

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1917

Zurich, 23 December 2024

Interim regulatory framework: amendments to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that, on 22 December 2024, the Bureau of the FIFA Council approved an interim regulatory framework that comprises various amendments to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (**RSTP**) and the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal (**Procedural Rules**).

Background

Following the Court of Justice of the European Union judgment in case C-650/22 involving the football player Lassana Diarra, FIFA opened a global dialogue concerning possible changes to the RSTP. FIFA has since received substantial feedback from football stakeholders from across the world.

FIFA will continue this inclusive process to develop, jointly with its stakeholders, a new, long-term, robust and globally uniform regulatory framework for professional football through an open, objective, transparent and non-discriminatory process.

However, discussions with key stakeholders have also shown that there is a pressing need for stability and regulatory clarity on an interim basis, while these broader discussions continue. In particular, in January 2025, many FIFA member associations will open their registration periods (so-called **transfer windows**). This entails a degree of urgency for stakeholders to have clarity about the applicable regulatory framework in these upcoming registration periods in relation to both contractual stability and the execution of international transfers of players.

For this reason, FIFA engaged separately with its key stakeholders to develop an interim regulatory framework to be put in place until the broader discussions on the long-term content of the RSTP have concluded.

With this interim regulatory framework, FIFA will be able to ensure that a globally uniform set of rules continues to apply and that all clubs worldwide are subject to consistent regulatory standards in relation to squad composition, the stability of contracts, and international transfers of players.

The interim regulatory framework – overview

The interim regulatory framework affects the following provisions of the RSTP: articles 14 and 17, Annexe 3 (in relation to the International Transfer Certificate (**ITC**) procedure), and indirectly, Annexe 2 (in relation to coaches), as well as article 13 of the Procedural Rules. The key details are outlined below.

- Introduction of a definition of “just cause” (article 14 paragraph 1 of the RSTP)

The introduction of a definition of “just cause” (the requirement for terminating a contract) will provide more clarity and predictability and codify the long-standing case law of the Football Tribunal when determining whether such just cause exists in a given case.

- Calculation of compensation payable in case of a breach of contract by a player or coach (article 17 paragraph 1 of the RSTP and article 6 paragraph 2 of Annexe 2 to the RSTP)

Compensation will be calculated in a more objective and transparent manner, taking into account the damage suffered, according to the “positive interest” principle, the individual facts and circumstances of each case, and the law of the country concerned.

- Burden of proof regarding joint and several liability for compensation for breach of contract (article 17 paragraph 2 of the RSTP)

The joint and several liability of a player’s new club and the ensuing requirement to pay compensation for breach of contract will apply only if it can be established that this club induced the player to breach their contract. By contrast, under the previous version of the RSTP, joint and several liability applied automatically.

- Burden of proof regarding the inducement to breach a contract (and the related sporting sanction against the new club) (article 17 paragraph 4 of the RSTP)

A sporting sanction against a player’s new club for inducement to breach of contract will be imposed only if the claiming club can prove that the new club induced the player to breach

the contract. By contrast, under the previous version of the RSTP, there was a presumption that a new club induced a player to commit a breach of contract.

- Burden of proof and duty to collaborate (article 13 paragraph 6 of the Procedural Rules)

An express clarification has been added stating that parties have a duty to collaborate in the establishment of the facts and to comply with evidentiary requests, which can also be made by a party to the relevant proceedings. The Football Tribunal will also be entitled to draw an adverse inference from a party's reaction to an evidentiary request.

- Procedure regarding the issuance of an ITC (several paragraphs of article 11 of Annexe 3 to the RSTP)

A simplified ITC procedure will apply to preclude member associations from rejecting the issuance of an ITC. Irrespective of any contractual dispute, and duly considering the principle of sporting integrity and the applicable registration periods, a player will always be able to move to a new association and continue their career with a new club.

The ITC procedure will work as follows:

- Should the new association of a player make a request for the delivery of an ITC (**ITC Request**), the former association will need to deliver the ITC to the new association within 72 hours.
- Should the former association fail to respond to the ITC Request within 72 hours, the new association will be able to register the player with the new club and enter the relevant player registration information in TMS.
- In exceptional circumstances, the player, the former association or the new association will be able to request FIFA's intervention. However, this will be reserved for very specific scenarios and will never make it possible to block the issuance of a player's ITC due, for example, to an ongoing contractual dispute.
- In all cases, the issuance of an ITC will be without prejudice to any contractual dispute between the player, their former club and/or their new club.

Entry into force of the interim regulatory framework

The interim regulatory framework containing all of the aforementioned amendments will enter into force on **1 January 2025**, as reflected in article 29 of the RSTP and article 34 of the Procedural Rules.

It will apply to cases pending before the Football Tribunal at the time when it comes into force and to any new case brought before the Football Tribunal as of 1 January 2025.

The revised editions of the RSTP and Procedural Rules, as well as the Explanatory Notes on the interim regulatory framework are available on legal.fifa.com.

We thank you for taking note of the above and for informing your affiliated clubs accordingly. Please do not hesitate to contact Jan Kleiner, Director of Football Regulatory, at regulatory@fifa.org if you have any questions in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Mattias Grafström
Secretary General

cc: - FIFA Council
 - Confederations
 - European Club Association
 - FIFPRO
 - World Leagues Association