

PROTECTION OF MINORS AND TRAINING CLUBS

Principles approved by the FIFA Executive Committee

At its meeting on 23 and 24 October, the FIFA Executive Committee discussed matters relating to the protection of minors and training clubs.

At the conclusion of these discussions, the following principles were approved:

1) – Training compensation for players between the ages of 12 and 15 (cf. annexe 4 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players), which is currently set at 10,000 dollars per year, will be raised to 60 or 90,000 dollars.

2) – In order to control the emergence of private academies outside of association structures, such academies will be integrated within FIFA's member associations as follows:

. the academy of a club that is already a member of an association will be required to register with that association;

. academies that do not have any links with association structures will be required to register, as a club, with the relevant association;

. players at academies that do not wish to register as a club will be required to register directly with the relevant association.

3) – The creation of a sub-committee of the FIFA Players' Status Committee that will be responsible for approving, in advance, any transfers involving minors.

This sub-committee will consist of representatives of players, clubs, and minors' confederations of origin (e.g. CAF and CONMEBOL) and confederations of adoption (particularly UEFA).

This sub-committee will be responsible for implementing an advance approval procedure for the transfer of minors to ensure that the exceptional circumstances laid down in article 19, paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned regulations are applied correctly.

An International Transfer Certificate will not be issued if FIFA's directives in relation to minors, which will be sent to all 208 FIFA member associations, are not respected.

4) – Transfers involving minors will be subject to stricter controls as part of the FIFA Transfer Matching System, the second phase of which was recently launched with 40 new associations following the pilot phase with 20 associations, which began on 1 January 2008.

5) – Furthermore, discussions have been initiated with football's stakeholders, most notably with FIFPro, in order to amend article 18, paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned regulations regarding the maximum length of a contract, i.e. three years, that may be signed by any player under the age of 18.

This term could be extended to five years for 16-year-old players and to four years for 17-year-old players, whereas the term would remain fixed at three years for 18-year-old players. This measure would give training clubs improved protection for the players that they are training in their academies.

- 6) An awareness campaign directed at minors' countries of origin will be launched, in conjunction with FIFPro and any other interested parties, in order to draw the attention of the public authorities, as well as of parents and minors themselves, to the consequences and social dangers posed by the issue of minors in football today.

In relation to the above, FIFA is supporting "Football Solidarité", an organisation that is holding its second International Conference on Young African Footballers in Yaoundé on 27 and 28 October.

FIFA is also supporting the efforts of the French presidency of the European Union in relation to the concept of "combined football and education" in academies in order to prepare young players for their future professional careers.

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The above principles having been approved, FIFA will now proceed to make the relevant amendments to its regulations and will initiate dialogue with football's stakeholders and the public authorities, most notably with the European Commission, so that these principles can come into force on 1 January 2009.

Zurich, 24 October 2008