



Football Australia Circular

Circular No. 22-06

19 May 2022

TO THE MEMBERS OF FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

Implementation of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (Loan Provisions) in Australian football

The purpose of this circular is to provide an update to the members of Football Australia (**FA**) on recent amendments to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (**RSTP**), being the implementation of new loan requirements and to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on the implementation of these amendments in Australia.

1. Updates to the RSTP

On 3 May 2022, FIFA issued FIFA Circular 1796 regarding amendments to the RSTP, which was approved by the FIFA Council at its meeting on 30 March 2022. A copy of FIFA Circular 1796 is enclosed and will come into force **1 July 2022**.

The amendments to the RSTP concern new provisions relating to the loan of players in international football and comprise part of a suite of broader reforms to the international player transfer system that must be implemented at a national level by all FIFA Member Associations. Accordingly, FA will be required to update and amend the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations (**NRSTRs**) to give effect to the RSTP amendments.

The new regulatory framework for player loans aims to improve the development of young players and promote competitive balance. The key provisions are as follows:

- (a) the requirement of a written agreement defining the terms of the loan, in particular its duration and financial conditions;
- (b) a maximum loan duration of one year;
- (c) a prohibition on sub-loaning of players to a third club;
- (d) a limitation on the number of loans per season between the same clubs: at any given time during a season, a club may only have a maximum of three (3) professionals loaned out to a single club and a maximum of three (3) professionals loaned in from a single club; and
- (e) a limitation on a club's total number of loans per season. To ensure that this is implemented smoothly, there will be a transitional period as follows:
 - From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, a club may have a maximum of eight (8) professionals loaned out and eight (8) loaned in at any given time during a season.
 - From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, the same configuration applies but with a maximum of seven (7) professionals.

- Finally, from 1 July 2024, the same configuration will apply but limited to a maximum of six (6) professionals.

To promote the principle of youth development, there is a specific exception to the limitation on the number of loans per season. A player under the age of 21, who is club-trained (as defined in the RSTP) with the parent club, will not count towards a club's total number of loans per season.

The revised edition of the RSTP, as well as explanatory notes concerning the new provisions in relation to the loan of players in international football are available on legal.fifa.com.

2. Revised Domestic Loan System

Whilst the above new FIFA loan regulations apply to the international loan of players, they are also binding at national level and must be included **without modification** in Football Australia's regulations by 1 July 2022. However, FIFA permit the limitations on a club's total number of loans per season to be transitioned in over three (3) years from 1 July 2022.

Member associations must also include regulations on a domestic loan system that are aligned with the international loan system, and in particular, include the principles of ensuring integrity of competitions, developing young players and preventing the hoarding of players. In short, FA is proposing to mirror the international loan limitations on a club's total number of loans per season at the domestic level, which meets the requirements of FIFA.

The Annexure to this Circular sets out the envisaged transition period for the implementation of loans as they apply internationally and as part of the proposed domestic loan system. Whilst the number of loans at national level may differ from those at international level, the starting position for Football Australia is that these should be aligned as closely as possible to preserve the principles of a loan system.

Football Australia acknowledges the existing concept of the intra-league loan as it applies between Izuzu UTE A-League Men clubs. The current cap of two (2) intra-league loans per season has been reflected in the proposed model however Football Australia is open to receive feedback on whether this concept should remain.

3. Next Steps

Football Australia now provides stakeholders with the opportunity to provide written feedback on the proposed domestic loan regulations. Such written feedback should be sent via email to legal@footballaustralia.com.au by no later than 1 June 2022.

If you have any queries in relation to this Circular, please contact legal@footballaustralia.com.au.

Yours sincerely



James Johnson
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Football Australia

Annexure

International Loans (All Australian Clubs)		
Period	Out	In
From 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2023	A maximum of 8 players loaned out	A maximum of 8 players loaned in
From 1 July 2023 until 30 June 2024	A maximum of 7 players loaned out	A maximum of 7 players loaned in
From 1 July 2024	A maximum of 6 players loaned out	A maximum of 6 players loaned in
Domestic Loans (A-League Clubs)		
Period	Out	In
From 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2023	A maximum of 8 players loaned out (2 Intra-League Loans + 6 Loans to Domestic Australian Clubs)	A maximum of 8 players loaned in (2 Intra-League Loans + 6 Loans to Domestic Australian Clubs)
From 1 July 2023 until 30 June 2024	A maximum of 7 players loaned out (2 Intra-League Loans + 5 Loans to Domestic Australian Clubs)	A maximum of 7 players loaned in (2 Intra-League Loans + 5 Loans to Domestic Australian Clubs)
From 1 July 2024	A maximum of 6 players loaned out (2 Intra-League Loans + 4 Loans to Domestic Australian Clubs)	A maximum of 6 players loaned in (2 Intra-League Loans + 4 Loans to Domestic Australian Clubs)
Domestic Loans (NPL and Future National Second Division)		
Period	Out	In
From 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2023	A maximum of 8 players loaned out	A maximum of 8 players loaned in
From 1 July 2023 until 30 June 2024	A maximum of 7 players loaned out	A maximum of 7 players loaned in
From 1 July 2024	A maximum of 6 players loaned out	A maximum of 6 players loaned in