



**Irish Football Association**

# **AMATEUR GAME PLAYER REGISTRATION REGULATIONS**

*June 2026*

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## ARTICLE 1 INTRODUCTION

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- 1.1** The following regulations shall apply for amateur players registering for their club to play in purely amateur competitions. Competition rules shall determine if a competition is to be purely amateur (for the avoidance of any doubt if a competition's rules do not explicitly exclude professional players from participating then it shall not be considered to be a purely amateur competition, and the Professional Game regulations shall apply).
- 1.2** **FIFA RSTP** means the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players issued from time to time.
- 1.3** All amateur registrations shall be administered by Clubs/Leagues using the Comet FMS.
- 1.3.1** All Club representatives will be obliged to agree to the terms and conditions of the access to and use of the Comet FMS.
- 1.3.2** Appointed league officials shall have full access to player registration records within their own league and will have full administrator rights to assist clubs as and when required. Such officials will be obliged to agree to the terms and conditions of the access to and use of the Comet FMS.
- 1.4** Any player not registered with the Association who appears for a club in any official match shall be considered to have played illegitimately. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and/or the club. The right to impose such sanctions lies in principle with the Association or the organiser of the competition concerned.
- 1.5** It shall be the responsibility of clubs playing in any match to be played under the jurisdiction of the Irish Football Association to ensure that its players are eligible to play in such a match.
- 1.6** Terms within these regulations referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders.
- 1.7** FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players define a season as a consecutive 12-month period fixed by an association during which its official competitions, such as national league championships and national cup competitions, occur.
- 1.8** The Season in Northern Ireland is the period from 1st July to 30th June of the following year, or such period as is annually submitted to FIFA TMS by the Irish Football Association.
- 1.8.1** FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players define a competition period as the period starting with the first official match of the national league championship or national cup competition, whichever comes first, and ending with the last official match played within those competitions.
- 1.8.2** The Winter Competition period in Northern Ireland is the period from 1st August to 31st May, and the Summer Competition period is the period from 1st March to 31st October.

## ARTICLE 2 STATUS OF PLAYERS: AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL

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- 2.1** Players participating in organised football are either amateurs or professionals. No other status shall be recognised.
- 2.2** A professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more for their footballing activity than the expenses he effectively incurs. All other players are considered to be amateurs.

### ARTICLE 3 REACQUISITION OF AMATEUR STATUS

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- 3.1** A player registered as a professional may not re-register as an amateur until at least 30 days after their last match as a professional (and provided the previous registration has either expired or been cancelled).
- 3.2** No compensation is payable upon reacquisition of amateur status. If a player re-registers as a professional within **30** months of being reinstated as an amateur, their new club shall pay training compensation in accordance with **Annex 1** of these regulations or **Article 20 FIFA RSTP**, if applicable.

### ARTICLE 4 TERMINATION OF ACTIVITY

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- 4.1** Professionals who end their careers upon expiry of their contracts and amateurs who terminate their activity shall remain registered at the association of their last club for a period of **30 months**.
- 4.2** This period begins on the day the player made their last appearance for the club in an official match.

### ARTICLE 5 REGISTRATION

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- 5.1** Each association must have an electronic player registration system, which must assign each player a FIFA ID when the player is first registered. A player must be registered at an association to play for a club as either a professional or an amateur in accordance with the provisions of **Article 2** of these regulations.

With the exception of players participating in friendly matches during a trial, only electronically registered players identified with a FIFA ID are eligible to participate in organised football. By the act of registering or accepting to be on trial, a player agrees to abide by the statutes and regulations of FIFA, the confederations and the associations.

- 5.2** A player may only be registered with a club for the purpose of playing organised football. As an exception to this rule, a player may have to be registered with a club for mere technical reasons to secure transparency in consecutive individual transactions (**Annex 3 FIFA RSTP**). A player that is on trial (**see article 19ter FIFA RSTP**) does not need to be registered to participate in friendly matches played in context of a trial.
- 5.3** A player may only be registered with one club at a time.

Players may be registered with **a maximum of three clubs during one season** (1st July to 30th June). During this period, the player is only **eligible to play in official matches for two clubs**.

As an exception to this rule, a player moving between two clubs belonging to associations with overlapping seasons (i.e., start of the season in summer/ autumn as opposed to winter/spring) may be eligible to play in official matches for a third club during the relevant season, provided they have fully complied with their contractual obligations towards their previous clubs and provided that the provisions relating to registration periods (**Article 6 FIFA RSTP**) and the minimum length of contract (**Article 18 paragraph 2 FIFA RSTP**) are respected. Limitations as per this paragraph do not apply if the player wishes to be registered based upon the exception as per **Article 6.3.a FIFA RSTP**.

Competition Regulations for the FIFA Club World Cup may establish further exceptions.

- 5.4** Players who participate in both a Winter Competition and a Summer Competition within the

same season (1st July to 30th June), shall remain subject to the limitations as laid out in **Article 5.3.**

- 5.5** Under all circumstances, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the competition. In particular, a player may not play official matches for more than two clubs competing in the same national championship or cup during the same season, subject to stricter individual competition regulations of member associations.
- 5.6** Notwithstanding any of the above, a player may only register for any club twice in one season.
- 5.7** Should a club wish to withdraw from all competitions for the remainder of the season, the relevant club or league shall notify the Irish Football Association in accordance with the prescribed formal process. All amateur players registered with said club during the current season shall be immediately released from their registration and free to register with another club, subject to compliance with the relevant league's rules.

For the avoidance of doubt, where a club withdraws from all competitions for the remainder of the season, that club shall not be counted towards the number of clubs for which the player has played for in the current season.

- 5.8** Should a team within a wider club structure (i.e. youth, women's or men's team) wish to withdraw from all competitions for the remainder of the season, the relevant club or league shall notify the Irish Football Association in accordance with the prescribed formal process. During this process the club will have the opportunity to provide the Player Status Department with a list of players from the relevant team to be released from their registrations. Provided the process has been properly completed, any player so released shall be eligible to register for another club, subject always to the rules and regulations of the relevant league.

For the avoidance of doubt, where a team withdraws from all competitions for the remainder of the season, that club shall not be counted towards the number of clubs for which the player has played for in the current season. However, if the player has also played for another team within the same club during the season, that club shall be counted for the purposes of determining the total number of clubs the player has played for in that season.

- 5.9** In relation to the FIFA ID of a player and the integration of their electronic player registration systems, member associations shall;
- 5.9.1 Assign a FIFA ID to all players already registered at the member association who have not been assigned a FIFA ID at the point in time when the electronic player registration system is integrated with the FIFA Connect ID Service;
- 5.9.2 Where a FIFA ID has already been assigned to a player, as indicated by the FIFA Connect ID Service, ensure the same FIFA ID is used to register the player in its electronic player registration system;
- 5.9.3 If the FIFA Connect ID Service determines that a player is, or appears to be, registered in more than one electronic player registration system, resolve the matter within five (5) days of it becoming aware, and update the FIFA Connect ID Service without delay; and
- 5.9.4 Provide the relevant personal information about a player to other member associations' electronic player registration systems through the FIFA Connect Interface, when requested for the purpose of registration and the determination of the FIFA ID of the player.

- 5.10 Any national transfer remaining in “Entered” or "Submitted" status on the Comet system for more than 14 days shall be rejected by the Irish FA.
- 5.11 To ensure a consistent registration deadline across all competitions in Northern Ireland and to promote fairness and sporting integrity, all player registrations must be confirmed by 12:00 noon on the day before any match in which they are due to participate (e.g. by 12:00 noon on Friday for matches played on Saturday).

## ARTICLE 6 REGISTRATION PERIODS

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- 6.1 Players may only be registered during the official registration periods for purely amateur competitions as follows:
- **Winter competition period**  
Registration period shall open on **15 June 2026** and close at **5.00pm** on **31 March 2027**.
  - **Summer competition period**  
Registration period shall open on **1 March 2026** and close at **5.00pm** on **7 August 2026**.
  - **Summer competition period for Season 2026/27**  
Registration period will open on **8 February 2027** and close at **5.00pm** on **9 August 2027**.

## ARTICLE 7 AMATEUR PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

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- 7.1 All amateur registrations must be submitted via the Comet FMS by Club representatives.
- 7.2 All mandatory fields of the Comet FMS must be accurately completed in full before a registration is confirmed.
- 7.3 All Player Registrations, Re-Registrations, and Transfers submitted on Comet must include an uploaded copy of an official ID document (birth certificate, driving licence, passport or government issued ID card). In the absence of an Official ID Document an investigation will be undertaken by the Player Status Committee.
- 7.3.1 Where a player has changed their name, they must provide a legal document that proves the change of name e.g. deed poll, marriage or civil partnership certificate, General Register Office certificate showing the recorded name change.
- 7.3.2 The player shall be considered registered upon completion of the online procedure and an email confirming the player’s registration will be automatically sent to the email address provided by the player to the club and entered in the Comet FMS.
- 7.3.3 Any player who is under the age of **18** on the date of registration must have the email address of a parent or guardian entered in the Comet FMS. In the event that a player, or in the case of a player under the age of **18** their parent or guardian, does not consent to the registration of the player, they should immediately contact the Irish Football Association who will investigate the matter and either confirm or terminate the registration as appropriate.
- 7.4 An amateur registration shall be valid from its effective date until the **commencement of the next relevant re-registration period**.
- 7.4.1 Re-registration functionality will be made available, in line with **Article 6 of the FIFA RSTP**, in advance of respective Winter and Summer Competition Periods commencing.
- 7.4.2 Clubs must obtain consent from each player (or a parent/guardian for players under

the age of 18) prior to selecting them for re-registration. It is strongly recommended that such consent is recorded in writing and retained by the club so that it can be produced in the event of any dispute.

- 7.5 Priority of registration shall determine the eligibility of a player to play for the club with which he was first registered.
- 7.6 In the event that a club fields teams in both professional and purely amateur competitions, the club shall be permitted to register players outside the fixed registration periods applicable to the professional game, provided such registration occurs within the permitted registration periods for the amateur game.

However, any player registered in this manner shall be eligible to play **only** for the team participating in amateur competitions. That player shall not be eligible to participate in professional competitions until the commencement of the next professional registration period. In accordance with **Article 1.5** of these regulations, the responsibility for managing this matter shall continue to rest with the clubs.

## ARTICLE 8 TRANSFER AND TRANSFER DISPUTES

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- 8.1 Amateur players (with an active registration) moving clubs will be required to complete a transfer. The transfer instruction must be submitted and approved by both clubs involved in the transfer via the Comet FMS in accordance with the applicable Comet guidance.
- 8.2 Where a club representative has not responded to a transfer request for an amateur player **within 7 days** the IFA Player Status Department shall terminate the former registration to enable the transfer to be completed unless **Article 8.3** below applies.
- 8.3 Where a club objects to a transfer request for an amateur player, they must notify their League/ IFA **within 7 days**. Upon receipt of the objection, the relevant League shall record the dispute in COMET to prevent the Player's registration from being terminated pending determination of the dispute. Arrangements shall then be made for the dispute to be referred to a dispute resolution hearing.
- 8.3.1 If both teams participate in the same League such hearing shall be considered by that League.
- 8.3.2 If both teams participate in different Leagues such hearing shall be considered by the IFA Player Status Committee.
- 8.4 All registration disputes will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 8.5 Any club who rejects the transfer of an amateur player **within 7 days**, without just cause, shall be fined a **minimum of £100**.
- 8.6 If a transfer dispute, including unapproved national transfers, is officially reported to the Association less than seven days before the end of a registration period, the Player Status Committee shall have the discretionary authority to approve the registration on a case-by-case basis.

## ARTICLE 9 BRIDGE TRANSFER

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- 9.1 No club or player shall be involved in a bridge transfer. A bridge transfer is defined as any two consecutive transfers, national or international, of the same player connected to each other and comprising a registration of that player with a middle club to circumvent the application of the relevant regulations or laws and/or defraud another person or entity.

- 9.2** It shall be presumed, unless established to the contrary, that if two consecutive transfers, national or international, of the same player occur **within a period of 16 weeks**, the parties (clubs and player) involved in those two transfers have participated in a bridge transfer.
- 9.3** The FIFA Disciplinary Committee, in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code, will impose sanctions on any party subject to the FIFA Statutes and regulations involved in a bridge transfer.

## **ARTICLE 10 INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATE (ITC)**

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- 10.1** An amateur whose last registration was held outside Northern Ireland may not be registered with a Club unless the Association has received an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) issued by the National Association which the player wishes to leave.
- 10.2** Where a request for an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) is submitted through FIFA TMS prior to the expiry of a registration period and the club has completed all registration requirements for which it is responsible prior to the expiry of that registration period, any subsequent registration completed following receipt of the ITC shall be deemed to have been effected within that registration period.
- The player shall not be eligible to participate in official matches for the new club until receipt of the ITC has been confirmed and the registration has been completed in FIFA TMS and the relevant electronic registration system.
- 10.3** A player shall not, under any circumstances, be authorised to play in official matches for his new club until an ITC has been received by the Association. Only the Irish Football Association is entitled to request an ITC to enable a player to be registered in Northern Ireland.
- 10.4** The ITC shall be issued free of charge without any conditions or time limit. Any provisions to the contrary shall be null and void. The association issuing the ITC shall lodge a copy with FIFA.
- 10.5** In the case of both amateur and professional players instructions must be entered on to FIFA Transfer Matching System (TMS) by the club/s involved in accordance with FIFA TMS guidelines.
- 10.5.1** For any player over the age of 18 who requires an ITC (with the exception of refugees and protected persons), if this instruction is not entered on to FIFA TMS within 60 days, the Submitted (INT) registration on Comet will be cancelled by the Irish FA.
- 10.6** The registering association is obliged to provide the club with which the player is registered with a player passport containing the relevant details of the player. The player passport shall indicate the club(s) with which the player has been registered since the calendar year of his 12th birthday.
- 10.7** An ITC is not required for a player **under the age of ten years**; however, a completed declaration will be required to verify and ensure that the circumstances of the player fall, beyond all doubt, under one of the exceptions provided for, in **16.2, 16.3 or 16.4.c** of these regulations.

## **ARTICLE 11 ENFORCEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSIONS**

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- 11.1** Any disciplinary sanction of up to four matches or up to three months that has been imposed on a player by the former association but not yet (entirely) served by the time of the transfer shall be enforced by the new association at which the player has been registered in order for the sanction to be served at domestic level. When issuing the ITC, the former association shall notify the new

association via TMS of any such disciplinary sanction that has yet to be (entirely) served.

- 11.2** Any disciplinary sanction of more than four matches or more than three months that has not yet been (entirely) served by a player shall be enforced by the new association that has registered the player only if the FIFA Disciplinary Committee has extended the disciplinary sanction to have worldwide effect. Additionally, when issuing the ITC, the former association shall notify the new association via TMS of any such pending disciplinary sanction.

## **ARTICLE 12 PLAYER PASSPORT**

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- 12.1** For entitlements related to training rewards that are not governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, existing obligations related to player passports shall remain unchanged, i.e., the registering association is obliged to provide the club with which the player is registered with a player passport containing the relevant details of the player. The player passport shall indicate the club(s) with which the player has been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday.
- 12.2** For entitlements related to training rewards that are governed by the FIFA Clearing House Regulations, an EPP shall be generated and used as set forth below.
- 12.3** The Electronic Player Passport is an electronic document containing consolidated registration information of a player throughout their career, including the relevant member association, their status (amateur or professional), the type of registration (permanent or loan), and the club(s) (including training category) with which they have been registered since the calendar year of their 12th birthday. It shall be generated in circumstances as defined in the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.
- 12.4** For the purpose of creating the EPP, member associations shall ensure that reliable, accurate and complete player registration information is made available electronically to FIFA through the FIFA Connect Interface, whenever requested by FIFA through such interface.

## **ARTICLE 13 UNREGISTERED PLAYERS**

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- 13.1** Any player not registered at an association who appears for a club in any official match shall be considered to have played illegitimately. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and/or the club. The right to impose such sanctions lies in principle with the association or the organiser of the competition concerned.

## **ARTICLE 14 LOAN OF PLAYERS**

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- 14.1** The loan of amateur players is not permitted.

## **ARTICLE 15 CANCELLATION OF A REGISTRATION AND RETIREMENT**

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- 15.1** Cancellation of an amateur player shall be administered by the Irish Football Association to cancel an amateur player's registration where he/she is moving to another national association.
- 15.2** Clubs must not terminate a player's amateur registration except in the circumstance where a club has received a registration notification from Comet FMS inviting them to do so as part of the domestic transfer process.
- 15.3** An amateur player who wishes to retire from football may do so at any time by providing written notice to the Association ([registrations@irishfa.com](mailto:registrations@irishfa.com)).

## ARTICLE 16 PROTECTION OF MINORS

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

**16.2** 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 the 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 (**Annex 4, Article 4 FIFA RSTP**).
    - 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 playing 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 16.2.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.

- 16.3** 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.
- 16.4** 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 **Article 16.2** above;
  - b. their first registration according to **Article 16.3**; 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.
- 16.5** Approval pursuant to **Article 16.4** above is required prior to any request for an ITC and/or a first registration by an association.
- 16.6** 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 **Articles 16.2, 16.3, or 16.4.c** above. Such verification shall be made prior to any registration.
- 16.7** 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 **Article 16.4** above.
  - 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 **Articles 16.2, 16.3, or 16.4.c** above.
- 16.8** A club that has registered a minor player following a national transfer, international transfer or first registration shall:
- a. Owe a duty of care to be minor
  - b. Take any reasonable measures to protect and safeguard the minor from any possible abuse; and
  - c. 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.
- 16.9** 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.
- 16.10** For any player under the age of 18 to whom the FIFA Protection of Minors guidelines apply, the 'Submitted INT' registration on Comet will be cancelled by the Irish FA if the required FIFA Minors application documents are not received within 60 days.

## **ARTICLE 17 REGISTRATION AND REPORTING OF MINORS AT ACADEMIES**

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- 17.1** 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.

- 17.2** 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.
- 17.3** 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.
- 17.4** A club that wishes to collaborate with a private academy shall:
- a. Report such collaboration to the association with which the club is affiliates;
  - b. Ensure that the private academy reports its players to the association where the academy operates;
  - c. Before entering into a contract with a private academy, ensure that the private academy takes proper measures to protect and safeguard minors; and
  - d. 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.
- 17.5** 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.
- 17.6** Associations shall report to FIFA each minor that attends an academy within the territory they govern where the minor:
- a. Is not a national of the country where the association is domiciled; and
  - b. 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 16** of these regulations.
- 17.7** Any violations of this provision will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

## **ARTICLE 18 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMPENSATION**

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- 18.1** Domestic Training and Development Compensation shall only be paid when a player moves between clubs in membership of the Irish Football Association.
- More information in respect of the application of the Domestic Training and Development Compensation regulations are provided in **Annex 1**.
- 18.2** In accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, all clubs in Northern Ireland hold Category 4 status. Training Compensation is not due if a player is transferred to a category 4 club.

## **ARTICLE 19 PLAYER STATUS COMMITTEE**

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- 19.1** The Player Status Committee shall consist of:

- a. Two independent members, (not being a member of a club), who are legally qualified, to be appointed by the Board to serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman for a three-year period, at least one of whom should have knowledge of employment law.
- b. Six members of Council – to include at least one representative from Senior, Intermediate, Junior and Women’s football.

**19.2** The Committee shall deal with the following issues:

- a. Registration disputes
- b. Transfer disputes involving an amateur player
- c. Contract disputes between a professional player and his club
- d. Priority of registration disputes
- e. Compensation disputes
- f. To review, approve and monitor implementation of the Regulations
- g. Impose sanctions on leagues for non-compliance
- h. All other player registration issues as may arise from time to time

## **ARTICLE 20 LEAGUES RETAIN THE RIGHT**

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**20.1** Leagues retain the right to determine the criteria for the eligibility of players playing for clubs within their league and to impose sanctions where appropriate in accordance with their rules but must comply with the FIFA Regulations as adopted by the IFA.

## ANNEX 1 – DOMESTIC TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

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- **Adoption and Enforcement**

The first edition of these regulations came into force from 1 August 2020 and it was agreed that they would be reviewed every three years by the Football Committee. In 2026 the Irish FA Player Status Committee became the responsible body for overseeing the implementation of these regulations. The 3rd edition of these regulations would come into force from 15th June 2026 (or whenever the Professional Game registration period opens for Season 2026/27) and will be reviewed annually by the Player Status Committee.

In the event of a dispute or where Domestic Training and Development Compensation Regulations do not apply, the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (FIFA RSTP Chapter 8) shall take precedence.

- **Compensation Principles & Definitions**

**Training Compensation** - Defined in the FIFA RSTP as the payments made in accordance with Annex 4 (FIFA RSTP) to cover the development of young players.

**Training Period** - 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, unless it is evident that a player has already terminated his training period before the age of 21.

**Season** – FIFA define a season as ‘*A consecutive 12-month period fixed by an association during which its official competitions, such as national league championships and national cup competitions, occur*’. This is considered to be the period from the 1st of July to the 30th of June or as submitted annually on FIFA TMS by the Irish Football Association.

**Training Club** – A club where the player has been registered at any time between the age of 12 and 21 years old and who has been responsible for the training and education of the player.

**Player Passport** - Only player registrations lodged and administered via the IFA Player Registration Central Database (Comet FMS) will be accepted as documentary evidence to confirm a player's registration and playing history via the ‘Player Passport’.

- **Pro Rata Payments**

The amount of compensation payable to clubs is calculated by multiplying the compensation type amount by the number of full seasons of training provided by that club or clubs within the training period. Where a player has not spent a full year with a club the amount for that year will be calculated on a ‘Pro-Rata Basis’. The calculation for this will be taking the amount for that year, dividing it by 365 (or 366 in a leap year) and multiplying it by the number of days registered with the club.

- **Loan of Players**

The FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) has extended the training compensation entitlement of the former club to the club(s) which had a player on loan from their ‘parent club’. The DRC considers that the club(s) that had a professional player on loan from the parent club de facto form part of the former club's registration continuum and, as such, are entitled to training compensation for the training and education with which they provided the player during the loan(s). Equally, the DRC considers that the parent club is not entitled to receive training compensation for the period during which the player was on loan, an approach confirmed by CAS.

Furthermore, CAS also ruled that the parent club could be entitled to training compensation for the time the player spent on loan if the former parent club “can demonstrate that it bore the costs for the players training for the duration of the loan”.

- **First Registration breaks the Chain**

The principle of “**the first registration breaks the chain**” is applied in a strict manner. This is reflected in the association) and acquires professional status at their new club, the chain is considered to have been broken.

If the player then goes on to be transferred internationally to a third club, as a professional player, before the end of the calendar year of their 23rd birthday, only the player's last club prior to the international transfer will be entitled to claim training compensation – none of their previous training clubs will be entitled to training compensation from this second transfer.

**There are 4 Domestic Compensation types:**

- 1. Basic Compensation**
- 2. Conditional Compensation**
- 3. Solidarity Compensation**
- 4. Subsequent Transfer Compensation**

The 4 Domestic Compensation types are detailed below including the administrative procedures to be followed and the arrangements for processing payments and raising disputes.

- **Compensation Types**

- 1. Basic Compensation**

Upon the completion of the first professional registration of a player a basic initial compensation payment at a flat rate of £300 per full season is paid to all training clubs who have provided training during the training period.

Payment of basic compensation will be calculated by Irish FA Player Status Department and communicated to all relevant clubs upon the completion of the players' first professional registration. Only the information included in the official player passport in the Irish FA Comet Football Management System will be considered to identify training clubs and to calculate the amount of basic compensation due.

The club registering the player for the first time as a professional will have 30 days from the date of the Irish FA communication to make payment to the training club or clubs. In the event of non-payment or a disagreement regarding the amount of compensation due to the training club or clubs should submit a dispute to the IFA Player Status Committee by email via the Irish FA Player Status Department ([registrations@irishfa.com](mailto:registrations@irishfa.com)) providing full details of the dispute.

If no dispute is submitted by the training club or clubs within 1 year of the original Irish FA communication any unpaid compensation will be forfeited.

- 2. Conditional Compensation**

For the avoidance of doubt conditional compensation payments are only due to the training club or clubs when the occurrence leading to the condition being realised happens after the player has registered as a professional. If the player has realised one of the conditions while registered as an Amateur player, conditional compensation will not be due.

The responsibility to pay conditional compensation to the training club or clubs ends when the player's professional contract with the club either expires naturally; or is terminated; or upon completion of the calendar year of the player's 23rd birthday

Conditional compensation payments shall be due to the training club or clubs upon the player reaching particular conditions as identified below:

- i. First competitive 1st team appearance - £125 per full season**
- ii. 25 competitive 1st team appearances - £125 per full season**
- iii. National U21 Team competitive debut - £125 per full season**
- iv. National A Team competitive debut - £350 per full season**

Training clubs shall be responsible for tracking the career of their former player and should make a compensation claim by contacting the relevant professional club at the appropriate time to confirm that conditional payment/s are due.

Training clubs must request payment for conditional compensation in writing within 1 year of the relevant condition for the compensation being realised. After 1 year has lapsed any unclaimed conditional compensation shall be forfeited. Clubs will have 30 days to make payment to the training club or clubs upon notification of the conditional compensation claim.

In the event of non-payment or a disagreement regarding the amount of conditional compensation due the training club or clubs should submit a dispute to the Irish FA Player Status Committee by email via the Irish FA Registrations Department ([registrations@irishfa.com](mailto:registrations@irishfa.com)) providing full details of the dispute.

It shall be the responsibility of the claimant club to provide satisfactory evidence that the request has been submitted to the professional club in order and within the 1-year window.

### **3. Solidarity Contribution**

When a professional player transfers domestically for the first time before or during the calendar year of his 23rd birthday and where a transfer fee of £20,000 or more has been paid for the player, 5% of the transfer fee, not including training compensation paid to his former club, shall be identified as a solidarity contribution.

10% of the solidarity contribution shall be due to the clubs contributing to the training and development of the player during his amateur status for each full season that the player was registered and is payable from the calendar year of the player's 12th birthday until the calendar year of the player's 21st birthday.

Payment of Solidarity Compensation will be calculated by Irish FA Player Status Department and communicated to all relevant clubs upon the completion of transfer of the professional players registration.

Solidarity contributions must be paid to the training club or clubs by the selling club within 30 days from the date of the Irish FA communication to make payment to the training club or clubs. In the event of non-payment or a disagreement regarding the amount of solidarity contribution due the training club or clubs should submit a dispute to the Irish FA Player Status Committee by email via the IFA Registrations Department ([registrations@irishfa.com](mailto:registrations@irishfa.com)) providing full details of the dispute.

Any dispute must be submitted within 1 year following the date of the transfer.

### **4. Subsequent Transfers**

In the event of subsequent transfers of the professional player before the end of the calendar year of the player's 23rd birthday (provided the player is registered as a professional with the new club) compensation is only due to the player's former club. The principle of "the first registration breaks the chain" is applied in this instance.

In such cases when Subsequent Transfer Compensation is due it shall be payable at a rate of £1500 per full season where the player was registered as a Professional and £300 per full season where the player was registered as an Amateur player on a pro-rata basis.

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 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.

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. 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 post at least 30 days before the expiry of his current contract.

Any right to training compensation shall only be triggered with the activation (start date) of the professional contract with the new club, not the date of signing of any pre-contract agreement.

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 to the club(s) where the player was registered as an amateur during this period, at the rate of £300 per full season.

No training compensation will be due to the last club in which the player was registered as a professional.

Claimant clubs must request payment for such training compensation in writing within 1 year of the activation of the new professional registration.

In the event of non-payment or a disagreement regarding the amount of compensation due the claimant club should submit a dispute to the Irish FA Player Status Committee by email via the Irish FA Registrations Department ([registrations@irishfa.com](mailto:registrations@irishfa.com)) providing full details of the dispute and it shall be the responsibility of the claimant club to provide satisfactory evidence that the request has been submitted to the new club in order and within the 1-year window.



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