

Circular no. 1464 on third party ownership of players' economic rights (TPO)

Amendment to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

At meetings held on December 18 and 19 2014, the FIFA Executive Committee approved new provisions concerning third-party ownership of players' economic rights (TPO) and third-party influence on clubs, which will be included in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

These new provisions implement the decision to ban TPO, passed by the Executive Committee at its meetings on September 25 and 26 2014.

The amendments to be added to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players in this respect are made to article 18 (18bis is slightly amended and a new 18ter is added) and a definition of "third party" has been included.

Below is a brief description of the amendments made to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players which, broadly speaking, except where specified otherwise, will enter into force on January 1, 2015.

- In the added new definition, a "third party" is 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.
- On third-party influence:
 - The current article 18bis on "Third-party influence on clubs" of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players has been amended slightly.
 - A new article 18ter on "Third-party ownership of players' economic rights" has been added in which clubs or players are banned from entering into an agreement with a third party where a third party is being entitled to participate, either in full or in part, in compensation for a 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.

This ban comes into force on May 1, 2015.

Agreements covered by the ban, however, which predate May 1, 2015, may continue to be in place until their contractual expiration although their duration cannot be extended.

Any agreement covered by the ban, signed between January 1, 2015 and April 30, 2015, may not have a contractual term of more than 1 year beyond the effective date.

By the end of April 2015, all existing agreements covered by that ban need to be recorded in TMS (Transfer Matching System). 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.

The FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs or players that do not observe the obligations set out in this article 18ter.

- Lastly, the FIFA Executive Committee decided to include the new article 18ter in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players in the list of provisions which are binding at national level and must be included in the associations' regulations.

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