



For the Game. For the World.

## TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1164

Zurich, 21 October 2008

SG/tha

### 2009 FIFA women's coordinated international calendar

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to provide you with the dates for the women's coordinated international calendar for 2009.

| 2009        | Protected event  |
|-------------|--|
| 14.2-19.2   | Reserved FIFA date   |
| 4.3-11.3    | Reserved FIFA date   |
| 3.7-12.7    | Asian Qualification for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2010         |
| 18.7-23.7   | Reserved FIFA date   |
| 23.8-10.9   | UEFA Women's European Football Championship (EURO 2009)        |
| 19.9-24.9   | Reserved FIFA date<br>FIFA Women's World Cup – UEFA qualifiers |
| 24.10-29.10 | Reserved FIFA date<br>FIFA Women's World Cup – UEFA qualifiers |

We wish to point out the following aspects of the women's football calendar.

Five reserved dates: Every calendar year includes five periods reserved for international friendly matches or official matches (e.g. matches in competitions organised by FIFA or the confederations). They are called "FIFA reserved dates" in the calendar above.

Five free dates: Every calendar year, associations may play friendly matches on five dates *in addition to* the five FIFA reserved dates. Any associations that wish to take advantage of this opportunity must inform FIFA, the player's clubs and the players themselves at least 30 days before the date in question. Within six days of receiving notification of the match, the clubs must then confirm that they will release the players concerned. ***Please ensure that all of the clubs with women's teams in your country are informed of this rule.***

Release of players: Annexe 1 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players (October 2007 edition, in force since 1 January 2008) applies in every respect to the release of players in connection with the coordinated international calendar for women's football. Clubs are only required to release their players for dates that are protected in the women's international calendar and for the



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free dates, provided that the association concerned gives at least 30 days' notice, as mentioned above. If a representative team has a gap of eight days or more between two matches, players are not permitted to stay with their team during this time.

Players must be released for pre-match preparations as follows:

- a) for a friendly match: 48 hours
- b) for a qualifying match in an international tournament: four days (including the matchday). The release period is extended to five days if the match concerned is held in a different confederation from the one in which the player's club is registered.
- c) for a qualifying match in an international tournament on a date reserved for friendly matches: 48 hours (except for dates which a confederation has reserved for a qualifying match by the given deadline, in which case the release is for 4-5 days).
- d) for a friendly match on a date reserved for qualifying matches in an international tournament: 48 hours
- e) for the finals of an international tournament: 14 days before the first match in the tournament.

Number of times a player must be released: A club is obliged to release a player for no more than ten international matches per year. If, after already playing ten matches in the same calendar year, an association has to play additional matches in a FIFA or confederation final competition for national "A" teams or another competition at confederation level that serves as the qualifying tournament for a FIFA competition or for the finals of a confederation competition for national "A" teams, clubs will also be obliged to release players for the relevant matches.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Jérôme Valcke  
Secretary General

- cc: - FIFA Executive Committee  
- Confederations  
- Committee for Women's Football and the FIFA Women's World Cup  
- Organising Committee for the FIFA U-20 and U-17 Women's World Cups  
- FIFA Players' Status Committee