



**INTERNATIONAL
TRANSFERS
INVOLVING
MINORS**

19. Protection of minors

1. International transfers of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18.

2. The following five 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.
- b) The player is aged between 16 and 18 and:
 - i. the transfer takes place within the territory of the European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA); or
 - ii. the transfer takes place between two associations within the same country.

The new club must fulfil the following minimum obligations:

- iii. It shall provide the player with an adequate football education and/or training in line with the highest national standards (cf. Annexe 4, article 4).
 - iv. 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 to play professional football.
 - v. It shall make all necessary arrangements to ensure that the player is looked after in the best possible way (optimum living standards with a host family or in club accommodation, appointment of a mentor at the club, etc.).
 - vi. It shall, on registration of such a player, provide the relevant association with proof that it is complying with the aforementioned obligations.
- c) The player lives no further than 50km from a national border and the club with 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 headquarters shall be 100km. In such cases, the player must continue to live at home and the two associations concerned must give their explicit consent.
 - d) The player is at least temporarily permitted to reside in the country of arrival and/or is recognised by the competent state authorities as vulnerable and requiring state protection by the country of arrival after fleeing their country of origin (or previous country of domicile) for humanitarian reasons, without their parents, due to either of the following:
 - i. their life or freedom being threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, belonging to a particular social group, or political opinion; or
 - ii. any other circumstances where their survival is seriously threatened.



If the minor has been formally recognised as a refugee or a protected person, they may be registered with a professional club or purely amateur club. There are no restrictions on any subsequent national transfer of the minor prior to their turning 18.

If the minor has been formally recognised as asylum seeker or has been recognised by the competent state authorities as vulnerable in accordance with article 19 paragraph d) above, they may only be registered with a purely amateur club. They may be the subject of a subsequent national transfer, but are not permitted to register with a professional club until they turn 18.

- e) The player is a student and moves without his parents to another country temporarily for academic reasons in order to undertake an exchange programme. The duration of the player's registration for the new club until he turns 18 or until the end of the academic or school programme cannot exceed one year. The player's new club may only be a purely amateur club without a professional team or without a legal, financial or de facto link to a professional club.

3. The provisions of this article shall also apply to any player who has never previously been registered with a club, is not a national of the country where the association at which he wishes to be registered for the first time is domiciled, and has not lived continuously for at least the last five years in said country.

4. Where a minor player is at least ten years old, the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal must approve:

- a) their international transfer according to paragraph 2;
- b) their first registration according to paragraph 3; or
- c) their first registration, where the minor player is not a national of the country where the association at which they wish to be registered is domiciled and has lived continuously for at least the last five years in that country.

5. Approval pursuant to paragraph 4 is required prior to any request for an ITC and/or a first registration by an association.

6. Where a minor player is under ten years old, it is the responsibility of the association that intends to register the player – as per the request of its affiliated club – to verify and ensure that the circumstances of the player fall, beyond all doubt, under one of the exceptions provided for in paragraph 2, 3, or 4 c). Such verification shall be made prior to any registration.

7. An association may apply to the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal for a limited minor exemption ("LME").

- a) An LME, if granted, relieves an association, under specific terms and conditions and solely for amateur minor players who are to be registered with purely amateur clubs, from the application obligations set out in paragraph 4.
- b) In such a case, prior to any request for an ITC and/or a first registration, the association concerned is required to verify and ensure that the circumstances of the player fall, beyond all doubt, under one of the exceptions provided for in paragraph 2, 3, or 4 c).

8. A club that has registered a minor player following a national transfer, international transfer or first registration shall:

- owe a duty of care to the minor;
- take any reasonable measures to protect and safeguard the minor from any possible abuse; and
- ensure that the minor is provided with an opportunity to obtain an academic education (according to the highest national standards) that allows them to pursue a career other than football.

9. The procedures for applying to the Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal for the matters described in this article are contained in the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal.

19bis Registration and reporting of minors at academies

1. Clubs that operate an academy (within their own structure and/or through a separate entity with legal, financial or de facto links to the club) are obliged to report all minors who attend the academy (registered with the club or not) to the association with which the club concerned is affiliated. When an academy is operated outside the territory of the club's respective association, the reporting shall be made by the club to the association on whose territory the academy operates

2. Each association shall request all academies without legal, financial or de facto links to a club (private academies) operating on its territory to report all minors who attend the academy to the association. Each association shall report any wrongdoing occurring at private academies of which it becomes aware to the relevant authorities, taking all necessary measures to protect and safeguard minors from potential abuse.

3. Each association shall keep a register of players, comprising at least the following information: full name (first, middle and last names), nationality, date of birth, country of origin (or previous country of domicile), agent (if any) and club operating the respective academy, regarding the minors who have been reported to it by clubs or academies.



4. A club that wishes to collaborate with a private academy shall:
 - i. report such collaboration to the association with which the club is affiliated;
 - ii. ensure that the private academy reports its players to the association where the academy operates;
 - iii. before entering into a contract with a private academy, ensure that the private academy takes proper measures to protect and safeguard minors; and
 - iv. report any wrongdoing of which it may become aware to the relevant authorities, taking all necessary measures to protect and safeguard minors from potential abuse.
5. Through the act of reporting, academies and players undertake to practise football in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, and to respect and promote the ethical principles of organised football.
6. Associations shall report to FIFA each minor that attends an academy within the territory they govern where the minor:
 - i. is not a national of the country where the association is domiciled; and
 - ii. has not lived continuously for at least the last five years in that country.

Such reports shall contain a *prima facie* assessment of whether the minor meets the requirements of article 19.
7. Any violations of this provision will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

19ter Trials

General conditions for all triallists

1. A club may invite a player to trial with it for a defined period of time. A professional (within the meaning of art. 2 herein) may only trial with another club with the express written permission of their current club.
2. The club and the invited player shall agree on the conditions of the trial (e.g. payment for accommodation, travel, meals and daily expenses) on the FIFA Trial Form before the trial commences. A complete and duly signed FIFA Trial Form must be lodged in FIFA TMS by the club at the latest ten days before the trial commences.

3. During a trial, the club owes a duty of care to the triallist. In particular, the club shall provide the triallist with, and cover the cost of, any necessary medical treatment for injuries sustained while performing activities within the trial.
4. The maximum duration of a trial for players aged 21 and below shall be eight weeks, consecutive or non-consecutive, per club in any one season. The maximum duration of a trial for players over the age of 21 shall be three weeks, consecutive or non-consecutive, per club in any one season.
5. A player on trial is only permitted to participate in friendly matches and any activity that does not fall within the scope of organised football. Such friendly matches must take place during the duration of the relevant trial.
6. Any person subject to the FIFA Statutes is prohibited from requesting, offering and/or receiving any payment whatsoever connected to a trial, without prejudice to the agreement between the club and the triallist on the conditions of the trial, according to paragraph 2 above.
7. Clubs having a player on trial are not entitled to receive training rewards for the period during which a player is on trial with that club.

Conditions specific to minor triallists

8. In addition to the general conditions, a minor may only trial with a club provided that:
 - a) the date the trial period begins occurs during the season of:
 - i. the minor triallist's 16th birthday; or
 - ii. the minor triallist's 15th birthday if both the minor's and the club's domicile are located in Europe;
 - b) the club obtains express written permission from the minor triallist's parents;
 - c) the club designates an employee within the club to be the point of contact for the minor triallist;
 - d) the club ensures that the minor triallist is provided with optimum accommodation and living standards and adequate coverage of expenses; and
 - e) for amateur minor players below the age of 16, the current club of the minor is informed of the trial and provided with the complete and duly signed FIFA Trial Form.
9. A minor may only attend two trials per calendar year, each of them subject to the maximum duration stipulated in article 19ter paragraph 4.



Other matters

10. Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level, in accordance with national law, may deviate from the minimum standards stipulated above and/or establish additional conditions when a player may leave his current club to attend a trial.

Sanctions

11. Any failure to fulfil a condition agreed in a FIFA Trial Form or to upload a complete and duly signed FIFA Trial Form and/or any violation of this provision will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code. In such proceedings, both the triallist and the club concerned will have the procedural status of a party before the Disciplinary Committee.