

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1593

Zurich, 26 July 2017

ZBO/sco/gsa

Tier 1 international matches/competitions

Dear Sir or Madam,

In recent weeks, we have unfortunately noticed a gradual increase in the lack of thoroughness by some applicants with regards to important principles established in the different FIFA regulations, including the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches, regarding the organisation of tier 1 international matches/competitions. This lack of compliance has caused serious difficulties as the required official authorisations by the confederations and/or by FIFA then have to be swiftly expedited.

Firstly, we would like to remind you that the deadline of at least 14 days prior to any planned tier 1 international match or competition for the submission of the final authorisation request containing all required member and confederation authorisations to FIFA must be adhered to in order to ensure that the required documentation can be properly gathered, studied and subsequently authorised or rejected in accordance with the regulatory provisions. In addition, further deadlines and obligations as set out in the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches must be complied with.

Secondly, we would like to urge all the FIFA members not to forget the provisions of Annexe 1 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players when applying for a tier 1 match or competition. All the inherent aspects such as release of players, club protection programme, rest days and number of matches in one single international window etc. are clearly stipulated in the aforesaid regulations.

We also take this opportunity to emphasise that, for all tier 1 matches/competitions between "A" representative teams, the Laws of the Game are to be fully respected, in particular Law 3 whereby "a maximum of six substitutes may be used". The match referee has no capacity to allow any exception in this category of play. Once FIFA has officially approved a tier 1 international match/competition, the applicant and the participating teams in that event are not allowed to unilaterally deviate from the terms on which the approval has been granted. Abuses and violations will be referred to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee as established in art. 14 of the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches.

In other words, if and when two "A" representative teams wish to play a "match" with additional substitutes, such "match" would no longer be categorised as an international "A" match, but it would be classified as a mere "training". It would therefore not require an authorisation as per the FIFA

Regulations Governing International Matches and, logically, it could not be considered as an international "A" match in any of FIFA's files and registers, therefore not having any effect on the pertinent FIFA/Coca-Cola World Rankings. Furthermore, such "training" matches should not be promoted as international "A" matches in order to prevent any misleading communication among the football family (teams, spectators and media).

At the same time and for the sake of clarity, the mandatory players' release is no longer given in the event that matches are played outside the international windows listed in the international match calendar. As stipulated in circular no. 1479, the possible release of players for these matches is to be specifically determined between the clubs and the member associations.

Additionally, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that the FIFA club protection programme exclusively provides coverage for international "A" matches as stipulated in the Technical Bulletin. In other words, the clubs and member associations should be aware that FIFA's insurance will not cover players released to exceptionally play a match outside the international windows listed in the international match calendar. Member associations should therefore make sure they have their own insurance policy in that case unless otherwise agreed with the relevant club.

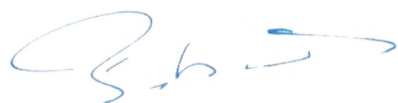
Last but not least, the cancellation of a previously authorised tier 1 international match/competition must be immediately communicated to FIFA and to the respective confederation(s).

Before concluding, we would like to inform you that the FIFA Regulations Governing International Matches will be amended in order to clearly stress all these fundamental aspects. As soon as the new edition of the booklet is ready, it will be duly circulated among the FIFA members.

We thank you for taking note and for your much appreciated cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Zvonimir Boban
Deputy Secretary General (Football)

cc: - FIFA Council
- FIFA Stakeholders Committee
- Confederations