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# Football Agents Regulations



Quick reference guide for CLOSE RELATIONS



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# The Football Association Football Agents Regulations

## Key points for CLOSE RELATIONS

(Numbers in brackets are references to the relevant regulations)

### Registration (Appendix III)

- In order to perform any Agency Activity for a Player who is registered, or seeking to be registered with an English Club, an individual must be an Authorised Agent. Where an individual does not hold a Licence but is a relative (as defined below) of a particular Player, he may register as a Registered Close Relation to work on behalf of that Player (and that Player alone);
- In order to qualify to be a Registered Close Relation an individual must be the parent, legal guardian, person with parental responsibility, sibling or spouse of a Player;
- A relative wishing to act on behalf of a Player can register at any time but must register with The FA in advance of performing any Agency Activity. Failure to do so may put the Player in breach of FA Rules. Registration constitutes an agreement to be bound by the Regulations and the authority of The FA;
- A Close Relation must register separately for the purposes of representing each Player where there is a qualifying relationship (eg. a father must register twice if he wishes to represent two different sons);
- To register, individuals should complete and return the relevant registration form to The FA. There is no fee to register and all qualifying relatives are eligible. The registration lasts for as long as the individual complies with FA Regulations and the qualifying relationship exists. Registration is strictly personal and non-transferable;
- Once registered, The FA shall inform the individual that he is entitled to act and publish his name as appropriate.
- Should The FA find that a Registered Close Relation has breached its Regulations, the individual may be warned, fined, have his registration suspended

- and/or have his conduct reported to FIFA.
- A registration shall be cancelled in the event that the qualifying relationship ceases to exist.

*Registered Close Relations are subject to similar obligations to Authorised Agents. Where the following guidance refers to Authorised Agents, the obligations apply to Registered Close Relations as they fall within the definition of Authorised Agents.*

### Use of Agents

- Clubs and Players may choose to represent themselves and do not have to use an Authorised Agent; (I.2)
- Registered Close Relations cannot act as a "front" for unauthorised (unlicensed) agents. It is an offence for a Registered Close Relation to act as a "front" (eg. where a Registered Close Relation does not negotiate the deal but signs the paperwork at the end of the deal). (H.12, H.13)

### Free RCR Declarations

- Registered Close Relations conducting Agency Activity on behalf of a Player with a qualifying relationship must complete a "Free RCR Declaration" form every time a Transaction is conducted on behalf of that Player. The form should be completed in full by the Registered Close Relation, the Player and an appropriate Club Official and submitted to The FA within 5 days of execution (or at the time of the Transaction, if within the 5 days); (B.4)
- Registered Close Relations can only conduct Agency Activity on behalf of a Player with whom they have the qualifying relationship. They cannot conduct Agency Activity for, or receive any payments (either directly or indirectly) from, any other Player, Club or Agent;

- Registered Close Relations must not approach or enter into a Free RCR Declaration with a Player who has an exclusive Representation Contract with another Authorised Agent unless they have the written permission of that other Agent or the contract has less than one month to run. Registered Close Relations must not induce a Player or Club to breach a contract; (H.6)
- The Free RCR Declaration must name the Registered Close Relation as an individual. It is their name that should appear in Free RCR Declaration and not that of any company or organisation. (Appendix II)

### Payments

- Close Relations can only carry out Agency Activity under this registration if they are not paid for their assistance in any way, by any party involved, either directly or indirectly; (Appendix III)
- Registered Close Relations must not make or seek to make payments of any kind to any Club, Club Official, Manager or Player as a result of a Transaction or Contract Negotiation. (G.3)

### Registration Rights

- Registered Close Relations are not permitted to own any interest in the Registration of a Player (including any interest in the future sale value of a Player). (H.11)

### Sub-contracting

- If a Registered Close Relation wishes to subcontract any Agency Activity to another Authorised Agent, he must obtain the prior written consent of the Player, record the terms of the subcontracting arrangements in writing and disclose this information to The FA; (H.4)

- Registered Close Relations must not subcontract any aspect of Agency Activity to an unauthorised agent (which includes those with licences issued by another National Association who have not registered with The FA). (H.5)

### Owning shares in a Club

- Registered Close Relations shall not have an interest or shares in a Club (over a 5% limit) or have a position of influence over the Club. Such an interest held by another close relative is also not permitted under this rule. (H.8)

### Illegal approaches

- Registered Close Relations must not make approaches or enter into negotiations regarding a Player unless the Player's current Club has given permission to do so or the relevant rules permit an approach to be made. (H.7, J.9)

*This leaflet is intended as a brief guide to the new Regulations and seeks to identify the key points that relate to FA Registered Close Relations. For a more detailed explanation, please refer to the Regulations themselves or the accompanying detailed Guidance Notes – these are available from [www.TheFA.com](http://www.TheFA.com). Alternatively, further assistance or advice can be obtained by telephoning The FA Football Agents Regulations enquiry line on 0844 980 8213.*

*This leaflet does not form part of the Regulations, is subject to the terms of the Regulations and in the event of any conflict, the Regulations will apply.*