



DOMESTIC TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

These regulations deal with, and apply to, **players moving between clubs belonging to the Irish Football Association ONLY.**

- **Principles**

This formula is for players between the ages of 12 and 23 who are transferred or move clubs without a fee being payable between the clubs.

A player's training and education takes place between the ages of 12 and 23. Training compensation shall be payable, as a general rule, up to the age of 23 for training incurred up to the age of 21.

Training compensation is due when:

- i) a player is registered for the first time as a professional; or**
- ii) a professional is transferred between clubs**

before the end of the season of his 23rd birthday.

Claimable seasons for compensation under these guidelines are from the start of the season of the players 12th birthday up to the end of the season of the players 21st birthday.

Training compensation may still be triggered by an event up until the end of the season of the player's 23rd birthday but any compensation claimable is up to the end of the season of the players 21st birthday only.

In order for compensation to be due the player must be registered as a professional player with the new club, regardless of his status with the former club.

- **Categorisation**

Under the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, Senior Football in Northern Ireland holds Category 3 Status with all other levels below Senior Football being assigned Category 4 status. Training Compensation is not due if a player is transferred to a category 4 club.

The sub-categories in Northern Ireland applicable under Domestic Training and Development Compensation Guidelines are:

1. Senior Football
2. Intermediate Football
3. Junior / Youth Football

The compensation payable for the above categories is as follows:

1. Category 1 - £1500
2. Category 2 - £1000
3. Category 3 - £500

The above categorisation applies to the club who are claiming compensation not the player's new club.

- **Application of the Regulations**

All decisions relating to domestic training compensation are to be made by the IFA Football Committee.

The training compensation payable is calculated by taking the training cost categorisation multiplied by the number of years of training from the season of the player's 12th birthday to the season of his 21st birthday.

The claimant club must effectively demonstrate this fact by adhering to the principles and procedures below:

Only full seasons where the player has been registered with the claimant club can be counted. Where two or more clubs can demonstrate bone fide registration of a player for the same season or seasons, then the Football Committee, at its discretion, may distribute any compensation payment between such clubs for the claimable season or seasons.

If a player is registered with an Irish Premier League Club and is therefore eligible for the First (Senior – Cat 1), Reserve (Intermediate – Cat 2) and Youth (Junior/Youth – Cat 3) teams, the Football Committee will decide how the player should be categorised for any given season(s). It is entirely the responsibility of the claimant club to evidence and demonstrate the applicable category of the *'training, education and development'* of the player for any claimable season in these circumstances.

All previous, affiliated, clubs (from the season of the players 12th birthday) are eligible to lodge a claim for compensation ONLY when the player FIRST registers as a professional.

In the event of subsequent transfers of the professional before the end of the season of the player's 23rd birthday (where the player is registered as a professional with the new club) compensation is ONLY due to the player's previous club. If the former club does not offer the professional player a contract, no training compensation is payable. The former club must offer the professional player a contract in writing via registered post at least 30 days before the expiry of his current contract. Such an offer shall furthermore be at least of an equivalent value to the current contract.

The only exception to this principle is in respect of pre-contract agreements. Where a professional player has signed a pre-contract agreement at least 30 days prior to the end of his current contract, his former club will retain their right to compensation without having to offer a contract in writing via registered post at least 30 days before the expiry of his current contract.

Any right to training compensation shall only be triggered with the activation of the professional contract with the new club, not the signing of the pre-contract agreement and remains subject to the claim being lodged in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

For the avoidance of doubt, where a club is no longer interested in the services of one of its professional players and does not seek to renew his contract, that club is deemed to have written off the investment made for his training and the player is free to move to another club without any compensation being payable.

When a player moves for a transfer fee during his existing registration no training compensation shall be paid. Instead the club losing the player should receive a transfer fee that should be equal to or greater than the amount set out in the training compensation scale above.

Training compensation is not due if a professional reacquires amateur status on being transferred. However, if a player re-registers as a professional within 30 months of being reinstated as an amateur, training compensation will then be payable if applicable as per these regulations.

For the purposes of these regulations, the end of the football season is deemed to be 31 May.

Clubs claiming compensation have a maximum of one year from the player's date of professional registration with the new club to lodge its claim to the IFA. Any such claim must:

- Be lodged within the applicable timeframe (within one year from the player's date of professional registration with the new club) by Special Delivery Letter.
- Clearly identify the season(s) for which the claim is being lodged (e.g. 2005-06).
- Clearly identify the club(s) from which compensation is being claimed.
- All evidence which is to be relied upon to support the claim must accompany the letter of claim within the Special Delivery envelope (including registration documentation, dated press clippings and photographs etc.)
- Clubs have one opportunity only to lodge a claim in respect of any given player (no additional / supplementary evidence, documents or contentions may be made or lodged beyond the original submission envelope). The only exception to this principle is where specific clarification is subsequently requested by the Football Committee to aid its decision making.

It is entirely the responsibility of the club claiming compensation to provide the necessary evidence (documentary or otherwise) to support its claim. In this respect the burden of proof rests solely with the claimant club.

All compensation monies due must be paid within 90 days of a decision being given by the IFA Football Committee.

The FIFA Solidarity Mechanism principles are not applicable for transfers between clubs belonging to the IFA.

Matters not provided for in these guidelines shall be decided upon by the IFA Football Committee.

NOTES:

CLAIMS FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMPENSATION AND/OR SOLIDARITY PAYMENTS MAY **ONLY** BE LODGED BY CLUBS AFFILIATED TO THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION AND THE NORTHERN IRELAND BOYS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

FOR SEASON 2013-14 AND ONWARDS, **ONLY** PLAYER REGISTRATIONS LODGED AND ADMINISTERED VIA THE IFA PLAYER REGISTRATION CENTRAL DATABASE WILL BE ACCEPTED AS DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM A PLAYER'S REGISTRATION AND PLAYING HISTORY VIA THE 'PLAYER PASSPORT'.

WHERE CLUBS SEEK COMPENSATION FOR SEASONS PRIOR TO SEASON 2013-14, THE IFA FOOTBALL COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE, ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS, TO EXAMINE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY INCLUDE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PLAYER REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION FROM RELEVANT LEAGUES/BODIES, LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM LEAGUES, DATED MEDIA ARTICLES, PLAYER ID CARDS AND SUBSTANTIATED PHOTOGRAPHICAL EVIDENCE ETC.

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