

REGISTRATIONS BULLETIN – DECEMBER 2009

Registrations List – November 2009

The Monthly Registration List for November 2009 can be downloaded at www.TheFA.com/PlayerRegistrations

How To Reach Us at Wembley Stadium

All items of post should be marked for the attention of the Registrations Department, The Football Association, PO Box 1966, London, SW1P 9EQ. All recorded and special delivery items should also be sent to this address.

For deliveries by courier only the actual address is Wembley Stadium, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 0WS. Do not address letters/packages to be delivered by courier/hand to the PO Box number.

Telephone numbers (please telephone the Wembley switchboard and manually input the extension number you require).

Steve Rooke	(Registrations Manager)	-	0844 980 8200 x 4966
Dawn Keleher	(Assistant Manager)	-	0844 980 8200 x 4630
Lucy Hamshere	(Registrations Officer)	-	0844 980 8200 x 4631
Rachel Foster	(Registrations Officer/PBS Administrator)	-	0844 980 8200 x 4629
Christopher Hall	(Registrations Administrator)	-	0844 980 8200 x 4852

You are encouraged to leave voicemail messages when the office is closed or unmanned. Over the weekend and Bank Holiday periods the office telephones are diverted to a member of the team who can be contacted to deal with urgent enquiries.

Fax numbers:

Premier League/Football League/Conference National: 0844 980 8214

Football League exclusive: 0844 980 0635

All other clubs (Conference South/North/National League System): 0844 980 0663

International Window Opens Earlier

After consultation with FIFA and other European Leagues the International transfer window (affecting Premier League, Football League and Conference National clubs) will now reopen on Saturday, 2nd January, 2010, and closes at 5 p.m. on Monday, 1st February. Domestic transfers restart on Friday, 1st January.

Christmas and New Year Holiday

Designated members of staff will be contactable throughout the holiday period to deal with any emergencies affecting player registrations. The office will close during the middle of the afternoon on Christmas Eve, Thursday, 24th December, and reopen at 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday 29th December.

The office will close at 5.00 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Thursday, 31st December, and reopen at 9.00 a.m. on Monday, 4th January.

Clubs competing in the Third Round of the FA Cup have already been reminded that the eligibility deadline is 12 Noon on New Year's Day. We are aware that many clubs are proposing to lodge documents with us on New Year's Eve to come into effect on 1st January and we support any contingencies connected with forward planning to ensure that registration deadlines are met.

Emergency telephone numbers over the holiday period are as follows:

Graham Noakes - Professional Game Manager - 07970 237071

Steve Rooke - Registrations Manager - 07538 794896

Both Graham and Steve will also have remote access to registration databases and emails.

Registration department telephones will also be diverted.

The registrations team extends best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year.

Work Permits

To be eligible to become a Sponsor and issue Certificates of Sponsorship to a player a Club must be in membership of the Premier League or the Football League.

Criteria for Players

The set football criteria for a player to meet when entering the country has not changed with the new system.

There are two levels of entry – Tier 2 and Tier 5. Clubs should note that entry under Tier 2 requires the player to be able to speak, read and write English at a basic level and if the player is from a non-English speaking country he will be required to achieve a pass in an English language test prior to his entry. In the event that the player does not have the level of English required, he will only be able to enter the country under Tier 5 for a maximum of 12 months at a time and will need to pass the English test within those 12 months to enable him to switch over to Tier 2 employment for the remainder of his contract.

Panel hearings

In the event that a player does not meet the set criteria, an appeal panel will be convened to consider the application. The panel will consist of representatives from the relevant football governing bodies together with three independent football experts. The panel's terms of reference are: (1) to consider whether the player is of the highest calibre and (2) to consider whether the player is able to contribute significantly to the development of the game at the top level in England.

Further details can be found on the FA's website:

<http://www.thefa.com/TheFA/RulesandRegulations/FARegulations.aspx>

If you have any queries relating to work permits and the points based system, please contact Rachel Foster.

New Regulations for the International Transfer and First Registration of Players under the age of 18

Clubs at all levels will need to be aware of new FIFA Regulations and related procedures which have been introduced to strengthen FIFA's position on the protection of minors.

Since FIFA introduced revised Regulations in 2001 they have prohibited the international transfer of minors in all but a few exceptional circumstances. FIFA's updated Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players, which became effective on 1st October 2009, introduced a sub-committee to monitor and control every international transfer of a minor **and** every first registration of a minor who is not a national of the country in which he wishes to be registered.

FIFA have now clarified that the sub-committee will **not** be involved in processing applications for players under the age of 12 (Academy and Centre of Excellence forms).

For further clarification a minor player holding a UK Passport and crossing borders to register for a Club under the jurisdiction of one of the National Associations for the first time within the UK (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales) **IS EXEMPT** from this new system but international clearance will still apply.

The new Regulations will be implemented through a web-based system that FIFA have introduced for National Associations. FIFA TMS (Transfer Matching System) is designed to allow FIFA to monitor the international transfers of professional players. It also has an element devoted to monitoring the international transfers and registration of all minors.

You should note that the sub committee's approval (ages 12 – 18) must be in place before the new Association is able to process the final piece of the jigsaw – the International Clearance Certificate.

The implications for clubs at every level of the game are:

- Comprehensive written evidence will be required by The FA to support the request for an International Transfer Certificate for a minor.
- The evidence will need to be provided in PDF format as this is the only format accepted by FIFA TMS.
- There may be delays in obtaining permission for the international transfer of a minor compared with applications under the previous system. The days of quick turnarounds are over.
- Standard decisions are expected to take 2-3 weeks and longer delays of up to six weeks may be encountered where the foreign Association disputes the request for the international transfer.

I would strongly urge you to factor the potential delays into your business plans, particularly ahead of the critical registration periods at professional level, and ensure that all of your staff begin the process in good time to avoid being defeated by the countdown clock (e.g. January transfer window).

Accompanying this letter are documents giving further details of exactly what evidence is required in order for The FA's Registration Department to complete a request for a minor's transfer or first registration. You will note from the papers that the documentary evidence varies depending on the status of the player (amateur or professional) and the reason for the request.

Copies of the FIFA Regulations and the supporting documentation will be made available on The FA's website. The link to FIFA's site is as follows:

www.fifa.com/mm/document/affederation/administration/66/98/97/regulationsstatusandtransfer_en_1210.pdf

Analysis of the players transferred internationally over the past 12 months suggests that the number of applications The Football Association will receive in any 12 month period is likely to be no more than 1,000. Of those many will fall within the National Game where players' families are moving to England for reasons not linked to football. In addition there will be a number of young players who will be registered at Football Academies or Centres of Excellence within the Professional Game between the ages of 16 and 18 and who will fall into the categories to be monitored by FIFA.

Should you require further information or have any questions on the new procedure when you have cause to request international clearance for a minor please contact our Registrations Team at:

Registrations@TheFA.com

FIFA Article 19 – Clearances for Minors

For players under the age of 12 who have lived permanently in England but who have a foreign place of birth and/or nationality no action is required. If the player came to England from abroad before he/she was 12 then the same applies. In both cases there are no hurdles in respect of registering and playing for a club.

It is vital that clubs familiarise themselves with FIFA Article 19 before starting the registration process.

International transfers are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18. The following three exceptions apply:

- The player's parents move to England for non football reasons
- The transfer takes place within the EC/EEA and the player is aged between 16 and 18 in which case the new club is obliged to carry out the following minimum requirements:
 - i) it shall provide the player with an adequate football education and/or training in line with the highest national standards
 - ii) it shall guarantee the player an academic and/or school and/or vocational education and/or training, in addition to his/her football education and/or training, allowing the player to pursue a career other than football should he cease playing professional football
 - iii) it shall make all necessary arrangements to ensure that the player is looked after in the best possible way (optimum living standards with a guest family or in club accommodation, appointment of a mentor at the club etc)
 - iv) it shall, on registration of a player, provide the relevant Association with proof that it is complying with the aforementioned obligations; or
- The player lives no further than 50km from a national border, and the club for which the player wishes to be registered in the neighbouring Association is also within 50km of that border. The maximum distance between the player's address and the club's headquarters/training centre shall be 100km. In such cases, the player must continue to live at home and the two Associations involved must give their explicit consent.

Terminating Dates for Non-League Contract Players

First Saturday in May, as follows

1st May 2010
7th May 2011
5th May 2012
4th May 2013
3rd May 2014

These dates MUST be adhered to.

For clarification, it is permissible to cease paying the player on the last scheduled fixture date of the season (e.g. Saturday, 24th April 2010) in which case, this must be reflected in the remuneration section of the contract.

This date would need to be inserted in the payment schedule with the actual Contract and G2 continuing to expire on the dates shown above.

General Notes

The Attention of Clubs is Drawn to:

Rule C.1(a)(i) and (ii)

(i) A Player under eighteen (18) years of age and in receipt of full-time education in accordance with the Education Acts may not enter into a contract of employment with a Club in membership of The Association or an Affiliated Association.

(ii) A Player under seventeen (17) years of age may not enter into a contract of employment with a Club in membership of The Association or an Affiliated Association, except as a Scholar as provided for by Rule C3.

Rule C.4(b)(iii)

It shall be deemed to be misconduct for any Club or Club Official to induce any player of school age registered with a separate Club or Centre of Excellence to leave school for the purpose of signing a contract of employment.

Rule C.3(a)(v)

A Player who is registered on a Scholarship may play for another Club subject to the written approval of the Club for which the Player is registered. A copy of the written permission must be received by The Association, the league or combination of which the Club is a member, the Player and the Club for which the Player is to play. A Club may not play more than two such Players in any match at first team level.

The letter must be set out as follows:

Dear Secretary

Name of Player

We hereby give permission under FA Rule C3 (a)(v) for the above named scholar to attend work experience at your club. We also grant permission for the player to play in the (name of FA Competition if applicable).

Yours sincerely, etc

cc: Football Association
Leagues Concerned

Rule C.1(i)(D)

Clubs should note the correct format for sending letters of permission in accordance with the above Rule, ie: allowing a player to go to another English club for trial matches.

The letter must be set out as follows:

Dear Secretary

Name of Player

We hereby give permission under FA Rule C.1(i)(D) for the above named contract player to take part in no more than two matches for your Club by way of a trial. Such matches to be within a period of one month and must not be for your first team.

Yours sincerely, etc

cc: Football Association
Leagues Concerned