



Member Federations
Clubs
State Institutes/Academies

18th May 2009

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Transfers of Young Players to Overseas Clubs

There has long been a vexed question in Football in Australia about the recruitment of young talented players from their Clubs (or Institutes) to overseas clubs.

There are many aspects to this question:

- § Is it in the best interests of the young player concerned to go to an overseas club, both in terms of football development and his own personal situation
- § Are the players and their parents getting good advice about whether to go, where to go and when to go
- § Are the Clubs (or Institutes) being appropriately dealt with, or is all the talent they are producing being taken away from them without consideration to the Clubs' needs
- § Are the Clubs receiving the Training Compensation Payments, or Transfer Fees to which they are entitled under the FIFA Regulations
- § Are the FIFA Regulations regarding the ban on international transfers of players under 18 being applied
- § Are our national teams being compromised by the movement of players
- § Are we providing suitable alternative development within Australia for these players.

The FFA has resolved to be much more proactive in this area than has been the case in the past. It is our clear 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. Recent initiatives, such as the advent of the National Youth League, and the Hyundai A-League, mean that the perceived "need" to go overseas for development warrants careful consideration.

To this end, we are now actively taking the following steps:

1. FFA will, as it is obliged to do, strictly enforce the FIFA Regulations, which forbid the granting of an International Transfer Certificate 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". Where this exception is claimed, we investigate it very thoroughly. If we have doubt, we refuse the ITC, and the player is entitled to have the question determined by FIFA.\

2. We are assisting Clubs (and Institutes) to obtain the payments due to them for either Training Compensation or Transfer Fees according to the FIFA 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
3. We intend to pursue cases of players who move overseas without taking the appropriate steps to get an International Transfer Certificate, 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:

- A. Please assist us in informing your players, coaches, players' parents and any agents with whom you have contact that FFA will NOT grant an International Transfer Certificate to any player under 18 years of age in conformity 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.
- B. Please advise us of any players you know of who have moved overseas from your Club or elsewhere in the past 3 years so that we can follow up the payments due to your Club or others.
- C. Please advise us whenever you hear of any player who is intending to go overseas so that we can provide him with proper information, and ensure that the proper procedure is followed, including payments to the clubs who developed him. Also 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.
- D. In particular please advise us of any U18 player 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 International Transfer Certificate may subsequently be refused.
- E. Let us know of any particular problems you may be having in this area.

Please direct any enquiries or information that you may have to john.didulica@footballaustralia.com.au. in the first instance. If you have any general comments do not hesitate to let us know.

Kind regards,



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