

Football Australia Circular

Circular No. 25-02

14 March 2025

TO THE MEMBERS OF FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO ITC PROCESSES

The purpose of this Circular is to advise members of Football Australia of recent key changes to FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (**FIFA RSTPs**), the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations (**NRSTRs**) and the FIFA Transfer Matching System (**TMS**) that will affect the processing of International Transfer Certificates (**ITCs**) for all professional and amateur players.

We also take this opportunity to inform you of other important ITC-related matters and to share with you an updated version of the Football Australia Guide to International Transfer Certificates (**Guide to ITCs**), a copy of which is available [here](#).

Changes to the Provisional Registration Period

FIFA has updated the ITC process with the aim of ensuring a more efficient transfer process.

Previously, Football Australia had the ability to provisionally register a player seven days after officially requesting the player's ITC in TMS if there had been no response from the player's previous national association in that time. Under the recent changes, this period has been reduced from seven days to **72 hours**.

Therefore, effective 1 January 2025, Football Australia is able to register a player with their new club, and enter the relevant player registration information in TMS, 72 hours after requesting the player's ITC in TMS if the player's previous national association has not delivered, or has not requested the cancellation of, the ITC in that time. The 72-hour period is calculated from midnight on the day the ITC is officially requested by Football Australia in TMS.

Please note that this does not change the time it takes for the previous national association to confirm a player's registration history which, if the player is transferring in TMS for the **first time**, is a mandatory step prior to Football Australia being able to formally request the ITC.

Changes to National Associations' Ability to Reject ITC Requests

It is no longer possible for a player's former national association to reject an ITC request.

National associations are permitted to cancel an ITC request, or request FIFA's intervention, in circumstances where the ITC request is made without the player's knowledge, is harmful to the player or there are technical errors in the details of the ITC request.

However, national associations cannot cancel or reject ITC requests due to contractual disputes with, for example, other clubs or other national associations. Clubs and national associations are at risk of possible disciplinary sanctions if they are found by FIFA to be disrupting the ITC process for any of these reasons.

Limited Minor Exemption

We advise that Football Australia has expanded the categories of Minor ITC applications that can be processed using Football Australia's Limited Minor Exemption (**LME**).

The LME relieves Football Australia, under specific conditions and solely for **amateur** minors registering at **purely amateur clubs**, from the requirement to submit a TMS Minor Application to FIFA's Players' Status Chamber of the Football Tribunal (**Players' Status Chamber**) for approval.

Previously, Football Australia used its LME only to process Minor ITCs and first registrations for amateur minors registering with purely amateur clubs whose parents relocated to Australia for reasons **not** linked to football (see the following forms in the Guide to ITCs: **Blue Form**, **Purple Form** and **Green Form**).

Football Australia has now expanded the use of its LME to also process Minor ITCs and first registrations for amateur minors registering with purely amateur clubs who meet one of the other three exceptions available under the FIFA RSTPs. The exceptions are commonly referred to as:

- (i) the "Humanitarian" or "Refugee" exception (**Aqua Form**);
- (ii) the "Exchange Student" exception (**Red Form**); and
- (iii) the "5-year rule" (**Orange Form**).

Therefore, going forward, prior to requesting an ITC or completing the first registration of a minor, Football Australia will use its LME for minors who meet the following criteria:

- (i) the minor is registering as an amateur player with a purely amateur club;
- (ii) the minor falls within one of the four available exceptions (see Section 5 of the Guide to ITCs); and
- (iii) Football Australia is satisfied, beyond all doubt, that the documents provided on behalf of the minor meet FIFA's requirements.

It is important to note that, as Football Australia's LME applies solely to **amateur minors** registering with **purely amateur clubs**, minors who are registering as **professionals** or who are registering with a **professional club** are unable to rely on the LME and must continue to follow the current process which includes Football Australia having to submit the TMS Minor Application to the Players' Status Chamber for approval.

Minor ITCs – Non-citizens

As all Member Federations and clubs begin to use the new Play Football v2.0 registration system, Football Australia will begin processing ITCs using registrations created within the new registration system.

As Member Federations would be aware, for any player aged between 10 and 18 who is registering to play football for the first time and who is not an Australian citizen, Football Australia is required to process a first registration for that minor. This process is similar to that for an ITC request where the minor was previously registered overseas.

Previously, the registration system was unable to flag minors falling within this category. However, as a result of one of the many improvements made to the registration system, Play Football v2.0 will now do so.

For this type of minor, the specific process to be followed will differ depending on the length of time the minor has lived continuously in Australia.

The minor has lived in Australia for five or more years

If the minor:

- (i) is **not** an Australian citizen;
 - (ii) has **never** previously been registered to play football in Australia or overseas; and
 - (iii) has lived continuously in Australia for **at least the last five (5) years**,
- a Minor ITC Application & Declaration Form and the documents set out in the **Orange Form** (see the Guide to ITCs) will need to be submitted on behalf of the minor.

The minor has lived in Australia for less than five years

If the minor:

- (i) is **not** an Australian citizen,
- (ii) has **never** previously been registered to play football in Australia or overseas; and
- (iii) has **not** lived continuously in Australia for **at least the last five (5) years**,

the minor will need to meet one of the other three exceptions available under the FIFA RSTPs and submit a Minor ITC Application & Declaration Form and the documents set out in the form applicable to that exception (see the Guide to ITCs). If a minor falling within this second category is unable to meet one of the other three exceptions, their attempt at a first registration will be rejected.

Regardless of which category the minor falls within, if the minor is registering as an **amateur** with a **purely amateur club**, and provided Football Australia is satisfied that the relevant requirements have been met, Football Australia will be able to confirm the minor's first registration under its LME rather than having to submit the TMS Minor Application to the Players' Status Chamber for approval.

However, if the minor is registering as a **professional** or is registering with a **professional club**, they are unable to rely on the LME and must continue to follow the current process which includes Football Australia having to submit the TMS Minor Application to the Players' Status Chamber for approval.

Please note that the above does not impose any fresh obligations on affected minors or on their clubs. The change has been made to Play Football v2.0 to ensure that all minors who have moved internationally are properly captured in the registration system and that the correct ITC processes are followed. Failure to follow correct ITC process may give rise to disciplinary sanctions being imposed against Member Federations, clubs and/or players.

Approval of "Pending ITCs"

Finally, we take this opportunity to advise Member Federations that they will need to approve registrations that are "Pending ITC" in Play Football v2.0 before those registrations will be flagged for Football Australia to action. Similarly, clubs will need to have completed this process before the Member Federation can approve the player's application for an ITC.

Once the Member Federation has approved the player's application for an ITC and confirmed that it has received a copy of the player's passport in Play Football v2.0, Football Australia will be able to update the date the ITC is requested and, when Football Australia receives the ITC, complete the ITC requirements on Play Football v2.0.

If a Member Federation is having issues viewing registrations that are "Pending ITC", please check that the relevant club has approved the player's application for an ITC and confirmed that it has received a copy of the player's passport in Play Football v2.0.

We understand these changes may require adjustments to the processes of Member Federations. If Member Federations require further clarification or support, please do not hesitate to contact Football Australia's Regulatory team.

Players, parents/guardians and Club representatives should contact their Member Federation in the first instance if they have any queries in relation to ITCs.

Yours sincerely



James Johnson
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Football Australia