

13 August 2013

Member Federations
Clubs
State Institutes

By email

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Transfers of Young Players to Overseas Clubs

There has long been a vexed question in Australian football about the recruitment of talented young players from their Clubs (or Institutes) to overseas clubs. Football Federation Australia (FFA) has previously issued advice in this area and we now thought it is timely to remind you of the restrictions and potential risks of young players moving overseas, as well as the key reasons why young players should be encouraged to remain within the Australian football development system.

There are many aspects to this question, including:

- Is it in the best interests of a young player to go to an overseas club, both in terms of football development and personal wellbeing?
- Are young players and their parents receiving appropriate advice about whether to move overseas, where to go and when?
- Are the Clubs receiving their Training Compensation Payments, or Transfer Fees to which they are entitled under the FIFA Regulations?
- Is the prohibition under the FIFA Regulations on international transfers of players under the age 18 being applied?
- Are Australia's National Teams being compromised by the movement of players overseas?
- Is Australian football providing suitable development opportunities for these players?

A few years ago, FFA resolved to be much more proactive in this area and this has been evident. It remains our view that far too many players are being attracted overseas at stages of their careers where it would be better for their football development and for their personal well-being to remain in Australia until sufficiently developed, experienced and mature to get real benefit from an overseas move. Initiatives, such as the advent of the Foxtel National Youth League, the Hyundai A-League and, more recently the National Premier Leagues, challenge the previous perception that young players "need" to go overseas for their football development.

In support of the above, please take note of the following:

1. FFA no longer makes determinations with respect to requested International Transfer Certificates (*ITC's*) for minors. Instead, only the FIFA Players Status Committee can grant approval under exceptional circumstances and after receipt of extensive documentation to substantiate the application for the international transfer of a minor.
2. FIFA Regulations prohibit the granting of an ITC to a player under the age of 18. The only relevant exception to this prohibition is if the player's family is moving overseas for "non-football reasons".
3. We are continuing to assist Clubs (and Institutes) to obtain the payments due to them for either Training Compensation or Transfer Fees according to the FIFA and FFA Regulations. In many

cases these are sizeable sums which are to be shared by several clubs who assisted in the player's development, and often they are not pursued by the Australian clubs, or avoided by the overseas clubs. FFA has the staff and experience to assist in achieving the best result for the Clubs on their behalf, whilst recognising that in appropriate cases, the amounts claimed need to be reasonable so as not to unduly prejudice the interests of the player.

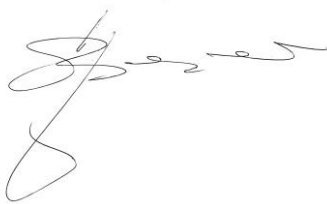
4. We intend to pursue cases of players who move overseas without taking the appropriate steps to get an ITC, or without making appropriate arrangements with their former clubs about payment of their entitlements.

To be effective in this task we need your help in the following ways:

1. Please assist us by informing your players, coaches, players' parents and any agents with whom you have contact that FFA cannot grant an ITC to any player under 18 years of age in accordance with the FIFA Regulations. There needs to be a change in the perception that players can be taken overseas whenever they want at any age.
2. Please advise us of any players you know of who have moved overseas from your Clubs or elsewhere in the past 3 years so that we can follow up the payments due to your Clubs or others.
3. Please advise us whenever you hear of any player who is intending to go overseas so that we can provide the player with appropriate, informed and unbiased advice, and ensure that the proper procedure is followed, including payments to the clubs who developed and trained the player. Additionally, we would like to provide him with the opportunity to get independent advice from players who have experience in making such a move so that he can properly consider his position and how and when to get the best out of the opportunity.
4. Please advise us of any under 18 players intending to move overseas so that we can advise him and his parents of the regulations and avoid situations of moves being made where an ITC may subsequently be refused.

If you have any enquiries in relation to the relevant regulations, please contact Sam Chadwick via Sam.Chadwick@footballaustralia.com.au. Otherwise, if you have any general comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



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