

## GUIDANCE NOTES

# INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR ASYLUM SEEKER/REFUGEE

## MINORS (FOR PLAYERS UNDER THE AGE OF 18)

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FIFA has provided clarification regarding individuals under the age of 18 arriving into the UK as an asylum seeker or refugee and wishing to register for a football Club in England.

In order for the player to be registered, special dispensation will need to be obtained from FIFA via The FA. The Club will need to provide the following documentation to The FA who will then submit a claim for special dispensation to FIFA who will then adjudicate on a case by case basis before the decision will be relayed to the Club, via The FA.

Below is the detailed list of required documents. Please ensure these are sent to The FA as separate PDF files. Documents required (sent in pdf format):

- Proof of birth of the player - The long birth certificate detailing the family's lineage if available
- Proof of identity and nationality of the player - Such as the player's passport or residence permit
- Proof of refugee status of the player - Copy of the Home Office letter granting asylum
- Proof of custody - Letter from custody holder on official documentation confirming that the player is being looked after, and where they are residing
- Authorisation of custody holder - Declaration of consent, issued by the party that holds the player's custody, giving consent to player registering for club, written on official documentation
- Parental situation - Declaration of current situation and whereabouts of players' parents on official documentation from relevant authority, such as Home Office, custodian, social worker
- Status of new Club - We will provide confirmation to FIFA as to the status of the applicant Club
- Status of player with former Club - Details of whether the player was registered with a previous Club, and if so, his status (amateur or professional)
- Status of player with new Club - Please note: professional is not applicable below Step 6 of the National League System. If the player is registering as a professional with his new club, we will require further documentation such as a copy of his playing contract
- Request for approval of first registration or international transfer - Completed international clearance request form (Minors)



## GUIDANCE NOTES - CONTINUED

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FIFA will then contact the player's former Association, but without indicating where the player is seeking to be registered. It will then go to the Single Judge for a final decision, which will be relayed to the Club, via The FA.

The following page details the specific documentation required for minor applications relating to asylum seekers/refugees.

**These cases can become a lengthy process, especially when collating documents and waiting for FIFA to pass judgement on each case, so we therefore request all parties to provide as much evidence as they can in the first instance and to bear with us while dealing with a number of cases in the same situation.**

**Please note that both FIFA and The FA take very seriously the position of asylum seekers and refugees and all parties can, therefore, be rest assured of the discretion of both organisations when handling these sensitive cases. Through FIFA, and ourselves, the whereabouts of any asylum seeker/refugee will not be made known to the authorities of his home country.**

This guidance does not alter or replace any of The FA's Rules and Regulations (or the rules and regulations of any Competition, Confederation or FIFA) (together referred to as the "Rules and Regulations"). The Rules and Regulations should be referred to for the full provisions relating to International Clearance for Minors. In the event of any inconsistency between this guidance and the Rules and Regulations, the Rules and Regulations apply. The FA accepts no liability whatsoever in respect of any action taken against clubs and/or their players/officials regarding compliance with any such Rules and Regulations.



## Exception: Unaccompanied refugee player\*

*"The player is moving for humanitarian reasons without his parents"*

Circumstances	Documents to be submitted										Application to be submitted		Possibility of registration via the limited exemption
	Employment contract of the player <sup>1</sup>	Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player <sup>2</sup>	Proof of identity and nationality of the player <sup>3</sup>	Proof of refugee status of the player <sup>4</sup>	Proof of custody <sup>5</sup>	Authorisation of custody holder <sup>6</sup>	Parental situation <sup>7</sup>	Status of new club <sup>8</sup>	Status of player with former club <sup>9</sup>	Request for approval of first registration or international transfer	Via TMS	Via fax or ordinary mail	
The player is moving internationally to the new country without his parents and cannot be expected to return to his country of origin given that his life or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.	(✓)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

\* Where a minor player moves internationally **with his parent(s)** (accompanied) for humanitarian reasons, the relevant application for approval can be submitted based on the **exception contained in art. 19 par. 2 a) of the Regulations**.

*In such a case, in order to avoid that the authorities of the minor player's potential former association (and home country) and club respectively discover the whereabouts of the person in need of protection, which could potentially jeopardise the minor player's and his family's safety, the association intending to register the minor player concerned is invited to submit **via the TMS an application for approval of his first registration and not his international transfer** (even in cases where the minor player was previously registered at his home association).*

*In particular, a copy of the decision taken by the relevant national authority that grants the player's parent(s) the status of refugee or "protected person", or alternatively, an official confirmation from the relevant national authority that the minor player's parent(s) have been admitted to the procedure for being granted the right of asylum, as well as a copy of their temporary residence permit in the host country, need to be uploaded in place of the documents normally provided under the categories "Employment contract - player's parent(s) / other documents corroborating the reason invoked" and "Work permit – player's parents".*

1. This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.
2. The proof of birth must contain the player's birth date and filiation.
3. Such as government-issued ID card or passport.
4. A copy of the decision taken by the relevant national authority that grants the player the status of refugee or "protected person", or alternatively, an official confirmation from the relevant national authority that the minor player has been admitted to the procedure for being granted the right of asylum, as well as a copy of his temporary residence permit in the host country.
5. A copy of the decision of the competent national authority regarding the current legal custody of the minor player.
6. A declaration of consent issued by the party that holds the minor player's custody giving their consent to the player's registration for the club of the host country's football association.
7. A declaration regarding the current situation and whereabouts of the player's parents biological that is provided by the minor player, or the association of the player's host country, or any other competent authority.
8. A declaration issued by the football association of the minor player's host country indicating whether the club for which the player wishes to be registered is professional or purely amateur (club without a professional team and without legal, financial or de facto links to a professional club).
9. A declaration issued by the minor player indicating whether he has ever been registered for a club in his home country (or any other country) and, if so, whether the player was previously registered as an amateur or a professional.