

Ref No. – AIFF/PSD/2021/1132

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

3 June 2021

Subject – Information concerning the registration and movement of Amateur Players.

Dear Sir or Madam,

It is evident that rules in relation to amateur players have evolved over the years with an aim to protect and safeguard the interests of amateur players considering a majority of them are minors. In this respect, we would like to elaborate, clarify on rules and regulations of the amateur players under the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (**AIFF RSTP**) to help and support the clubs, academies, and State Associations to better facilitate the registration and other intricacies of the amateur players.

In furtherance to the same, the provisions of **Annexe 3 (Registration of Amateur Players)** are as follows:

Article 3 states as follows:

“An amateur player can only be registered with a club for a period of 1 (one) season with the possibility of extension in accordance with Clause 8 below.”

EXPLANATION – The clubs, academies can **register an amateur player for a maximum duration of one Season**. A term of the consent form or retention form cannot be more than one Season under any circumstances. If a club wishes to register the same player for the consecutive second Season, then either the player and the club can sign an amateur retention form before the Season ends, or the club can sign a new amateur consent form in the new Season with the player.

Article 16 states as follows:

“All amateur agreements/ contracts which predate 1 August 2020 were only valid till the end of the 2020-21 Season i.e., till 31 May 2021.”

EXPLANATION - Earlier, clubs had multiple-year contracts with the amateur players, however, as per article 16 of Annexe 2, **contracts for more than a year, which predate 1 August 2020, will automatically expire on 31 May 2021**. This gave time to the clubs with multiple-year contracts to

amend their contracts with the amateur players and align with the provisions of the AIFF RSTP. This essentially means that all amateur players will be free as of 31 May 2021.

Article 4 states, states as follows:

“An amateur player can terminate his/ her registration with a club at any time during the season as the contractual intricacies and obligations of a professional contract would not be applicable on the amateur player.”

Article 5 states, states as follows:

“A club can terminate registration of an amateur player by issuing a termination/ release letter at any time during the season as the contractual intricacies and obligations of a professional contract would not be applicable on the club.”

EXPLANATION - A player or a club can terminate the registration of an amateur player during the Season. In this case, when a player moves to a new club in the same Season, a release letter from the former club is required.

Article 7.3 subpoint ix, **Annexe 2 (Centralized Registration System)** states as follows:

“In case of an amateur player whose term is expired as per the Consent and/or Retention form with the former club, then New Club is not required to upload the release letter over the CRS.”

EXPLANATION - When an amateur player’s consent form or retention form with a club expires at the end of the Season and, if a new club wishes to register the player, the new club is not required to upload the release letter on the CRS. In simple words, a **release letter is not required when a player moves to the new club after the end of the Season or at the beginning of new Season.**

However, if a player or a club wishes to terminate amateur consent form mid-season and the player desires to be registered with a new club, then a release letter from the player's old club is required and needs to be uploaded on CRS.

Article 5 (**Registration of Players**) of the AIFF RSTP states:

“5.1 Registrations of all players (including intimation of any change to the status of the registration due to renewal and/or amendment and/or novation and/or termination of the contract/consent form executed between a player and club as provided under Article 9 of these Regulations), whether amateur

or professional shall be done only through the Centralised Registration System (CRS), which is an online portal operated and maintained by AIFF whose access is granted to every player, club and State Association, which will assign each player a FIFA ID when the player is first registered. Only players registered through the AIFF CRS with a FIFA ID are eligible to participate in organized football.”

Article 12 (Players’ Eligibility/ Unregistered Players) of the AIFF RSTP states:

“12.1 Any player not registered in compliance with the provisions of these Regulations and appears in any Official Match shall be considered to have played illegitimately. Without prejudice to any measure required to rectify the sporting consequences of such an appearance, sanctions may also be imposed on the player and/or the concerned club, State Associations and its affiliated units. The right to impose such sanctions lies in principle with the AIFF in accordance with Article 12.2 below.”

EXPLANATION – As per Article 5 and Article 12 of the AIFF RSTP, all amateur players can only participate in an Organized football if they are registered on CRS. Any competition organized/affiliated/approved by the AIFF or State Association or District Association or its affiliated units have to mandatorily follow the above mentioned rule and need to register the amateur players in CRS. Any player who is not registered on CRS participates in Organized football, sanctions may be imposed on the player and/or the concerned club, State Associations and its affiliated units.

Let us understand this with an example –

1. A player named Suresh, has signed a 3-year amateur contract with X club starting from 2 June 2019 and ending on 2 June 2022. Is it a valid contract?

In this example – No, it is not a valid contract. The player’s contract will automatically expire on 31 May 2021 i.e, end of Season 2020-21, as per article 16 of Annexe 3. Club X will have to fill amateur consent form if it wishes to keep Suresh.

Club X can keep the Suresh for the next Season 2021-22, in two ways:

- i. Sign an amateur retention form in May 2021 for the Season 2021-22; OR
- ii. Sign a new amateur consent form in June 2021 when the Season 2021-22 starts.

2. A player named Suresh has signed an amateur consent form with “X” club for the Season 2020-21. Later, club X does not wish to retain Suresh for Season 2021-22. A club named “Y” signs Suresh for the Season 2021-22 and later in the same Season, Suresh terminated the amateur consent form and wishes to play from club “Z.”

In this example, since a club cannot sign a player for more than a year, the consent form of Suresh with club X will expire on 31 May 2021. If club Y wishes to register Suresh for Season 2021-22, then a release letter is not needed from club X. Because Suresh is moving once the term as per the consent form with club X has expired, which is for one Season.

If later in the Season 2021-22, club Z wishes to register Suresh during the Season, it will require a release letter from club Y, and the same needs to be uploaded on the CRS system. Here, the release letter is required since Suresh is moving mid-season when he is already registered with another club i.e., club Y for that Season.

If you have any queries with regards to this correspondence, please feel free to get in touch with the Players’ Status and Registration Department. Email ID: psd@the-aiff.com; registrations@the-aiff.com

We thank you for taking note of the above.

Kind Regards,



Sankalp Pujari

Director - Players’ Status and Registration Department

CC: Mr. Kushal Das, General Secretary, AIFF

CC: Concerned Departments, AIFF
Clubs on CRS