

THE HONG KONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LIMITED
REGULATIONS ON THE STATUS AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

(adopted on 17.07.2017)

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Article 1. Scope and Definitions

1. Scope

1. These regulations lay down the rules concerning the status of players, their eligibility to participate in organised football of the HKFA, and their transfer between clubs belonging to the HKFA and between clubs belonging to the HKFA and another association.
2. The transfer of players between clubs belonging to the HKFA is governed by these regulations issued by the HKFA. These regulations shall lay down rules for the settlement of disputes between clubs and players, in accordance with the principles stipulated in the FIFA Player Regulations. These regulations should also provide for a system to reward clubs investing in the training and education of young players.
3. The following provisions of the FIFA Player Regulations are binding at national level and have accordingly been included in these regulations: articles 2-8, 10, 11, 12bis, 18, 18bis, 18ter, 19 and 19bis. The HKFA have included in these regulations appropriate means to protect contractual stability, paying due respect to mandatory national law and collective bargaining agreements. In particular, the principles in articles 13 to 17 of the FIFA Player Regulations have been considered.
4. These regulations also govern the release of players to representative teams of the HKFA in accordance with the provisions of Annexe 1 of the FIFA Player Regulations which have been incorporated into Annexes V, VI and VII of these regulations accordingly. Such provisions are binding for the HKFA and all clubs.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of these regulations, the terms set out below are defined as follows:

academy	an organisation or an independent legal entity whose primary, long-term objective is to provide players with long-term training through the provision of the necessary training facilities and infrastructure. This shall primarily include, but not be limited to, football training centres, football camps, football schools, etc.
AFC	The Asian Football Confederation
Article	Articles of these HKFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players
Board	the board of directors of the HKFA
Club	any football clubs participating in the organised football of the HKFA
eleven-a-side football	football played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as authorised by the International Football Association Board
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association

FIFA Player Regulations	Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players issued by FIFA
former association	the association to which the former club is affiliated
former club	the club that the player is leaving
futsal	football played in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game that have been drawn up by FIFA in collaboration with the Sub-Committee of the International Football Association Board
HKFA	The Hong Kong Football Association Limited
HKSAR	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the People's Republic of China
Minor	a player who has not yet reached the age of 18
new club	the club that the player is joining
official matches	matches played within the framework of organised football of the HKFA, such as national league championships, national cups and international championships for clubs, but not including friendly and trial matches
organised football	association football organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations and the associations (including the HKFA), or authorised by them
protected period	a period of three entire seasons or three years, whichever comes first, following the entry into force of a contract, where such contract is concluded prior to the 28th birthday of the professional, or two entire seasons or two years, whichever comes first, following the entry into force of a contract, where such contract is concluded after the 28th birthday of the professional
registration period	a period fixed by the HKFA in accordance with Article 6
Regulations	the statutes, articles, rules, regulations, codes, policies and directives of a football-related entity
Season	the period starting with the first official match of the HKFA and ending with the last official match of the HKFA
solidarity contribution	the payments made in accordance with Annexe 5 of FIFA Player Regulations

third party	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
training club	a club that has contributed to a player' training and to which payment is due in accordance with Annexe 4 of FIFA Player Regulations
training compensation	the payments made in accordance with Annexe 4 of FIFA Player Regulations to cover the development of young players
transfer matching system <i>or</i> TMS	a web-based data information system (maintained by FIFA) with the primary objective of simplifying the process of international player transfers as well as improving transparency and the flow of information

NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

Article 2. Status of Players – Amateur and Professional Players

1. Players participating in organised football are either amateurs or professionals.
2. A professional is a player who has a written contract with a club belonging to the HKFA and is paid more for his footballing activity than the expenses he effectively incurs. All other players are considered to be amateurs.
3. HKFA's specific regulations governing professional players are set out in Annex I of these regulations.

Article 3. Reacquisition of Amateur Status

1. A player registered as a professional may not re-register as an amateur until at least 30 days after his last match as a professional.
2. No compensation is payable upon reacquisition of amateur status. If a player re-registers as a professional within 30 months of being reinstated as an amateur, his new club shall pay training compensation in accordance with article 20 of the FIFA Player Regulations.

Article 4. Termination of Activity

1. Professionals who end their careers upon expiry of their contracts and amateurs who terminate their activity shall remain registered with the HKFA at their last club for a period of 30 months.
2. This 30-month period referred to in Article 4 paragraph 1 above begins on the day the player made his last appearance for the club in an official match.

Article 5. Registration

1. A player must be registered with the HKFA to play for a club as either a professional or an amateur in accordance with the provisions of Article 2. Only registered players are eligible to participate in organised football. By the act of registering, a player agrees to abide by the statutes, articles, codes, policies and regulations of FIFA, AFC and the HKFA.
2. A player may only be registered with one club at a time.
3. Players may be registered with a maximum of three clubs during one season. During this period, the player is only eligible to play official matches for two clubs. As an exception to this rule, a player moving between two clubs belonging to associations with overlapping seasons (i.e. start of the season in summer/autumn as opposed to winter/spring) may be eligible to play in official matches for a third club during the relevant season, provided he has fully complied with his contractual obligations towards his previous clubs. Equally, the provisions relating to the registration periods (Article 6) as well as to the minimum length of a contract (Article 18 paragraph 2) must be respected.
4. Under all circumstances, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the competition. In particular, a player may not play official matches for more than two clubs competing in the same national championship or cup during the same season, subject to stricter individual competition regulations of member associations.
5. The HKFA may register local and foreign players according to the provisions set out in Annex II of these regulations.

Article 6. Registration Periods

1. Players may only be registered during one of the two annual registration periods fixed by the HKFA. As an exception to this rule, a professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a registration period may be registered outside that registration period. The HKFA is authorised to register such professionals provided due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition. Where a contract has been terminated with just cause, the HKFA may take provisional measures in order to avoid abuse, subject to article 22 of the FIFA Player Regulations.
2. The first registration period shall begin after the completion of the season and shall normally end before the new season starts. This period may not exceed 12 weeks. The second registration period shall normally occur in the middle of the season and may not exceed four weeks. The two registration periods for the season shall be entered into TMS at least 12 months before they come into force.
3. Players may only be registered – subject to the exception provided for in Article 6 paragraph 1 – upon submission of a valid application from the club to the HKFA during a registration period in accordance with Annex III of these regulations.
4. The provisions concerning registration periods do not apply to competitions in which only amateurs participate. The HKFA Board shall specify the periods when players may be registered for such competitions provided that due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition.

Article 7. Player Passport

1. The HKFA is obliged to provide the club with which the player is registered with a player passport containing the relevant details of the player. The player passport shall indicate the club(s) with which the player has been registered since the season of his 12th birthday. If a birthday falls between seasons, the player passport shall indicate the club with which he was registered during the season following his birthday.

Article 8. Application for Registration

1. All players must be registered with the HKFA in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex III of these regulations before they shall be permitted to participate in any official matches.
2. The application for registration of a professional must be submitted together with a copy of the player's contract (in the form specified by the Board of the HKFA from time to time). The HKFA Board and/or its duly-appointed bodies has/have discretion to take account of any contractual amendments or additional agreements that have not been duly submitted to it.

Article 9. Transfers of Players

1. The transfer of players between clubs of the HKFA shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions set out in Annex IV of these regulations.

Article 10. Loan of Professionals

1. A professional may be loaned to another club on the basis of a written agreement between him and the clubs concerned. Any such loan is subject to the same rules as applicable to the transfer of players under these regulations, including the provisions on training compensation and the solidarity mechanism.
2. Subject to Article 5 paragraph 3, the minimum loan period shall be the time between two registration periods.
3. The club that has accepted a player on a loan basis is not entitled to transfer him to a third club without the written authorisation of the club that released the player on loan and the player concerned.

Article 11. Unregistered Players

1. Any player not registered with the HKFA who appears for a club 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 club. The right to impose such sanctions lies in principle with the HKFA or the organiser of the competition concerned.

Article 12. Overdue Payables

1. Clubs are required to comply with their financial obligations towards players and other clubs as per the terms stipulated in the contracts signed with their professional players and in the transfer agreements.

2. Any club found to have delayed a due payment for more than 30 days without a prima facie contractual basis may be sanctioned in accordance with paragraph 4 below.
3. In order for a club to be considered to have overdue payables for the purposes of this Article 12, the creditor (player or club) must have put the debtor club in default in writing and have granted a deadline of at least ten days for the debtor club to comply with its financial obligation(s).
4. Within the scope of their respective jurisdiction, the HKFA National Dispute Resolution Chamber may impose the following sanctions:
 - a) a warning;
 - b) a reprimand;
 - c) a fine; and/or
 - d) a ban from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, for one or two entire and consecutive registration periods.
5. The sanctions provided for in paragraph 4 above may be applied cumulatively.
6. A repeated offence will be considered as an aggravating circumstance and lead to a more severe penalty.
7. The execution of the registration ban in accordance with paragraph 4d) above may be suspended. By suspending the execution of a registration ban, the deciding body may subject the sanctioned club to a probationary period ranging from six months to two years.
8. If the club benefiting from a suspended registration ban commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspension is automatically revoked and the registration ban re-executed and will be added to any sanction pronounced for the new infringement.
9. The terms of this Article 12 are without prejudice to the application of further measures in accordance with Article 17 in the case of unilateral termination of the contractual relationship.
10. If a club engages any professional player, the HKFA Board may, in its absolute discretion, require the club and/or any officers of that club to provide reasonable evidence to the satisfaction of the HKFA Board to show that the club has sufficient financial resources to meet its financial obligations towards its professional players.

Article 13. Respect of Contract

1. A contract between a professional and a club may only be terminated upon expiry of the term of the contract or by mutual agreement.

Article 14. Terminating a Contract with Just Cause

1. A contract may be terminated by either party without consequences of any kind (either payment of compensation or imposition of sporting sanctions) where there is just cause.

Article 15. Terminating a Contract with Sporting Just Cause

1. An established professional who has, in the course of the season, appeared in fewer than ten per cent of the official matches in which his club has been involved may terminate his contract prematurely on the ground of sporting just cause. Due consideration shall be given to the player's circumstances in the appraisal of such cases. The existence of sporting just cause shall be established on a case-by-case basis. In such a case, sporting sanctions shall not be imposed, though compensation may be payable. A professional may only terminate his contract on this basis in the 15 days following the last official match of the season of the club with which he is registered.

Article 16. Restriction on Terminating a Contract During the Season

1. A contract cannot be unilaterally terminated during the course of a season.

Article 17. Consequences of Terminating a Contract Without Just Cause

1. The following provisions apply if a contract is terminated without just cause:
 - a) In all cases, the party in breach shall pay compensation. Subject to the provisions of article 20 and Annexe 4 of the FIFA Player Regulations in relation to training compensation, and unless otherwise provided for in the contract, compensation for the breach shall be calculated with due consideration for the law of Hong Kong, the specificity of sport, and any other objective criteria. These criteria shall include, in particular, the remuneration and other benefits due to the player under the existing contract and/or the new contract, the time remaining on the existing contract up to a maximum of five years, the fees and expenses paid or incurred by the former club (amortised over the term of the contract) and whether the contractual breach falls within a protected period.
 - b) Entitlement to compensation cannot be assigned to a third party. If a professional is required to pay compensation, the professional and his new club shall be jointly and severally liable for its payment. The amount may be stipulated in the contract or agreed between the parties.
 - c) In addition to the obligation to pay compensation, sporting sanctions shall also be imposed by the HKFA on any player found to be in breach of contract during the protected period. This sanction shall be a four-month restriction on playing in official matches. In the case of aggravating circumstances, the restriction shall last six months. These sporting sanctions shall take effect immediately once the player has been notified of the relevant decision. The sporting sanctions shall remain suspended in the period between the last official match of the season and the first official match of the next season, in both cases including national cups and international championships for clubs. This suspension of the sporting sanctions shall, however, not be applicable if the player is an established member of the representative team of the association he is eligible to represent, and the association concerned is participating in the final competition of an international tournament in the period between the last match and the first match of the next season. Unilateral breach without just cause or sporting just cause after the protected period shall not result in sporting sanctions. Disciplinary measures may, however, be imposed outside the protected period for failure to give notice of termination within 15 days of the last official match of the season (including national cups) of the club with which the player is registered. The protected period starts again when, while renewing the contract, the duration of the previous contract is extended.

- d) In addition to the obligation to pay compensation, sporting sanctions shall be imposed on any club found to be in breach of contract or found to be inducing a breach of contract during the protected period. It shall be presumed, unless established to the contrary, that any club signing a professional who has terminated his contract without just cause has induced that professional to commit a breach. The club shall be banned from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, for two entire and consecutive registration periods. The club shall be able to register new players, either nationally or internationally, only as of the next registration period following the complete serving of the relevant sporting sanction. In particular, it may not make use of the exception and the provisional measures stipulated in Article 6 paragraph 1 of these regulations in order to register players at an earlier stage.
- e) Any person subject to the FIFA Statutes and regulations who acts in a manner designed to induce a breach of contract between a professional and a club in order to facilitate the transfer of the player shall be sanctioned.

Article 18. Special Provisions Relating to Contracts Between Professionals and Clubs

1. If an intermediary is involved in the negotiation of a contract, he shall be named in that contract.
2. The minimum length of a contract shall be from its effective date until the end of the season, while the maximum length of a contract shall be five years. Contracts of any other length shall only be permitted if consistent with Hong Kong laws. Players under the age of 18 may not sign a professional contract for a term longer than three years. Any clause referring to a longer period shall not be recognised.
3. A club intending to conclude a contract with a professional must inform the player's current club in writing before entering into negotiations with him. A professional shall only be free to conclude a contract with another club if his contract with his present club has expired or is due to expire within six months. Any breach of this provision shall be subject to appropriate sanctions.
4. The validity of a contract may not be made subject to a successful medical examination and/or the grant of a work permit.
5. If a professional enters into more than one contract covering the same period, the provisions set forth in Article 13 to Article 18 of these regulations shall apply.

Article 19. Third-party Influence on Clubs

1. No club shall enter into a contract which enables the counter club/counter clubs, and vice versa, or any third party to acquire the ability to influence in employment and transfer-related matters its independence, its policies or the performance of its teams.
2. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on clubs that do not observe the obligations set out in this article.

Article 20. Third-party Ownership of Players' Economic Rights

1. No club or player shall enter into an agreement with a third party whereby a third party is entitled to participate, either in full or in part, in compensation payable in relation to the 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.

2. The restriction in paragraph 1 comes into force on 1 May 2015.
3. Agreements covered by paragraph 1 which predate 1 May 2015 may continue to be in place until their contractual expiration. However, their duration may not be extended.
4. The validity of any agreement covered by paragraph 1 signed between 1 January 2015 and 30 April 2015 may not have a contractual duration of more than 1 year beyond the effective date.
5. By the end of April 2015, all existing agreements covered by paragraph 1 need to be recorded within the TMS. All clubs that have signed such agreements are required to upload them in their entirety, including all 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.
6. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee and/or the HKFA may impose disciplinary measures on clubs or players that do not observe the obligations set out in this article.

Article 21. Protection of Minors

1. International transfers of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18.
2. The following three exceptions to this rule apply:
 - a) The player's parents move to the country in which the new club is located for reasons not linked to football.
 - b) The transfer takes place within the territory of the European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) and the player is aged between 16 and 18. In this case, the new club must fulfil the following minimum obligations:
 - i. It shall provide the player with an adequate football education and/or training in line with the highest national standards.
 - ii. It shall guarantee the player an academic and/or school and/or vocational education and/or training, in addition to his football education and/or training, which will allow the player to pursue a career other than football should he cease playing professional football.
 - iii. It shall make all necessary arrangements to ensure that the player is looked after in the best possible way (optimum living standards with a host family or in club accommodation, appointment of a mentor at the club, etc.).
 - iv. It shall, on registration of such a player, provide the relevant association with proof that it is complying with the aforementioned obligations;
 - c) The player lives no further than 50km from a national border and the club with which the player wishes to be registered in the neighbouring association is also within 50km of that border. The maximum distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters shall be 100km. In such cases, the player must continue to live at home and the two associations concerned must give their explicit consent.
3. The conditions of this article shall also apply to any player who has never previously been registered with a club, is not a national of the country in which he wishes to be registered for the first time and has not lived continuously for at least the last five years in the said country.

4. Every international transfer according to paragraph 2 and every first registration according to paragraph 3, as well as every first registration of a foreign minor player who has lived continuously for at least the last five years in the country in which he wishes to be registered, is subject to the approval of the sub-committee appointed by FIFA's Players' Status Committee for that purpose. The application for approval shall be submitted by the association that wishes to register the player. The former association shall be given the opportunity to submit its position. The sub-committee's approval shall be obtained prior to any request from an association for an International Transfer Certificate and/or a first registration. Any violations of this provision will be sanctioned by FIFA's Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code. In addition to the association that failed to apply to the sub-committee, sanctions may also be imposed on the former association for issuing an International Transfer Certificate without the approval of the sub-committee, as well as on the clubs that reached an agreement for the transfer of a minor.
5. The procedures for applying to the sub-committee for a first registration and an international transfer of a minor are contained in Annexe 2 of the FIFA Player Regulations.

Article 22. Registration and Reporting of Minors at Academies

1. Any clubs that operate an academy in Hong Kong with legal, financial or de facto links to the club are obliged to report all minors who attend the academy to the HKFA.
2. The HKFA is obliged to ensure that all academies in Hong Kong without legal, financial or de facto links to a club shall either:
 - a) run a club that participates in the official matches of the HKFA; all players shall be reported to the HKFA, or shall be registered with the club itself; or
 - b) report all minors who attend the academy for the purpose of training to the HKFA.
3. The HKFA shall keep a register comprising the names and dates of birth of the minors who have been reported to it by the clubs or academies.
4. Through the act of reporting, academies and players undertake to practise football in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, and to respect and promote the ethical principles of organised football.
5. Any violations of this Article 22 will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee of the HKFA and/or FIFA in accordance with the Disciplinary Code of the HKFA or the FIFA Disciplinary Code respectively.
6. Article 21 shall also apply to the reporting of all minor players who are not nationals of the country in which they wish to be reported.

Article 23. Training Compensation

1. Training compensation shall be paid to a player's training club(s): (1) when a player signs his first contract as a professional, and (2) each time a professional is transferred until the end of the season of his 23rd birthday. The obligation to pay training compensation arises whether the transfer takes place during or at the end of the player's contract. The provisions concerning training compensation are set out in Annexe 4 of the FIFA Player Regulations.

Article 24. Solidarity Mechanism

1. If a professional is transferred before the expiry of his contract, any club that has contributed to his education and training shall receive a proportion of the compensation paid to his former club (solidarity contribution). The provisions concerning solidarity contributions are set out in Annexe 5 of the FIFA Player Regulations.

Article 25. HKFA National Dispute Resolution Chamber

1. The National Dispute Resolution Chamber of the HKFA shall have jurisdiction to handle disputes between clubs and players of the HKFA regarding employment and contractual stability as well as those concerning training compensation and solidarity contributions between clubs belonging to the HKFA, in accordance with the <Regulations for HKFA National Dispute Resolution Chamber>.

Article 26. Release of Players to HKFA Teams

1. HKFA's specific regulations governing the clubs of the HKFA for the release of male players to the representative teams of HKFA are set out in Annex V of these regulations.
2. HKFA's specific regulations governing the clubs of the HKFA for the release of female players to the representative teams of HKFA are set out in Annex VI of these regulations.
3. HKFA's specific regulations governing the clubs of the HKFA for the release of futsal players to the representative teams of HKFA are set out in Annex VII of these regulations.

Annex I. Rules Relating to Professional Players

1. Contract for Services Between Clubs and Players

- a. A player who desires to be registered with the HKFA as a professional player must sign a standard contract with a club in the form prescribed by the HKFA Board from time to time (as at the date of adoption of these regulations, such form being the "Contract for Services – Player's Agreement" (Form "G")).
- b. Such standard contract shall contain, among other things, the following provisions:-
 - i. the period of employment;
 - ii. the amount of remuneration of the player;
 - iii. the parties' consent to the jurisdiction of the HKFA;
 - iv. earlier determination by either party for breach of provisions of the contract; and
 - v. rights of either party to refer dispute to the National Dispute Resolution Chamber of the HKFA.
- c. Contractual amendments or additional agreements (see Article 8) are permissible and will be recognized by the HKFA, provided that they have been duly submitted to the HKFA no later than ten days after the signing date of such amendments or agreements. If any such amendments or agreements are not submitted within the ten-day period specified above, the HKFA Board and/or its duly-appointed bodies shall have absolute discretion whether to recognize or to take account of any such amendments or agreements, and shall notify the relevant club and player of its decision on the same.

2. Fine and Disciplinary Suspension Imposed on Professional Players

Without prejudice to any other Regulations of the HKFA:

- a. a club may penalize its professional players for misconduct or breach of any rules or orders of the club by suspension for a period not exceeding 14 days, or a fine not exceeding a sum equal to two weeks of the player's current wages, or in lieu thereof withhold payment to that player of his wages for a sum equal to the fine, provided that such penalty shall be notified to the player and the HKFA within 14 days from the date of determination by the club for the relevant misconduct or breach.
- b. if a professional player registered with the HKFA commits any misconduct or breach of any Regulations of the HKFA, the HKFA may fine and/or suspend that player. Any fines imposed on professional players by the HKFA are not to exceed a sum equal to two weeks of the player's current wages.
- c. Any suspension or fine imposed by the club or the HKFA on a player shall not operate as a termination or rescission of the contract between the club and the player.

3. Disputes and Claims Between Clubs and Players; Submission to HKFA National Dispute Resolution Chamber

- a. A club and its professional player shall refer all disputes between them regarding employment and contractual stability to the National Dispute Resolution Chamber of the HKFA in accordance with the provisions set out in the <Regulations for HKFA National Dispute Resolution Chamber>.

Annex II. Classification of Local and Foreign Players

1. General

- a. The HKFA may register a player as (i) a local player or (ii) a foreign player in accordance with this Annex II.
- b. Any player who is not eligible to be registered as a local player in accordance with this Annex shall only be registered by the HKFA as a foreign player.
- c. Only players who are eligible to play for the representative team(s) of the HKFA in accordance with this Annex II shall be registered as a local player by the HKFA.
- d. After a player is registered as either a local or foreign player by the HKFA, if his eligibility to play for the representative team(s) of the HKFA has subsequently changed in accordance with this Annex II, the HKFA may change the category of registration of such player from "local" to "foreign" or vice versa accordingly.

2. Principle

- a. Any HKSAR passport holder, provided that his eligibility to hold the HKSAR passport is not dependent on his residence in Hong Kong, is eligible to play for the representative team(s) of the HKFA.
- b. With the exception of the conditions specified in article 5 of this Annex II below, any Player who has already participated in a match (either in full or in part) in an Official Competition of any category or any type of football for one Association (including the HKFA) may not play an international match for a representative team of another Association.

3. Nationality Entitling Players to Represent More Than One Association

- a. A Player who, under the terms of article 2 of this Annex II, is eligible to represent more than one Association on account of his nationality, may play for the representative team(s) of the HKFA only if, in addition to being an HKSAR passport holder, he fulfils at least one of the following conditions:
 - i. He was born in the territory of Hong Kong;
 - ii. His biological mother or biological father was born in the territory of Hong Kong;
 - iii. His grandmother or grandfather was born in the territory of Hong Kong; or
 - iv. He has lived continuously in the territory of Hong Kong for at least two years.
- b. Regardless of paragraph 1 of this article 3 of this Annex II above, the HKFA and the equivalent associations of the People's Republic of China and/or Macau may make an agreement under which item (d) of paragraph 1 of article 3 of this Annex II is deleted completely or amended to specify a longer time limit. Such agreements shall be lodged with and approved by the Executive Committee of FIFA. Until such agreement is entered into, item (d) of paragraph 1 of article 3 of this Annex II above remains in force.

4. Acquisition of a New Nationality

Any Player who refers to article 2 paragraph 1 of this Annex II above to becoming a new HKSAR passport holder and who has not played any international football in accordance with article 2 paragraph 2 of this Annex II above shall be eligible to play for the representative team(s) of the HKFA only if he fulfils one of the following conditions:

- a. He was born in the territory of the Hong Kong;
- b. His biological mother or biological father was born in the territory of Hong Kong;
- c. His grandmother or grandfather was born in the territory of Hong Kong; or
- d. He has lived continuously for at least five years after reaching the age of 18 in the territory of Hong Kong.

5. Change of Association

- a. If a Player has more than one nationality in addition to being an HKSAR passport holder, or if a Player becomes a new HKSAR passport holder, or if a Player is eligible to play for the representative teams of several Associations (including those of the HKFA) due to his nationality, he may, only once, request to change the Association for which he is eligible to play international matches (if it is not the HKFA) ("**current Association**") to the HKFA if he is an HKSAR passport holder, subject to the following conditions:
 - i. He has not played a match (either in full or in part) in an Official Competition at "A" international level for his current Association, and at the time of his first full or partial appearance in an international match in an Official Competition for his current Association, he is already a HKSAR passport holder.
 - ii. He is not permitted to play for the HKFA in any competition in which he has already played for his current Association.
- b. If a Player who has been fielded by his current Association in an international match in accordance with article 2 paragraph 2 of this Annex II above permanently loses the nationality of that Country (relating to his current Association) without his consent or against his will due to a decision by a government authority, he may request for permission from the HKFA to play for the HKFA if he already is or has become an HKSAR passport holder.
- c. Any Player who has the right to change Associations in accordance with paragraph 1 and 2 of article 5 of this Annex II above shall submit a written, substantiated request to the FIFA general secretariat. The FIFA Players' Status Committee shall decide on the request. The procedure will be in accordance with the Rules Governing the Procedures of the Players' Status Committee and the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber. Once the Player has filed his request, he is not eligible to play for any Association's representative team until his request has been processed.

6. Transitional Provisions

- a. Any person who is registered with the HKFA as a "resident" player on or before 30 June 2017 (i.e. the registration of which is completed on or before 30 June 2017 - whether registration is completed shall be decided in the absolute discretion of the HKFA Secretariat) shall be registered by the HKFA as a local player in accordance with article 1 of this Annex II above.

- b. Any person who is registered with the HKFA as a “non-resident” player on or before 30 June 2017 (i.e. the registration of which is completed on or before 30 June 2017 - whether registration is completed shall be decided in the absolute discretion of the HKFA Secretariat) shall be registered by the HKFA as a foreign player in accordance with article 1 of this Annex II above.
- c. The registration with the HKFA as a “resident” or “non-resident” player of any person (i) filed on or after 1 July 2017 or (ii) filed on or before 30 June 2017 but not completed by 30 June 2017 (whether registration is completed shall be decided in the absolute discretion of the HKFA Secretariat) shall be decided in accordance with article 1 to 5 of this Annex II above.

7. Definitions

In this annex, the terms below have the meaning set out next to them:

Association:	a football association recognised by FIFA. It is a member of FIFA, unless a different meaning is evident from the context. The HKFA is an Association.
Confederation:	A group of Associations recognised by FIFA that belong to the same continent (or assimilable geographic region).
Country:	an independent state recognised by the international community.
HKSAR passport holder:	the holder of a passport issued by the HKSAR.
Official Competition:	a competition for representative teams organised by FIFA or any Confederation.
Player:	any football player licensed by an Association (including those registered with the HKFA).

Annex III. Registration of Players

1. Application for registration of player with the HKFA shall be done by the club which the player proposes to represent through the online registration system specified from time to time by the HKFA Board (as at the date of adoption of these regulations, being the Hong Kong Football Connect platform), or any other means as determined by the HKFA Board from time to time. Such application shall include, among other things, the following information of that player:
 - a. the club he represents;
 - b. the status of the player – i.e. professional or amateur (cf. Article 2) ;
 - c. the classification of the player i.e. local or foreign (cf. Article 5.5 and Annex II);
 - d. date of birth;
 - e. gender; and
 - f. if he has any previous registration at another national association.
2. An application for registration of player must be accompanied by the following documents (in the form or of the type specified by the HKFA from time to time):-
 - a. the player's identity document;
 - b. the player's recent photograph;
 - c. the player consent form duly signed by the player; and
 - d. the parent consent form duly signed by the parent of the player if the player is a minor.
3. If a player applying for registration with the HKFA declares that he has been previously registered with another national association, he shall not be registered with the HKFA until an international transfer certificate is received from such national association or a provisional international transfer certificate is received from FIFA.
4. For any player applying for registration as a professional with the HKFA who was not born in Hong Kong or holds any non-HKSAR citizenship or nationality, if he declares in his application that he has not previously registered with another national association, he shall not be registered by the HKFA until his status is cleared by the national association of the country in which he was born or he holds citizenship and/or nationality (as applicable).
5. For any player applying for registration as an amateur with the HKFA who was not born in Hong Kong or holds any non-HKSAR citizenship or nationality, if he declares in his application that he has not previously registered with another national association, he shall be accepted for registration on interim basis with the HKFA, and at the same time the HKFA (or the relevant club or the player, if so directed by the HKFA) shall seek clearance of his status with the national association of the country which he was born in or he holds citizenship or nationality of. In the event that the player is found to have made a false declaration, the General Secretary of the HKFA shall immediately:-
 - a. suspend the registration of the said player forthwith;
 - b. inform the said player and the club concerned of the suspension; and
 - c. report the matter to the HKFA Board for consideration to take whatever actions it deems fit.

6. An application for the registration of a professional player with the HKFA shall be accompanied by a certified true copy of one of the following documents, in addition to any other appropriate documents requested by the HKFA from time to time, as proof of the player's employability in Hong Kong:
 - a. Hong Kong permanent identity card (or a certificate of entitlement to receive the same affixed to a valid travel document);
 - b. an HKSAR passport (or a certificate of entitlement to receive the same affixed to a valid travel document); or
 - b. a permit from the Immigration Department of Hong Kong to take up employment in Hong Kong.
7. Registration of players shall be deemed to have been completed 48 hours after the presentation to the HKFA of all the documents required in accordance with these regulations, provided that all required documents are in order (as determined by the HKFA Secretariat in its absolute discretion), otherwise such registration may be invalidated retrospectively.
8. Registration fee(s) shall be payable for every player's registration with the HKFA. The amount of fee(s) payable for registration of an amateur player and professional player shall be determined by the HKFA Board from time to time.
9. If the fee(s) of a player's registration is not duly paid within the due date prescribed by the HKFA, such registration shall automatically be deactivated and become inactive on the 30th day after the due date for such payment or the last playing day of the season for which the registration is made, whichever is later, and shall only be re-activated after the relevant season's registration fee is duly paid. Any player whose registration is inactivated shall be prohibited from playing in any official matches.
10. A club may make a written request to the HKFA to have its registered player's registration deactivated by providing the relevant grounds on which it seeks such deactivation. However, if the club wants to reactivate the registration within the same season, a written request from that club shall also be required. The HKFA Secretariat shall have the absolute discretion as to whether to re-activate the registration.
11. A player, once registered by a club, shall remain registered with the same club in the register of the HKFA until:
 - a. he has duly completed (in the opinion of the HKFA) the procedure to transfer to another club (local or overseas);
 - b. the player's registration has been inactive continuously for a period of 30 months in accordance with Article 4.
12. By completing an application for registration of a player with the HKFA, both the club and the player consents and agrees that, for the purposes of maintaining a proper database record of player's movement on a worldwide and ongoing basis and to ensure the compliance of the relevant regulations regarding player's registration and transfer, FIFA, AFC and/or the HKFA shall have the right to permanently retain details of the player's registration within their relevant registries once he registers with the HKFA.

Annex IV. Transfer of Players

1. Transfer of Registered Players Within HKFA

- a. An application for transfer of a player from a member club of the HKFA the player is registered with to another member club of the HKFA shall be conducted through the online registration system administered by the HKFA from time to time (currently, the Hong Kong Football Connect platform).
- b. A processing fee, the amount of which shall be determined by the HKFA Board from time to time, shall be paid to the HKFA before such transfer can be completed.

2. Transfer of Professional Players: Transfer Fees

- a. The HKFA shall keep and distribute to member clubs upon request a list of players available for transfer (the “transfer list”).
- b. A club may give notice of its intention to make available a player for transfer during the term of its contract with such player to the General Secretary of the HKFA who shall enter the name of the player into the transfer list and also inform the player of such notice.
- c. Once a player is entered into the transfer list, clubs may negotiate with such player and/or his club for his transfer.
- d. The club intending to transfer its player may charge a transfer fee for the transfer for that player. The notice given by the transferring club referred to in paragraph 2(b) of this Annex IV above shall state the amount of transfer fee payable to the transferring club for such transfer.
- e. Transfer fee payable by/to a member club of the HKFA to/by a member club of another national association for the transfer of a professional player shall be subject to applicable rules and regulations of the HKFA, the other national association and/or FIFA.
- f. Except in the cases of transfer at the player’s own request (as evidenced in writing), or where one of the clubs concerned in the transfer belongs to a national association other than the HKFA, the player involved in such transfer shall be entitled to receive from each of the two clubs concerned in the transfer a sum equal to 2.5% of the transfer fee payable to the transferring club.
- g. In the event that a member club of the HKFA demands for a transfer fee in respect of the transfer of a player registered with that club during the continuance of its contract with that player, but the negotiation for such transfer fails, then the said member club shall [thereafter] in each month for the rest of the season during which such negotiation takes place pay to the player (i) 10% of the transfer fee so demanded or (ii) the remuneration the player is entitled to under his existing contract with the said club, whichever amount is greater.
- h. After the expiration of his contract with a club, the player shall be entitled to transfer freely to any club without transfer fee payable to his original club.
- i. In the event of any transfer not expressly considered in this Annex, or if any of the provisions in this Annex IV above contradicts the rules and regulations of FIFA, the applicable rules and regulations of FIFA shall prevail and be applicable.

Annex V. Release of Players to HKFA Representative Teams

1. Principles

- a. Clubs are obliged to release their registered players to the representative teams of the HKFA if the player is eligible to play on the basis of his nationality and he is called up by the HKFA. Any agreement between a player and a club to the contrary is prohibited.
- b. The release of players under the terms of paragraph a of this article is mandatory for all international windows listed in the international match calendar (cf. paragraphs c and d below) as well as for the final competitions of the FIFA World Cup™, the FIFA Confederations Cup, and the championships for “A” representative teams of the confederation which HKFA is a member of (e.g. the AFC’s Asian Cup Championships).
- c. After consultation with the relevant stakeholders, FIFA publishes the international match calendar for the period of four or eight years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph d below). Following the publication of the international match calendar, only the final competitions of the FIFA World Cup™, FIFA Confederations Cup and the championships for “A” representative teams of the confederations will be added.
- d. An international window is defined as a period of nine days starting on a Monday morning and ending on Tuesday night the following week, which is reserved for representative teams’ activities. During any international window a maximum of two matches may be played by each representative team, irrespective of whether these matches are qualifying matches for an international tournament or friendlies. The pertinent matches can be scheduled any day as from Wednesday during the international window, provided that a minimum of two full calendar days are left between two matches (e.g. Thursday/Sunday or Saturday/Tuesday).
- e. Representative teams shall play the two matches within an international window on the territory of the same confederation, with the only exception of inter-continental play-off matches. If at least one of the two matches is a friendly, they can be played in two different confederations only if the distance between the venues does not exceed a total of five flight hours, according to the official schedule of the airline, and two time-zones.
- f. It is not compulsory to release players outside an international window or outside the final competitions (as per paragraph b above) included in the international match calendar. It is not compulsory to release the same player for more than one “A” representative team final competition per year. Exceptions to this rule can be established by the FIFA Executive Committee for the FIFA Confederations Cup only.
- g. For international windows, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than Monday morning and must start the travel back to their club no later than the next Wednesday morning following the end of the international window. For a final competition in the sense of paragraph b and c above, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team no later than Monday morning the week preceding the week when the relevant final competition starts and must be released by the HKFA in the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.
- h. The clubs concerned and the HKFA may agree a longer period of release or different arrangements with regard to paragraph g above.

- i. Players complying with a call-up from the HKFA under the terms of this Annex shall resume duty with their clubs no later than 24 hours after the end of the period for which they had to be released. This period shall be extended to 48 hours if the representative teams' activities concerned took place in a different confederation to the one in which the player's club is registered. Clubs shall be informed in writing of a player's outbound and return schedule ten days before the start of the release period. The HKFA shall ensure that players are able to return to their clubs on time after the match(es).
- j. If a player does not resume duty with his club by the deadline stipulated in this article through the fault of the HKFA, at explicit request of the club with which the player is registered, the FIFA Players' Status Committee shall decide that the next time the player is called up by the HKFA the period of release shall be shortened as follows:
 - i. international window: by two days; and
 - ii. final competition of an international tournament: by five days.
- k. Should the HKFA repeatedly breach these provisions, the FIFA Players' Status Committee may decide:
 - i. to further reduce the period of release; and
 - ii. to ban the HKFA from calling up a player(s) for subsequent representative teams' activities.

2. Financial Provisions and Insurance

- a. Clubs releasing a player in accordance with the provisions of this annex are not entitled to financial compensation.
- b. The HKFA shall bear the costs of travel incurred by the player as a result of the call-up.
- c. The club with which the player concerned is registered shall be responsible for his insurance cover against illness and accident during the entire period of his release. This cover must also extend to any injuries sustained by the player during the international match(es) for which he has been released.
- d. If a professional male player participating in eleven-a-side football suffers, during the period of his release for an international "A" match, a bodily injury caused by an accident and is, as a consequence of such an injury, temporarily totally disabled, the club with which the player concerned is registered will be indemnified by FIFA. The terms and conditions of the indemnification, including the loss-handling procedures, are set forth in the <Technical Bulletin – Club Protection Programme> of FIFA.

3. Calling Up Players

- a. As a general rule, every player registered with a club is obliged to respond affirmatively when called up by the HKFA if he is eligible to represent Hong Kong on the basis of his nationality to play for one of the HKFA's representative teams.
- b. The HKFA wishing to call up a player must notify the player in writing at least 15 days before the first day of the international window (cf. article 1, paragraph d of this Annex) in which the representative teams' activities for which he is required will take place. The HKFA wishing to call up a player for the final competition of an international tournament must notify the player in writing at least 15 days before the beginning of the relevant release period (cf. article 1, paragraph g of this Annex). The player's club shall also be informed in writing at the same time. Equally, the HKFA is advised to copy the national

association of the clubs concerned into the summons. The club must confirm the release of the player within six days from the date of receipt of such notice.

- c. The HKFA may request for FIFA's help to obtain the release of a player playing abroad if the following two conditions are satisfied:
 - i. The association at which the player is registered has been asked to intervene without success.
 - ii. The case is submitted to FIFA at least five days before the day of the match for which the player is needed.

4. Injured Players

- a. A player who due to injury or illness is unable to comply with a call-up from the HKFA (provided he is eligible to represent the HKFA on the basis of his nationality) shall, if the HKFA so requires, agree to undergo a medical examination by a doctor of HKFA's choice. If the player so wishes, such medical examination shall take place in the territory of the association with which he is registered.

5. Restrictions on Playing

- a. A player who has been called up by the HKFA for one of its representative teams is, unless otherwise agreed by the HKFA, not entitled to play for the club with which he is registered during the period for which he has been released or should have been released pursuant to the provisions of this annex, plus an additional period of five days..

6. Disciplinary Measures

- a. Violations of any of the provisions set forth in this annex shall result in the imposition of disciplinary measures to be decided by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee based on the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

Annex VI. Release of Female Players to HKFA Representative Teams

1 Principles for Women's Football

- a. Clubs are obliged to release their registered players to the representative teams of the HKFA if the player is eligible to play on the basis of her nationality and they are called up by the HKFA. Any agreement between a player and a club to the contrary is prohibited.
- b. The release of players under the terms of paragraph a of this article is mandatory for all international windows listed in the women's international match calendar (cf. paragraphs c and d below) as well as for the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™, the Women's Olympic Football Tournament, the championships for "A" women's representative teams of the confederation the HKFA is a member of, i.e. AFC Women's Asian Cup championship, and the confederations' final round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament (maximum release period of 12 days).
- c. After consultation with the relevant stakeholders, FIFA publishes the women's international match calendar for a period of two or four years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph d below). Following the publication of the women's international match calendar, only the final competitions of the FIFA Women's World Cup™ the Women's Olympic Football Tournament, the championships for women's "A" representative teams of the confederations and the confederations' final round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament will be added.
- d. There are three types of international windows:
 - i. Type I is defined as a period of nine days starting on a Monday morning and ending on Tuesday night the following week, which is reserved for representative teams' activities. During the type I international window, a maximum of two matches may be played by each representative team, irrespective of whether these matches are qualifying matches for an international tournament or friendlies. The pertinent matches can be scheduled on any day as from Wednesday during the international window, provided that a minimum of two full calendar days are left between two matches (e.g. Thursday/Sunday or Saturday/Tuesday).
 - ii. Type II is defined as a period of nine days starting on a Monday morning and ending on Tuesday night the following week, which is reserved for the confederations' qualifying mini-tournaments of representative teams. During the type II international window, a maximum of three matches may be played by each representative team.
 - iii. Type III is defined as a period of ten days starting on a Monday morning and ending on Wednesday night the following week, which is reserved for a friendly tournament of representative teams to be played in February/March of every calendar year. During the type III international window, a maximum of four matches may be played by each representative team.
- e. It is not compulsory to release players outside an international window or outside the competitions listed in paragraph b above that are included in the women's international match calendar.
- f. For all three types of international windows, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than Monday morning and must start the travel back to their club no later than the next Wednesday morning (types I and II) or the next Thursday morning (type III) following the end of the international window. For the confederations' final round qualification tournaments for the Women's Olympic Football Tournament, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative

team no later than Monday morning before the opening match of the qualification tournament and must be released by the HKFA in the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament. For a final competition in the sense of paragraphs b and c above, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team no later than 14 days before the opening match of the relevant final competition in the morning, and must be released by the HKFA in the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.

- g. The clubs and the HKFA may agree a longer period of release or different arrangements with regard to paragraph f above.
- h. Players complying with a call-up from the HKFA under the terms of this article shall resume duty with their clubs no later than 24 hours after the end of the period for which they had to be released. This period shall be extended to 48 hours if the representative teams' activities concerned took place in a different confederation to the one in which the player's club is registered. Clubs shall be informed in writing of a player's outbound and return schedule ten days before the start of the release period. The HKFA shall ensure that players are able to return to their clubs on time after the match.
- i. If a player does not resume duty with her club by the deadline stipulated in this article, at explicit request, the FIFA Players' Status Committee shall decide that the next time the player is called up by the HKFA the period of release shall be shortened as follows:
 - i. international window: by two days
 - ii. final competition of an international tournament: by five days
- j. Should the HKFA repeatedly breach these provisions, the FIFA Players' Status Committee may impose appropriate sanctions, including but not limited to:
 - i. fines;
 - ii. a reduction of the period of release;
 - iii. a ban on calling up a player(s) for subsequent representative teams' activities.

Annex VII. Release of Futsal Players to HKFA Representative Teams

1 Principles for Futsal

- a. Clubs are obliged to release their registered players to the representative teams of the HKFA if the player is eligible to play on the basis of his nationality and if he is called up by the HKFA. Any agreement between a player and a club to the contrary is prohibited.
- b. The release of players under the terms of paragraph a of this article is mandatory for all international windows listed in the futsal international match calendar (cf. paragraphs c and d below) as well as for the final competitions of the FIFA Futsal World Cup and of the championships for "A" representative teams of the confederation which HKFA is a member of, i.e. AFC Futsal Championship.
- c. After consultation with the relevant stakeholders, FIFA publishes the futsal international match calendar for the period of five years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph d below). Following the publication of the futsal international match calendar, only the final competitions of the FIFA Futsal World Cup and of the championships for "A" representative teams of the confederation which HKFA is a member of, i.e. AFC Futsal Championship will be added.
- d. There are two types of international windows:
 - i. Type I is defined as a period of ten days starting on a Monday morning and ending on Wednesday night the following week, which is reserved for representative teams' activities. During a Type I international window, a maximum of four matches may be played by each representative team, irrespective of whether these matches are qualifying matches for an international tournament or friendlies. Representative teams can play the maximum of four matches within an international window of Type I in no more than two confederations.
 - ii. Type II is defined as a period of four days starting on a Sunday morning and ending on Wednesday night the following week, which is reserved for representative teams' activities. During a Type II international window, a maximum of two matches may be played by each representative team, irrespective of whether these matches are qualifying matches for an international tournament or friendlies. Representative teams shall play the maximum of two matches within an international window of Type II on the territory of the same confederation.
- e. It is not compulsory to release players outside an international window or outside the final competitions as per paragraph b above included in the futsal international match calendar.
- f. For both types of international windows, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than the first morning of the window (i.e. Sunday or Monday, respectively), and must start the travel back to their club no later than the Thursday morning following the end of the international window. For a final competition of the championships for "A" representative teams of the confederation which HKFA is a member of, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team in the morning 12 days' before the relevant final competition starts and must be released by the HKFA in the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament. For the FIFA Futsal World Cup, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team in the morning 14 days before the World Cup starts and must be released by the HKFA in the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.
- g. The clubs and the HKFA may agree a longer period of release or different arrangements with regard to paragraph f above.

- h. Players complying with a call-up from the HKFA under the terms of this article shall resume duty with their clubs no later than 24 hours after the end of the period for which they had to be released. This period shall be extended to 48 hours if the representative teams' activities concerned took place in a different confederation to the one in which the player's club is registered. Clubs shall be informed in writing of a player's outbound and return schedule ten days before the start of the release period. the HKFA shall ensure that players are able to return to their clubs on time after the match.
- i. If a player does not resume duty with his club by the deadline stipulated in this article, at explicit request, the FIFA Players' Status Committee shall decide that the next time the player is called up by the HKFA the period of release shall be shortened as follows:
 - i. international window: by two days
 - ii. final competition of an international tournament: by five days
- j. Should the HKFA repeatedly breach these provisions, the FIFA Players' Status Committee may impose appropriate sanctions, including but not limited to:
 - i. fines;
 - ii. a reduction of the period of release;
 - iii. a ban on calling up a player(s) for subsequent representative teams' activities.