



22 November 2010

Attention: To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam

Movement of young Australian footballers overseas

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has received a large number of enquiries about the ability of young footballers to move overseas to further their football careers. The purpose of this note is to clarify the circumstances in which this is possible.

FIFA closely regulates the movements of minors. This is to ensure that the player's interests are protected and that children are not being exploited by unscrupulous clubs, agents or other third parties.

The international transfer of players is only permitted if the player is over the age of 18 years of age. The only exception to this provision for Australian players is in circumstances where the player moves for 'non-football' reasons. Examples of this include; a child moves overseas because his parents are transferred to that new country for work, or a student finishes school and chooses to attend university overseas. This means that players under the age of 18 are forbidden by FIFA from moving overseas in order to play football and they will not be able to register for an overseas club. The exact FIFA Regulations can be found via the following link, in particular Article 19;

http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/affederation/administration/01/27/64/30/regulationsstatusandtransfer2010_e.pdf

Frequently, we see various 'academies' or 'scouting programs' purporting to offer young children the chance to be recruited by a European club. To confirm, no overseas club will be permitted by FIFA to register an U-18 Australian player to play in competitive matches unless the player can prove that they have moved for non-footballing reasons. In addition, any club found to be encouraging children to move overseas in order to play football faces severe sanctions, including fines and relegation.

Please note: holding a passport for another country does not mean that a child is authorised to move to that country in order to play football.

In the event that a child shows potential as a footballer, FFA has established pathway programs to develop these talents. Any enquiries about these programs should be directed to bruced@footballqueensland.com.au

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

Duncan Tweed

Legal Counsel Regulatory
Football Federation Australia
Duncan.Tweed@footballaustralia.com.au