

**TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA**

Circular no. 1464

Zurich, 22 December 2014  
SG/mav/oon

**Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players – third-party ownership of players' economic rights ("TPO")**

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you are aware, on the occasion of its meeting on 25 and 26 September 2014, the FIFA Executive Committee passed a decision of general principle on the regulatory approach of a ban on third-party ownership of players' economic rights ("TPO") with a transitional period. Furthermore, it instructed the dedicated working group, which had been created following the 64<sup>th</sup> FIFA Congress held in June of the current year, to draft the technical regulations as per its original mandate.

In this respect, we would like to inform you that, at its recent meeting held on 18 and 19 December 2014, the FIFA Executive Committee approved new provisions to be included in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (hereinafter: *the Regulations*) concerning third-party ownership of players' economic rights as well as third-party influence on clubs. Please find enclosed the pertinent articles 18bis and 18ter of the Regulations for your information. Equally, we kindly invite you to take note of the definition of "third party", which is also to be included in the Regulations, and is also enclosed to the present circular letter.

**Both of the aforementioned articles are to come into force on 1 January 2015.**

As regards third-party influence on clubs, the current text of the existing article 18bis of the Regulations was only slightly amended.

The new article 18ter of the Regulations contains the interdiction for clubs and players to enter into agreements with third parties, whereby the third party is being entitled to participate in compensation payable in relation to the future transfer of a player, or is being assigned any rights in relation to a future transfer or transfer compensation.

The above-mentioned interdiction is to come into force on 1 May 2015.

Agreements covered by the ban which predate 1 May 2015 may continue to be in place until their ordinary contractual expiration. However, the validity of new agreements covered by the pertinent prohibition that are signed between 1 January and 30 April 2015 may not have a contractual duration of more than one year beyond the date of them being signed.

## Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

### Definitions

For the purpose of these regulations, the terms set out below are defined as follows:

[...]

14. Third party: a party other than the two clubs transferring a player from one to the other, or any previous club, with which the player has been registered.

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### V. Third-party influence and ownership of players' economic rights

#### Article 18bis Third-party influence on clubs

1. No club shall enter into a contract which enables the counter club/counter clubs, and vice versa, or any third party to acquire the ability to influence in employment and transfer-related matters its independence, its policies or the performance of its teams.
2. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs that do not observe the obligations set out in this article.

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#### Article 18ter Third-party ownership of players' economic rights

1. No club or player shall enter into an agreement with a third party whereby a third party is being entitled to participate, either in full or in part, in compensation payable in relation to the future transfer of a player from one club to another, or is being assigned any rights in relation to a future transfer or transfer compensation.
2. The interdiction as per paragraph 1 comes into force on 1 May 2015.
3. Agreements covered by paragraph 1 which predate 1 May 2015 may continue to be in place until their contractual expiration. However, their duration may not be extended.
4. The validity of any agreement covered by paragraph 1 signed between 1 January 2015 and 30 April 2015 may not have a contractual duration of more than 1 year beyond the effective date.
5. By the end of April 2015, all existing agreements covered by paragraph 1 need to be recorded within the Transfer Matching System (TMS). All clubs that have signed such agreements are required to upload them in their entirety, including possible annexes or amendments, in TMS, specifying the details of the third party concerned, the full name of the player as well as the duration of the agreement.
6. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs or players that do not observe the obligations set out in this article.

As an additional obligation, all existing agreements covered by the ban need to be recorded within the Transfer Matching System (TMS) by the end of April 2015.

Finally, it is to be emphasised that, as is already the case for article 18bis, the FIFA Executive Committee decided to include the new article 18ter of the Regulations in the list of provisions which are binding at national level and must be included in the associations' regulations.

We thank you for your kind attention to the above and for ensuring that all of your affiliated clubs are informed accordingly without delay.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jérôme Valcke  
Secretary General

Enc. as mentioned

- cc:
- FIFA Executive Committee
  - Players' Status Committee
  - Disciplinary Committee
  - Confederations
  - ECA
  - FIFPro
  - EPFL