



## BY EMAIL

November 26, 2014

Presidents and Executive Directors  
Provincial/Territorial Soccer Associations

Dear Presidents and Executive Directors,

### **Minor Player ITC Requests: Decision of FIFA Players' Status Committee Granting a Limited Exemption**

On behalf of the Canadian Soccer Association ("Canada Soccer"), I am pleased to report that the FIFA Players' Status Committee granted Canada Soccer a limited exemption to by-pass the FIFA TMS and the Sub-Committee of FIFA Players' Status Committee when seeking the approval to request the international clearance of minor amateur players.

Canada Soccer is now free to submit these requests directly to the national association concerned, much like we do for amateur players over the age of 18.

This decision was granted by FIFA under the following conditions:

- a) the limited exemption is only valid for minor amateur players who only wish to be registered with amateur clubs;
- b) the limited exemption is restricted to two years;
- c) Canada Soccer must report to FIFA through the TMS every six months which minor players it has registered on the basis of the above;
- d) Canada Soccer must inform FIFA through the TMS of any subsequent domestic and/or international transfer of the minor players mentioned in paragraph (c) every six months.

### **What does this mean for the Provinces/Territories?**

*This means that the processing time for minor ITCs will be greatly diminished. In addition, provisional ITCs can now be issued for minor players if, after 30 days, Canada Soccer receives no response from the national association concerned.*

### **Does this decision apply to minor amateur players registering with professional clubs and/or their affiliated reserve and/or academy teams?**

*No. A minor player requiring an ITC in order to register with a professional club or a club or academy with legal, financial or de facto links to a professional club is still required to submit an application for approval to FIFA through the TMS.*

### **Does this decision apply to a minor player who has never previously been registered with a club and who is not Canadian Citizen?**

*No. Minor players who are not Canadian citizens and are registering to play soccer for the first time are still required to submit their application for approval to FIFA through the TMS.*

### **Would this decision apply to a minor who is in Canada as foreign exchange student?**

*No. Unfortunately, there is still no exception under Article 19 that covers foreign exchange students.*

**What exceptions under Article 19 are covered by the limited exemption?**

- a) Minor players who are here with their parents and who have moved here for purposes other than playing soccer (art. 19.2(a));*
- b) A minor player who lives no further than 50 km from the Canada/USA border and the club with which the player wishes to be registered in the neighbouring association is also within 50 km of the border. The maximum distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters shall be no greater than 100 km. The player must continue to live at home and both the USSF and Canada Soccer must give their complicit consent. (art. 19.2 (c));*
- c) "5-year rule" exception which allows for the first registration of a minor player in a territory of which he/she is not a national (i.e. not a Canadian citizen), provided that he/she has lived continuously for at least five years in Canada immediately prior to the intended first registration (based on the standing jurisprudence of the FIFA Players Status Sub-Committee).*

**With the exceptions covered above, do we still need to provide the mandatory documentation along with the request for international clearance?**

*Yes. You are still required to obtain the mandatory documents as prescribed by FIFA and submit them to the CSA along with the request for international clearance:*

- (1) Copy of the player's birth certificate;*
- (2) Copy of the player's passport;*
- (3) Copy of the player's parent's passport(s);*
- (4) Copy of parent's work permits;*
- (5) Letter from the parent's employer – offer of employment and terms of same;*
- (6) Proof of residence in Canada (utility bill, tenant agreement, etc);*
- (7) Letter from the player's parents describing their purpose in Canada;*
- (8) Google map clearly outlining the distances between the player's club and domicile.*

I trust that you will find FIFA's decision a positive step forward in assisting our country in further growing and developing the game.

Should you have any questions with respect to the above, please feel free to contact either Daniel Pazuk (dpazuk@canadasoccer.com) or myself.

Warm regards,



Earl Cochrane  
Deputy General Secretary