



NEW ZEALAND FOOTBALL INCORPORATED

REGULATION 5: STATUS OF PLAYERS

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1 DEFINITIONS

1.1 For the purpose of these Regulations the terms set out below are defined as follows:

“Player” means any football player registered as such with a club, and “players” shall be construed accordingly. Reference to the male gender in these Regulations is deemed to be reference to both males and females.

“Club/s” means any football club affiliated to NZF (whether that is a “Club”, “Special Category Club” affiliated schools or “District Federation” as those expressions are defined in the NZF Rules) or affiliated to another Member Association.

“Member Association” means NZF, or, as the context requires, any other national football association recognised as such by and being a member of FIFA.

“Member” means a member of NZF as that term is defined in the NZF Rules.

“District Federation” means the District Federations as defined by the Rules of New Zealand Football.

“Minor” A player who has not yet reached the age of 18.

“Registration Period” A period determined by NZF during which a player may register for a Club and/or transfer between Clubs.

“Training Compensation” Payments made in accordance with Annex 4 of the FIFA Statutes for the Status and Transfer of Players.

“GOALNET” NZF National Registration Database of players, match officials, coaches etc used by NZF, its District Federations and constituent clubs.

“TMS” FIFA’s Transfer Matching System which is a web based data information system which amongst other things records the transfer of players who are professional players or who are minors.

“International Transfer Certificate” (ITC) A certificate issued by one association to another confirming the transfer of a player. E.g. a player transferring from a club in Australia to a club in New Zealand will require an ITC from the Australia FA (FFA) to NZF.

“Season/s” The period starting with the first official match of the relevant competition and ending with the last official match of the same competition.

1.2 With the introduction of the Franchise National League it is now accepted that in NZ we operate two separate and distinct seasons. A winter season in which the clubs affiliated to NZF via their District Federations play which operates from February to September in each year and a summer season which operates from October to July the following year. The summer season is operated under a separate set of regulations which determine how that competition is to operate.

1.3 Reference is also made to the Definitions section of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players and the FIFA Statutes.

2 OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION

2.1 These Regulations deal with and regulate the status, eligibility, registration, contracting, payments and transfer of players who enter into, participate in, and leave football in New Zealand.

Objectives

2.2 The objectives of these regulations are to:

2.2.1 Develop and protect the game of football in New Zealand in all its forms for participants of all abilities and skill;

2.2.2 Ensure football is regulated in a consistent and co-ordinated manner across New Zealand, its District Federations and Clubs;

2.2.3 Ensure young players are adequately protected;

2.2.4 Align New Zealand Football (NZF) with the Statutes of FIFA

Application and Scope

2.3 These regulations:

2.3.1 Apply to NZF, its District Federations, Clubs, Players, Match Agents (**Members**);

2.3.2 Apply to all forms of organised football under NZF's jurisdiction including Futsal and Beach Football;

2.3.3 Continue to apply to a Member even after the registration or involvement has ended, if that Member breached these regulations while a current Member;

2.3.4 Form part of the NZF Regulations to which all Members are bound; and

2.3.5 Do not limit or restrict the application of FIFA Statutes. Where any conflict exists between these regulations and those of FIFA, the regulations of FIFA shall prevail.

NZF Jurisdiction and Obligations

2.4 NZF as the member of FIFA for New Zealand is responsible for the organisation, promotion and administration of football throughout New Zealand. Accordingly, it has jurisdiction over all matches and Competitions within New Zealand and, in particular, National Championship or Cup Competitions, National Leagues and matches involving National Teams.

2.5 NZF must:

2.5.1 Comply with these regulations and ensure that any competition rules are not inconsistent with these Regulations;

2.5.2 Ensure compliance of these Regulations by District Federations, Clubs, Players and all Members;

- 2.5.3 Investigate any complaint about a breach of these Regulations by or against a party within its jurisdiction;
- 2.5.4 Impose disciplinary sanctions against a party within its jurisdiction found to have breached these Regulations; and
- 2.5.5 Provide appropriate education and training to those who manage and implement these Regulations.

District Federation Jurisdiction and Mandate

- 2.6 Each District Federation, as a member of NZF, is responsible for the organisation, promotion and administration of football throughout its own region. Accordingly each District Federation has jurisdiction to stage Competitions or Matches within its own boundaries.
- 2.7 NZF grants each District Federation a mandate to govern the implementation and enforcement of these regulations
- 2.8 A District Federation must:
 - 2.8.1 Comply with these regulations and ensure that any Competition Rules are not inconsistent with these Regulations;
 - 2.8.2 Ensure compliance of these Regulations by administrators, clubs, club officials and players and all Members within its jurisdiction;
 - 2.8.3 Investigate any complaint about a breach of these Regulations by or against a party within its jurisdiction;
 - 2.8.4 Impose disciplinary sanctions against a party within its jurisdiction found to have breached these Regulations; and
 - 2.8.5 Provide appropriate education and training to those who manage and implement these Regulations.

3 STATUS OF PLAYERS

- 3.1 All football played under the jurisdiction of NZF and its District Federations is amateur therefore all players playing organised football must meet the requirements of FIFA definition as provided in Article 2.2 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 3.2 Clubs are not permitted to sign players as Professionals. However, a club can engage a player who is a professional provided that the player does not play in an official match until such time as the player has reacquired his amateur status.

Amateur and Professional Players

- 3.3 Players participating in organised football are either amateurs or professionals.
- 3.4 A professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more for his footballing activity than the expenses he effectively incurs. All other player are considered amateur.

- 3.5 A player registered as a professional may not re-register as an amateur until at least 30 days after his last match as a professional.
- 3.6 Any expense incurred through involvement in a match and the costs of a player's equipment, insurance and training may be reimbursed without jeopardising a player's Amateur status.
- 3.7 Players who take part in matches under the jurisdiction of NZF and receive an allowance for wages lost may also be considered to be Amateurs. Such allowance must be a fair and equitable proportion of the actual wages of the player, which have been lost.
- 3.8 A player may receive prize money resulting in participating in a competition without compromising his amateur status.
- 3.9 For clarity, prize money is defined as being a one off payment and is of a consequence of winning a competition or tournament. It is not to be construed as a payment received on a regular (e.g.: weekly, fortnightly, monthly intervals basis).
- 3.10 Any Player who has been classified as a Professional shall be regarded as a Professional unless the player has reacquired Amateur status.
- 3.11 A player's status shall be determined by NZF.
- 3.12 Any dispute regarding the status of a player involved in an international transfer shall be determined by the Disciplinary Committee (as that expression is defined in the NZF Rules).
- 3.13 NZF and players have a right of appeal to the FIFA Players' Status Committee (as that expression is defined in the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players), where NZF or a player disputes the determination of the Disciplinary Committee.

Amateur Player Agreements

- 3.14 Amateurs must not be contracted by their clubs beyond 30 September in each year unless the player is contracted through to 30 September in the subsequent year.
- 3.15 Amateurs contracted by their clubs must be given a copy of the contract they have signed by the relevant club within five (5) working days of the contract being signed by the club and the player.
- 3.16 A copy of any Amateur's contract must be lodged with the local District Federation by the relevant club no later than five (5) working days after the player's first appearance for that club. Any such contracts must be held securely, unopened and in confidence by the District Federation and will only be opened if a dispute has been lodged with the District Federation in relation to the relevant contract.
- 3.17 Failure to lodge an Amateur player agreement will render the agreement as unenforceable under these regulations.

Termination of activity

- 3.18 Players who terminate their activity shall remain registered with NZF for a period of 30 months. This period begins on the day the player made his last appearance for the club with which they were registered in an official match.

- 3.19 Once a player's registration has lapsed, no club can withhold approving a transfer request from that player.

4 REGISTRATION:

- 4.1 A player may not play in New Zealand unless he is registered in accordance with these Regulations.
- 4.2 A player may only be registered with one club at a time, and can only play for that club unless the player is playing for:
- 4.2.1 A Futsal club or centre for which that player is also registered;
 - 4.2.2 For a school team that is not a club and not playing in the same competition;
 - 4.2.3 Any other team affiliated to a District Federation playing in a different competition.
 - 4.2.4 Any other exceptional circumstances as approved by NZF in its absolute discretion.
- 4.3 Players may be registered with a maximum of three clubs during one season. During this period, a player is only eligible to play official matches for two clubs.
- 4.4 The National League Season is considered to be a separate and distinct season and is played between October and July. Accordingly it is possible for players to also be registered for three clubs and play official matches for two clubs in the National League season.
- 4.5 Under all circumstances, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the competition. In particular, a player cannot play official matches for more than two clubs competing in the same competition in the same season.

5 REGISTRATION PERIODS

- 5.1 The FIFA provisions concerning registration periods do not apply to competitions in which only amateurs participate.
- 5.2 NZF has the authority to specify the periods when players may be registered provided that due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competitions. Accordingly NZF has set the following:

Winter Season

- 5.3 No player can transfer from one Club to another within New Zealand nor can any player transfer from an overseas Club to a New Zealand Club between 1 July and 30 September in any year.

Summer Season

- 5.4 Set annually in accordance with the competition regulations.

6 PLAYER PASSPORT

- 6.1 Clubs on releasing players to a new club will be obliged to provide the new club 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 season of his 12th Birthday. If a birthday falls between seasons, the player passport shall include the club with which he was registered during the season following the player's birthday. (Template attached).

7 PLAYER TRANSFERS

7.1 The date a transfer process has commenced will be the effective date of transfer. The net effect of this will be that in the event that a transfer is not completed prior to the closing of a transfer window, the transfer will still be able to be concluded once the window has closed.

7.2 Irrespective a player cannot play for his engaging (new) club until such time as the transfer has been properly concluded by both the releasing club and the engaging club and where appropriate NZF and the relevant District Federations.

Transfers within New Zealand

7.3 Any transfer of any player between any clubs affiliated to New Zealand Football must be completed through the NZF online registration system, GOALNET.

7.4 Where the transfer is between clubs of two different District Federations the player will only be eligible to play for his engaging (new) club once the releasing (former) Club and the relevant District Federation have approved the transfer in GOALNET.

7.5 No club may unreasonably withhold approval of a transfer request by a player. If a club has not acted upon a transfer request within seven (7) days of written notice, then the player's District Federation may transfer the player unilaterally.

7.6 Before a transfer request is approved, the player must settle all outstanding debts, including unpaid registration fees, levies and or fines with his club, and return any playing gear previously provided by the club. In this regard and for the sake of clarity:

7.6.1 **Playing gear** comprises tracksuits, team strip etc but excludes boots, goalkeeping gloves as these have no reusable value other than to the player they were provided to;

7.6.2 **Outstanding debts** relates to registration fees and other monies such as levies and fines that can be and are waived by clubs. These outstanding debts cannot be retrospectively demanded unless the player has failed to honour the terms of any contract he has with the club. Any claim made against the player by the releasing club must be supported by documents signed and acknowledged by both the club and the player confirming the amount of the debt, the reason for the debt and the manner in which the debt is to be satisfied.

7.7 Any player who is suspended at the time of transfer request can have his transfer approved, provided that the transfer record is clearly marked "Player Suspended" and the number of playing days left to serve must be indicated. This must be recorded in the 'comments' field on the GOALNET transfer.

7.8 No transfer of a player shall be allowed for any player by any club competing in the winter season between **1st July and 30th September** in any season.

- 7.9 A transfer may be considered outside these dates when a player can show that because of circumstances beyond his control, he is obliged to change his place of residence by a distance greater than fifty (50) kilometres.
- 7.10 In cases of exceptional circumstances, NZF will have absolute discretion to determine a player's ability to transfer within New Zealand. Whether a case is an exceptional circumstance or not shall be determined by NZF in its sole discretion, but may include, without limitation, causes related to the following:
- 7.10.1 Clerical error;
 - 7.10.2 Maintaining the competitive integrity of the relevant competition(s);
 - 7.10.3 Personal circumstances;
 - 7.10.4 Transfers of players participating within the National League Season will be dealt with in accordance with the regulations of the National League Competitions.

Transfers to or from New Zealand – International Transfers

FIFA Transfer Matching System (TMS)

- 7.11 The international transfer of any player from one Member Association to another Member Association must obtain an International Transfer Certificate (ITC).
- 7.12 Any transfer of any player who upon completing ITC attains the status of a Professional player or any transfer involving the international transfer of a minor (under 18) must be recorded by NZF in the FIFA TMS System. Transfers of Professional players who are acquiring Amateur status and transfers that are Amateur to Amateur are not required to be processed via FIFA TMS.
- 7.13 A player previously registered with club affiliated to another Member Association, cannot register with a New Zealand club until an ITC has been obtained by NZF from the player's former club.
- 7.14 Clubs requesting an ITC for a player may only do so during the registration period specified in paragraph 5 of this Regulation 5. NZF will not issue an ITC outside of this registration period.
- 7.15 Before requesting an ITC, it is the responsibility of both the releasing and the engaging clubs to settle all differences and/or outstanding issues in respect of the player concerned.
- 7.16 The ITC must not be made subject to any conditions. In particular, the validity of an ITC shall not be restricted to a certain period, and any clauses or provisions to this effect appended to the ITC or otherwise shall be considered null and void.
- 7.17 FIFA Regulations specify that the previous National Association shall, within seven (7) days of receiving the ITC request, issue the ITC to the new National Association. In the event that the new National Association does not receive a response to the ITC request within thirty (30) days of the ITC request being made, it shall immediately register the player with the intended new club on a provisional basis ("Provisional Registration"). A Provisional Registration shall be deemed to have become permanent one (1) year after the ITC request, if the previous National Association has not before then issued the ITC.

- 7.18 A transfer may be considered by NZF at its sole discretion outside the transfer period contemplated under paragraph 5 of this Regulation 5 when a player can show that because of circumstances beyond his control, he is obliged to change his country of residence. Any decision to allow a player to transfer must take into account the competitive integrity of the competition into which the player will transfer.
- 7.19 Any dispute can be referred to NZF who will, in the first instance, work with the National Association concerned to achieve a solution.
- 7.20 In the event that no solution can be achieved the dispute may be referred to the FIFA Player Status Committee.

Transfers to or from New Zealand – Minors

- 7.21 Any transfer of a minor from overseas to New Zealand including minors who are overseas nationals who are registering for the first time in New Zealand must be approved by NZF.
- 7.22 Players who are minors and who are registering in New Zealand for the first time must, through their clubs and District Federation, provide NZF, with a signed statement from the players' parents (or legal guardian) stating that:
- 7.22.1 The player's parents have moved to New Zealand for reasons not linked to football;
 - 7.22.2 Confirmation of the parent's employment status;
 - 7.22.3 Confirmation of the parent's residency and visa; and
 - 7.22.4 Confirmation of the player's enrolment in school, college or university.
- 7.23 The registration can only be completed once NZF has provided written approval.
- 7.24 Any transfer of a minor from an overseas club to a New Zealand Club must, through their clubs and District Federation, provide NZF, with a signed statement from the players' parents (or legal guardian) stating that:
- 7.24.1 The player's parents have moved to New Zealand for reasons not linked to football;
 - 7.24.2 Confirmation of the parent's employment status;
 - 7.24.3 Confirmation of the parent's residency and visa; and
 - 7.24.4 Confirmation of the player's enrolment in school, college or university.
- 7.25 The transfer can only be completed once NZF has provided written approval.

8 UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

- 8.1 Any player not registered at NZF or a District Federation who appears for a club in any official match shall be considered to have played illegitimately and will be subject to any sanction as determined by the relevant competition rules.

- 8.2 If a player who is registered with a club appears for a club whilst serving a suspension from playing that player will be considered as having played illegitimately and will be deemed to have been ineligible to play.
- 8.3 Any player who cannot satisfy the Amateur requirements of Article 2.2 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players will be considered as having played illegitimately and will be deemed to have been ineligible to play.
- 8.4 In the event of an ineligible player playing (taking the field as player and participating either in full or in part of a match), the following sanctions will apply:
- 8.4.1 The offending team shall be sanctioned with a forfeit and will be considered to have lost the match by 3-0;
- 8.4.2 The opposing team shall be awarded the points for the match. If the goal difference at the end of the match is greater than three in favour of the opposing team, the result on the pitch is upheld;
- 8.4.3 If both teams are found to have played such ineligible players, the match result shall be cancelled. Fines shall be imposed and the match may be replayed at the discretion of the District Federation concerned or NZF as appropriate;
- 8.4.4 Fines as provided in the rules appropriate to the competition shall be imposed against the offending teams.

9 ENFORCEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY SUSPENSIONS

- 9.1 Any disciplinary suspension imposed on a player prior to a transfer must be enforced or applied by the new District Federation or Member Association at which the player is to be registered. The player's former District Federation or Member Association is obliged to notify the player's new District Federation or Member Association of any sanction in writing and upon issuing the ITC.

10 TRANSFER FEES

- 10.1 A transfer fee for an Amateur will be permitted provided that:
- 10.1.1 The club can show that it has incurred extraordinary expense in the recruitment or training of the player and the amount of the fee will be limited to the actual amount so incurred;
- 10.1.2 The expense is not an estimate; it must be an amount actually incurred for travelling expenses or payment of expenses to attend a coaching school, etc;
- 10.1.3 The expense must be extraordinary; all clubs incur expenses in training and outfitting players but the amount of the transfer fee must be something over and above ordinary expenses and must be an identifiable amount; and
- 10.1.4 If a club wishes to charge a transfer fee it must be prepared to provide full documentary evidence of how the amount is calculated.
- 10.2 Any dispute regarding the payment of any transfer fee will be referred to NZF for resolution. Any decision of NZF will be final and made at the sole discretion of NZF.

11 TRAINING COMPENSATION

- 11.1 The principles for claiming training compensation are specified in Articles 1,2,3,4 and 5 and Annex 4 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.
- 11.2 Compensation for training is not payable:
- 11.2.1 For transfers from Amateur status to Amateur status; or
 - 11.2.2 If a Professional reacquires Amateur status on being transferred.
- 11.3 Compensation for training is payable:
- 11.3.1 When a player acquires Professional status for the first time; or
 - 11.3.2 Thereafter, for every transfer up to the age of 23, where the player's transfer is:
 - a From Amateur to Professional; or
 - b From Professional to Professional.
 - 11.3.3 No training compensation shall be payable when a player over the age of 23 transfers clubs.
 - 11.3.4 The calculation of training compensation claims is otherwise governed by the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.
 - 11.3.5 NZF will initially arbitrate any dispute on training compensation claims involving a New Zealand club.
 - 11.3.6 NZF and players have a right of appeal to the FIFA Player's Status Committee (as that expression is defined in the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players).

12 RELEASE OF PLAYERS FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

- 12.1 Clubs are obliged to release their registered players for representative teams of the country for which the player is eligible to play on the basis of his nationality, if the player is called up by the National Association concerned. Any divergent agreement between the player and the club is prohibited.
- 12.2 Any player registered with a club is obliged to respond affirmatively when called upon by NZF to play for one of its representative teams.
- 12.3 A player who is unable to comply with a summons from NZF owing to injury or illness shall, if NZF so requires, agree to undergo a medical examination by a doctor of NZF's choice.
- 12.4 A player who has been summoned by NZF for one of its representative teams shall, under no circumstances, be entitled to play for the club with which he is registered during the period for which he has been released or should have been released so as to be able to represent the relevant team. This restriction on playing for the club shall, moreover, be prolonged by an additional five (5) days in the event that the player, for whatsoever reason, did not wish to or was unable to comply with the summons.
- 12.5 All matches, competitions, tournaments, tours or games arranged or controlled by NZF shall in all cases take precedence over the fixtures of District Federations, of clubs under their

control or league competitions and shall have paramount claim upon all players and others as required.

- 12.6 In the event of three (3) or more players, from the same team, being called up to participate in any National Association team training camp, fixture or tour under the control of NZF, the club can apply to its District Federation or to NZF, where appropriate, for dispensation to postpone any games that may occur whilst these players are on national duty or such other dispensation as NZF may agree in writing in its sole discretion. In the event of any dispute the granting of any dispensation shall be at the sole discretion of NZF.

13 GUEST PLAYERS

- 13.1 The regulation regarding a Guest Player will apply to all Competitions that fall within the direct control of NZF and are controlled by the regulations for these competitions. Beyond NZF Competitions, the application the regulation regarding Guest Players will be at the discretion of each District Federation to determine. It is expected however, that the regulation regarding a Guest Player would apply to the principal competitions of each District Federation both at Senior and Junior level, and for both male and female competitions.
- 13.2 Any player who requires an ITC to play football in New Zealand is to be regarded as a Guest Player, unless he is (i) a New Zealand citizen, or (ii) holds a permanent resident permit or permanent resident visa.
- 13.3 No team may have more than three (3) Guest Players recorded on a team card in the same match, unless otherwise specified by the relevant Competition Regulations, in which case the specification in the relevant Competition shall apply.
- 13.4 On application to NZF a player may have their Guest Player status revoked provided that the player provides proof to NZF's satisfaction that:
- 13.4.1 The player resides in New Zealand at the time of application; and
 - 13.4.2 The player has resided continuously in New Zealand for a minimum period of twelve months immediately prior to the date of application.
- 13.5 District Federations shall keep a register of Guest Players and note any changes of status.
- 13.6 In the event of a Guest Player transferring to a club in a different District Federation, then the District Federation giving the clearance shall advise the new District Federation of the Guest Player's status.
- 13.7 In the event of a dispute concerning a player's classification as a Guest Player, the local District Federation shall request the player to forthwith produce such evidence as is necessary for that District Federation to determine the matter.