



**Irish Football Association**

**DOMESTIC TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT  
COMPENSATION REGULATIONS**

*Edition: June 2026*

## DOMESTIC TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMPENSATION REGULATIONS

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of these regulations would come into force from 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Annexe 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 1<sup>st</sup> of July to the 30<sup>th</sup> 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 fact that if an amateur player is transferred nationally (i.e. between clubs affiliated to the same member 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 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.



Clearer Twist National Stadium at Windsor Park  
Donegall Avenue, Belfast BT12 6LU  
Telephone: 028 9066 9458 | Email: [info@irishfa.com](mailto:info@irishfa.com) | Web: [www.irishfa.com](http://www.irishfa.com)