



## GUIDANCE NOTES

# INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCE FOR AMATEUR PLAYERS

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International clearance is required for any player over the age of 10 who is seeking to register for a club in England and has previously been registered for a club abroad (including the other Home Associations), or who is a foreign national seeking to register for the first time in this country.

**If the player is under the age of 18, they are subject to the provisions of FIFA Article 19 – please see TheFA.com for full details and relevant form for completion.**

<http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/policies/player-registration/international-clearance>

International clearance is applicable at all levels of the game. It is the registering club's responsibility to verify a player's registration history in order to ascertain whether international clearance may be required. Clubs and competitions operating near the borders between England and Wales/Scotland need to be particularly cautious - a player can only play football in one country (subject to international clearance) and cannot play football in two countries on different days, under any circumstances.

A player cannot themselves obtain international clearance; the club with which they intend to register in England must submit a completed international clearance request form to The FA, along with a copy of the player's passport (photo page) or national identity card. This assists the other Association in identifying the player in their records. Forms should be emailed to [registrations@thefa.com](mailto:registrations@thefa.com).

Once a request is submitted to us, we will send a formal request to the relevant National Association for the player's International Transfer Certificate (ITC). That Association will conduct checks in relation to the player, including confirming with his former Club that he is free to register for a Club in England and checking if the player has any outstanding suspensions. In accordance with FIFA Regulations, National Associations have up to a maximum of 30 days in which to issue the ITC. If The FA receives no response after 30 days from the date of our request, a provisional clearance can be issued which enables the player to register and play for the Club.



## GUIDANCE NOTES - CONTINUED

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All requests made by Clubs will be acknowledged by the Player Status department. As soon as any correspondence is received from the other Association in relation to the player, or the ITC is issued, we will contact the requesting Club immediately. Therefore Clubs are asked not to call to follow up on their requests. A Player cannot register and play for a Club until international clearance has been confirmed to the Club by The FA Player Status department. Once clearance is received, a player is able to register and play for any club in England and this process does not need to be repeated each season, unless the player subsequently plays abroad again.

Players may train or play in 'behind closed doors' friendly matches without international clearance. However, in these circumstances, the club should have the permission of the player's former club and confirmation that the player is not under suspension.

Players who are registering as professionals are required to follow a different process, and the ITC request must be made through the FIFA TMS system. If this is the case, please contact the Player Status department who will advise you.

FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players are published on The FA website.

### Non-EU players

All Clubs are advised to satisfy themselves that all non-EU/EEA players have the necessary credentials to take up offers of employment in England as part of normal procedural/personnel checks. We are advised by the Home Office that any player who is in England on a Tier 4 (Student) visa is not able to play in a professional or semi-professional environment under the terms of that visa. The FA considers this to extend to clubs at Steps 1 – 4 of the National League System. Any Club found to have fielded such players may be liable to a fine of £10,000 per player by the Home Office.

Please seek advice from the Home Office if you would like to clarify your eligibility as a Club to register non EU/EEA players on this basis. Contact details can be found at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>.

### Contact Details

The Player Status Department of The Football Association can be contacted via email on [registrations@thefa.com](mailto:registrations@thefa.com)





## GUIDANCE NOTES - CONTINUED

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This guidance does not alter or replace any of The FA's Rules and Regulations (or the rules and regulations of any Competition, Confederation or FIFA) (together referred to as the "Rules and Regulations"). The Rules and Regulations should be referred to for the full provisions relating to International Clearance for Amateur Players. In the event of any inconsistency between this guidance and the Rules and Regulations, the Rules and Regulations apply. The FA accepts no liability whatsoever in respect of any action taken against clubs and/or their players/officials regarding compliance with any such Rules and Regulations.