

Football Australia Circular

Circular No. 25-03

10 September 2025

TO THE MEMBERS OF FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION, STATUS AND TRANSFER REGULATIONS

The purpose of this Circular is to provide an update regarding amendments to the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations (**NRSTRs**).

The majority of the amendments to the NRSTRs have been made in preparation for the introduction of the Australian Championship. A number of housekeeping amendments have also been made to the NRSTRs.

Capitalised terms used in this Circular have the meaning prescribed to them in the NRSTRs unless the context requires otherwise.

Summary of Amendments

The key amendments to the NRSTRs are explained in more detail below but, by way of summary, they relate to:

1. Transfers and loans of players to and from Australian Championship clubs – article 13.7.
2. The registration process for Amateurs and Professionals registering to play in the Australian Championship and in other competitions – articles 6.4 and 6.5.
3. Player Roster Rules for specific competitions – article 7.2, Schedule 1 (National Premier Leagues Player Roster Rules) and Schedule 4 (Australian Championship Player Roster Rules).
4. General housekeeping amendments.
5. Definitions.
6. Updates to prescribed forms under the NRSTRs.

1. Transfers and Loans to and from Australian Championship Clubs – Article 13.7

Under the previous version of the NRSTRs, National Premier Leagues (**NPL**) clubs were permitted to transfer and loan players between each other and to and from A-Leagues clubs, and they were entitled to any applicable transfer or loan fees. With one exception, this was not the case for A-Leagues clubs.

Article 14.6(b) of the NRSTRs prohibits transfers and domestic loans of players between “*National League Clubs*” and provides that no Transfer Fee or Loan Fee (as applicable) can be requested, offered or paid between National League Clubs. The only exception to this is in the case of **loans** between two A-League Men clubs (see article 13.7).

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As the Australian Championship is a national club competition conducted by FA, it comes within the definition of “*National League*” under the NRSTRs. As Australian Championship clubs will be participating in a “*National League*”, they will come within the definition of “*National Leagues Club*” under the NRSTRs. As such, without relevant amendments being made to the NRSTRs, the prohibition on transfers and loans of players between National League Clubs would apply to Australian Championship clubs.

Given that the Australian Championship is made up of NPL clubs, and given that NPL clubs are accustomed to transferring and loaning players between each other and to and from A-Leagues clubs, Football Australia has determined that it is appropriate to allow clubs participating in the Australian Championship to continue to be able to do so.

Accordingly, Football Australia has amended article 13.7 of the NRSTRs in order to exclude Australian Championship clubs from the transfer and loan restrictions that currently apply to all National League Clubs. This amendment will allow Australian Championship clubs to transfer and loan players between each other and to and from clubs participating in other competitions, and to receive any applicable transfer or loan fees.

Other rules and regulations applicable to the transfer and loan of players (including the restrictions on A-Leagues clubs) remain unchanged and clubs and players are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with the NRSTRs, in particular, article 13, before proceeding with a transfer or loan.

2. Registration Process – Article 6.4 and 6.5

Football Australia has made amendments to the NRSTRs to reflect the registration process for Amateur and Professional players registering to play in the Australian Championship. In making those amendments, Football Australia has also amended the NRSTRs to reflect updated registration processes for players participating in other competitions, including the NPLs.

A checklist of registration requirements for all relevant competitions is set out in **Annexure A** to this Circular.

Clubs and participants are reminded that **all** Players, Club Officials (including, for example, **committee members** and **board members**) and Team Officials **must** self-register with Football Australia via Play Football. Clubs are responsible for ensuring compliance with this requirement.

3. Player Roster Rules for Specific Competitions – Article 7.2 and Schedules 1 and 4

Amendments have been made to article 7.2 of the NRSTRs to confirm its application to Schedule 2 (Australia Cup Player Eligibility and Roster Rules) and to extend its application to new Schedule 4 (Australian Championship Player Roster Rules).

Amendments have also been made to Schedule 1 (National Premier Leagues Player Roster Rules) to codify the National Premier Leagues Player Roster Principles.

4. General Housekeeping Amendments

Football Australia has made a number of housekeeping amendments to the NRSTRs. These changes do not affect the substance of any provisions but are intended to simplify the drafting for easier interpretation and/or to help reduce potential misapplication of the NRSTRs.

5. Definitions

A number of existing definitions have been amended and some new definitions have been added to the NRSTRs. Please see the table below which outlines (a) the current defined terms which have been amended and (b) the new defined terms which have been added:

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Current Definitions Amended	New Definitions Introduced
A-League Men	AFC or Asian Football Confederation
A-League Women	Australian Championship
APL	Australian Championship Club
Club	Australia Cup
Competition Administrator	Emerging Championships
Domestic Training Certificate	Emerging Matildas Championships
FIFA	Emerging Socceroos Championships
FIFA Statutes	Football Australia or FA
National Championship	National Premier Leagues Club
National League	National Premier Leagues Player Roster Principles
Professional Player Contract	OFC or Oceania Football Confederation
Player Passport	
Professional Player Contract	

6. NRSTR Prescribed Forms

Football Australia has made amendments to several of the NRSTR Prescribed Forms and introduced two new forms – one for the registration of Football Agents (NRSTR12) and one for the registration of Australian Championship players (NRSTR04B).

The table below sets out the current suite of NRSTR Prescribed Forms with a brief description of the purpose of each:

NRSTR Prescribed Form	Description of Usage
NRSTR02 – Application for Registration of a Football Club	To be used when applying to Football Australia to register a new club, other than a new A Leagues club (see Form NRSTR02A).
NRSTR02A – Application for Registration of an A-Leagues Football Club	To be used when applying to Football Australia to register a new A-Leagues club.
NRSTR02B – Application for the Change of Club Name or Logo	To be used when applying to Football Australia to change an existing club's name and/or logo.
NRSTR04 – Application for Registration of a Professional Player	To be used when applying to register a Professional Player. Used primarily for Professional Players in the NPLs.

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NRSTR04A – Application for Registration of an A-Leagues Player	To be used when applying to register a player in the A-Leagues.
NRSTR04B – Application for Registration of an Australian Championship Player	To be used when applying to register a player in the Australian Championship.
NRSTR05 – Professional Player Contract	To be used by an NPL club or Australian Championship Club when contracting a Professional Player.
NRSTR06 – Application for the Transfer or Loan of a Professional Player	To be used when applying to transfer or loan a Professional Player.
NRSTR08 – Application for the Cancellation of an Amateur Registration	To be used when applying to cancel an Amateur Player's registration.
NRSTR09 – Application for the Mutual Termination of a Professional Player Contract	To be used when applying to mutually terminate a Professional Player Contract.
NRSTR10 – Application for the Registration of a Match Official	To be used when applying to register a Match Official.
NRSTR11 – Application for a Supplementary Registration	To be used when a registered participant is applying to register for a second product. For example, registering to trial with another club.
NRSTR12 – Application for the registration of a Football Agent with Football Australia	To be used when an individual is applying to register to participate in FIFA's Football Agent Exam or when a FIFA licensed Football Agent is applying to work in Australia.

Prescribed Form NRR03 – Application for Registration of an Amateur Player was previously offered as an alternative to online registration through Play Football (and earlier, MyFootballClub). However, with the transition to mandatory self-registration via Play Football as the sole valid method of registration, Prescribed Form NRR03 is now obsolete and has been discontinued.

The entire suite of updated NRSTR Prescribed Forms is available [here](#).

A copy of the revised NRSTRs is available [here](#) and is also available via Football Australia's [website](#).

The information contained in this Circular is provided as a guide only. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the contents of this Circular and the provisions of the NRSTRs, the provisions of the NRSTRs prevail.

If you have any queries in relation to this Circular or the updated NRSTRs, please contact Football Australia's Regulatory team at: regulatory@footballaustralia.com.au.

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Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Yours sincerely



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Annexure A
Registration Requirements

		Registration requirements				
		Self-register via National Online Registration System (Play Football)	Lodge a duly completed and signed form	Lodge a signed copy of the agreement between club and player (i.e., Player Contract)	Provide evidence of name and age by producing an original birth certificate, passport or driver's licence	Provide evidence of the player's right to work in Australia
Registration type	AMATEUR PLAYERS					
	To register for a Competition other than a National League (i.e., other than the Australian Championship or the A-Leagues)	✓			✓ New registrations only	
	To register for the Australian Championship	✓	✓ Form NRSTR04B		✓ New registrations only	
	To register for A-Leagues		✓ Form NRSTR04A	✓	✓ New registrations only	
	PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS					
	To register for the National Premier Leagues	✓	✓ Form NRSTR04	✓	✓	✓ If applicable
	To register for the Australian Championship	✓	✓ Form NRSTR04B	✓	✓	✓ If applicable
	To register for the A-Leagues		✓ Form NRSTR04A	✓	✓	✓ If applicable