

NOTES ON INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCE

1. FIFA Regulations governing the Status and Transfer of Players require National Associations to issue an International Transfer Certificate for any player over the age of 12 who is moving from one National Association to another.

A CLEARANCE WILL NOT NORMALLY BE ISSUED FOR A PLAYER UNDER THE AGE OF 18 UNLESS HIS FAMILY IS MOVING FOR NON-FOOTBALL REASONS. WITHIN THE EU/EEA A PLAYER CAN MOVE COUNTRIES OVER THE AGE OF 16 SUBJECT TO THE LABOUR LAWS OF THE COUNTRY HE IS GOING TO.

2. The Association which a player is leaving will issue the International Transfer Certificate to the National Association to which the player is moving. For Clubs in the Premier League, Football League or Football Conference (National Division), this is only permitted within the two annual transfer windows – from the end of a League’s season up to 31st August and throughout the month of January.
3. The receiving Association shall make a request for an International Transfer Certificate to the issuing Association. In order to identify a player correctly the request should include the player’s full name, date and place of birth and the name of the Club for which he was last registered. A copy of the player’s passport may also assist.
4. An Association, having received a request from another Association, is obliged to issue an International Transfer Certificate providing the player is not under written contract to a Club (as a non-amateur player), is not suspended from football for disciplinary reasons (unless up to a maximum of four matches), and has fulfilled all obligations to the former Club.
5. Clubs and/or players seeking International Clearance should make a request in writing to the Registrations Department of The Football Association. The request may be faxed direct to the Department on **0844 980 0663** or emailed to Registrations@TheFA.com.
6. The Football Association will ask the National Association concerned via fax for an International Transfer Certificate. This will be done by post in the event of a fax facility not being available.
7. When an International Transfer Certificate has been issued to this Association the Club and/or player will normally be notified by email, where possible. Until notification has been received the player may **NOT** be registered or play for a Club in England at any level.
8. 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. For friendly matches played in public the written permission of the other National Association is required.
9. Should The Football Association not receive an International Transfer Certificate, or a reply stating a reason why this is not being issued within 30 days of the request, then a provisional clearance can be issued. This will enable the player to register and play for a Club in England and will become permanent in one year’s time, providing no objections are received from the other Association in the meantime.
10. FIFA Regulations governing the Status and Transfer of Players are published in The Football Association Handbook.
11. Even when an International Transfer Certificate has been received, players without a UK or EU passport who do not have the relevant Home Office permission to live and work in the UK are not able to take part in any match where spectators pay for admission. This is a Home Office Ruling.

12. It must be appreciated that delays do occur when requesting International Clearance from other National Associations. When the Registrations Team receives a request for International Clearance from a member Club, we aim to turn this around as soon as possible – usually the same day. We are then in the hands of the other National Association as to how quickly, or slowly, a reply is made. Please bear in mind that we get as exasperated as Clubs and Players when delays occur, so we ask you to bear with us.
13. **It is strongly advised that other National Associations are not contacted directly to chase up an International Clearance which is not forthcoming, as this may only delay the request being dealt with. There is, however, nothing to stop the player concerned from speaking with his previous Club in that country to ensure that they are happy for the clearance to be issued and are not holding things up at their end.**

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