football players (cf. amended art. 6 par. 1 of the Regulations), member associations will be able to enter the female season and registration period dates in ITMS separately in accordance with art. 5.1 par. 1 of Annexe 3 of the Regulations.

The FIFA department, TMS Global Transfers & Compliance shall apply the compliance process, known as the ASP procedure, (set out and described in FIFA Circular Nos. 1259 and 1478, in place and applied since 7 April 2011), to all international transfers of professional female players commencing on 1 January 2018.

Further details on the changes to ITMS will be made available on 7 November 2017 in the form of Release Notes sent to all TMS users.

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

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura  
Secretary General

cc:     - FIFA Council  
          - Confederations  
          - Players' Status Committee  
          - Football Stakeholders Committee  
          - ECA  
          - FIFPro  
          - WLF

## Amendments to Annexe 3, Annexe 3a as well as art. 6 par. 1 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

### new text (amendments in bold)

#### Annexe 3

##### Art. 1 Scope

5.

The use of TMS is a mandatory step for all international transfers of professional male **and female** players within the scope of eleven-a-side football, and any registration of such a player without the use of TMS will be deemed invalid. In the following articles of the present annexe, the term "player" will refer to male **and female** players participating in eleven-a-side football. The term "international transfer" will exclusively refer to the transfer of such players between associations.

##### Art. 3 Users

###### 3.2 Associations

1.

Associations are responsible for maintaining their season and registration details, **if applicable for male and female players separately**, as well as those of their clubs (including, in particular, the categorisation of clubs in connection with training compensation). In addition, they are responsible for conducting the electronic ITC process (cf. section 8 below) and, where applicable, for confirming players deregistering from their association.

##### Art. 4 Obligations of clubs

2.

Indication of whether the transfer is being made against any of the following payments:

- Fixed transfer fee, including details of instalments, if any
- Any fee paid in execution of a clause in the player's contract with **his/her** former club providing for compensation for termination of the relevant contract
- Conditional transfer fee, including details of conditions
- Sell-on fees
- Solidarity contribution
- Training compensation

##### Art. 4 Obligations of clubs

6.

Clubs must declare in TMS any payments made. This also applies to payments made by the player's new club to the player's former club on the basis of contractual clauses contained in the player's contract with **his/her** former club and despite no transfer agreement having been concluded. When declaring the execution of a payment, the club making the payment must upload evidence of the money transfer into TMS.



## Art. 5 Obligations of the associations

### 5.1 Master data

1.

The start and end dates of both registration periods and of the season, if applicable for male and female players separately, shall be entered in TMS at least 12 months before they come into force. Under exceptional circumstances, associations may amend or modify their registration period dates up until they commence. Once the registration period has begun, no alteration of dates will be possible. The registration periods shall always comply with the terms of article 6 paragraph 2.

## Art. 5 Obligations of the associations

### 5.2 Transfer-related information

1.

When entering transfer instructions, clubs shall specify the player involved (cf. Annexe 3, article 4 paragraph 2). TMS contains the details of many players who have participated in FIFA tournaments. If the details of the player involved are not already in TMS, the clubs shall enter them as a part of the transfer instruction. The procedure in relation to the ITC request (cf. Annexe 3, article 8.2 paragraph 1) may only be initiated once these player details have been verified, corrected if required and confirmed by the player's former association. The former association shall reject the player if the details of his/her identity cannot be fully confirmed against its own registration records. The verification of player details shall be done without delay.

## Art. 8 Administrative procedure governing the transfer of professionals between associations

### 8.2 Creating an ITC for a professional player

1.

– proof signed by the player and his/her former club that there is no third-party ownership of the player's economic rights;

## Art. 8 Administrative procedure governing the transfer of professionals between associations

### 8.2 Creating an ITC for a professional player

1.

A professional player is not eligible to play in official matches for his/her new club until the new association has confirmed the receipt of the ITC and has entered and confirmed the player registration date in TMS (cf. Annexe 3, article 5.2 paragraph 4).

Art. 8 Administrative procedure governing the transfer of professionals between associations

8.3 Loan of professional players

1.

The rules set out above also apply to the loan of a professional player from a club affiliated to one association to a club affiliated to another association, as well as to his/her return from loan to his/her original club, if applicable.

### **Annexe 3a**

Art. 1 Scope

The present annexe governs the procedure for the international transfer of amateur male and female players participating in eleven-a-side football, and all futsal players.

### **Art. 6 Registration periods**

1

Players may only be registered during one of the two annual registration periods fixed by the relevant association. Associations may fix different registration periods for their male and female competitions. 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.....