

RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION 2015-2016 107

C. RULES RELATING TO PLAYERS

PLAYERS WITHOUT WRITTEN CONTRACTS

2 (a) Regulations Concerning Approaches

Players who are not under written contract to a Club may be registered with a number of Clubs at any time, subject to the following provisions and those of the Competitions in which they play:

- (i) Competitions sanctioned by The Association under regulation 3 of the “Regulations for the Sanction and Control of Competitions” may make their own regulations for the approach of Players between Clubs of the Competition;
- (ii) during the current season⁴ any Club wishing to approach a Player known to be registered with or having played for any other Club must give to the secretary of each such Club, seven days’ formal written notice of the intention to approach the Player; Formal written notice of approach need be given by:
 - (A) a Saturday Club only to all Saturday Clubs;
 - (B) a Sunday Club only to all Sunday Clubs; and
 - (C) a midweek Club only to all midweek Clubs;
- (iii) the written notice must be sent by special delivery or recorded post, or a written acknowledgment otherwise obtained from the secretary or chairman of the Club approached. Facsimile or e-mail transmission may be used provided a receipt of acknowledgment is also obtained;
- (iv) following the date of posting of the written notice of approach, or receipt of an acknowledgment:
 - (A) the Player may be registered on or after the eighth day; and
 - (B) the Player must have been registered on or before the 21st day;
- (v) the approaching Club: (A) may not approach the same Player a second time in the same playing season; (B) may approach only one (1) Player at a Club at any time subject to Rule C2(a)(ix) below; and (C) may not approach another Player at the same Club within 28 days of an earlier notice of approach or acknowledgment;
- (vi) if an approach is made by a Player to another Club during the current season⁵, that Club shall give the Club(s), for which the Player is known to be registered or has played, seven days’ notice of approach as set out in Rule C2(a)(i) to (v) above before registering the Player;
- (vii) a Club which is the subject of a complaint alleging failure to give notice in accordance with this Rule may be subject to a charge of Misconduct pursuant to Rule E1(b);
- (viii) a Club proved to have breached the provisions of this Rule may have its current registration of the Player cancelled and be subject to such other penalty as The Association or appropriate Affiliated Association deems appropriate, in accordance with relevant regulations of The Association from time to time in force; and
- (ix) during the current season⁶ a maximum of two Players may be approached in the manner described above if invited to trial at a licensed academy or “Centre of Excellence” of The Association, The FA Premier League or The Football League.

(b) Conditions

- (i) All payments made to Players must be made by the Club and fully recorded in the accounting records of the Club.
- (ii) All salaried payments must be subject to PAYE and National Insurance.
- (iii) Any Player's paid expenses must be reimbursed via an expense claim form. The Club must retain all expense records in a format acceptable to the HM Revenue and Customs.
- (iv) A currently registered Player shall not be allowed to register with another Club without first satisfying the Club Officials of the intended Club that all reasonable financial and other liabilities have been discharged to the Club or Clubs with which the Player is or was known to be registered in the current⁷ and previous playing seasons.
- (v) A Player approached on or after 1st May in the current season⁸ may not play in competitive football for the Club making the approach until the commencement of the following season.

(c) Service Players

- (i) While serving in any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces, a Player may not hold a contract of employment with any Club under the jurisdiction of The Association and/or an Affiliated Association.
- (ii) Neither a Club nor any person may attempt to induce a Player of a Club of any branch of Her Majesty's Regular Forces to play for another Club during the current season⁹ without at least 14 days' written notice of approach – in the case of the Army to the Secretary of The Army Football Association, the Royal Navy to the Secretary of The Royal Navy Football Association, and the Royal Air Force to the Secretary of The Royal Air Force. The notice must be forwarded by special delivery or recorded post, or a written acknowledgment otherwise obtained. Facsimile or e-mail transmission may be used provided a receipt of acknowledgment is also obtained.
- (iii) Players are required to inform civilian Clubs of their rank and service number, which information must be stated on league or other registration forms.