



FIFA[®]



**PROTECTION
OF MINORS**

Guide to submitting
a Minor Application

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MINOR APPLICATION GUIDE

INTRODUCTION TO THE MINOR APPLICATION GUIDE

According to art. 19 par. 4 a) of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (**RSTP**), every international transfer according to art. 19 par. 2 of the RSTP and every first registration according to art. 19 par. 3 of the RSTP, as well as every first registration of a foreign minor player¹ who has lived continuously for at least the last five years in the country in which he/she wishes to be registered, is subject to the approval of the sub-committee appointed by the Players' Status Committee (**the sub-committee**) if the concerned minor player is at least 10 years old.

In this context, the relevant procedure for applying to the sub-committee for a first registration or an international transfer of a minor is contained in Annexe 2 to the RSTP². In accordance with art. 1 par. 1 of Annexe 2 to the RSTP, such applications must be submitted and managed through the Transfer Matching System (**TMS**).

Art. 5 par. 2 of Annexe 2 to the RSTP provides a general list of documents that have to be submitted in support of the application.

Against this background and in order to have a more comprehensive overview of the specificities surrounding each exception, the following "Minor Application Guide" provides an overview and outlines the relevant documents to be included in the application depending on the various individual circumstances surrounding the international move of a minor player.

In this regard, it is to be noted that in accordance with art. 7 of Annexe 2 to the RSTP, if a document is not available in one of the four official languages of FIFA, the association shall also submit either a translation of the document in one of the four official languages of FIFA, or official confirmation from the association concerned summarising the pertinent facts of each document in one of the four official languages of FIFA.

Finally, please note that whereas the FIFA administration is responsible for the investigation of the facts of each case, only the competent bodies of FIFA, *in casu*, the sub-committee, can render a decision based on the specific circumstances of each application. Therefore, the Minor Application Guide is meant merely to serve as a guideline for the administrative application process.

1. A minor is defined as a player who has not yet reached the age of 18 (cf. definition number 11 in the RSTP).
2. An overview of the complete procedure can be found on page 12.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP <i>"The parents of the player moved for reasons not linked to football"</i></p>			Documents to be submitted																
			Employment contract of the player ¹ and Work permit of the player ¹	Employment contract of the player's parent(s) ²	Work permit of the player's parent(s)	Other documents corroborating the reason invoked ³	Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player ⁴	Proof of identity and nationality of the player ⁵	Proof of identity and nationality of the player's parent(s) ⁵	Proof of residence of the player's parent(s) ⁶	Request for approval of first registration or international transfer	Documentation corroborating that the player's parent moving to or residing in the new country has custody of the player ⁷	Death certificate of the player's parent(s)	Statement of the new association explaining the specific circumstances ⁸	Decision of the relevant national authority taking away the parental authority from the player's parents and appointing a third person as the player's legal guardian	Decision from the relevant national authority appointing a third person as the player's legal guardian following the death of his/her parents			
Circumstances																			
International move of both of the player's biological parents	The player follows his/her parents that are moving to the new country for employment		The player's parents' new country of residence is the country where the player intends to be registered	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
	The player follows his/her parents that are moving to the new country for another reason not linked to football		The player's parents' new country of residence is the country where the player intends to be registered	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
International move of one of the player's biological parents	Parent not moving still alive		The player follows his custody-holding parent that is moving to the new country for employment	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
			The player follows his custody-holding parent that is moving to the new country for another reason not linked to football	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
	Parent not moving deceased		The player follows his living parent that is moving to the new country for employment	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
			The player follows his living parent that is moving to the new country for another reason not linked to football	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
International move of neither of the player's biological parents	Both player's parents are still alive	The player resided with one parent and now moves internationally to a new country to join the other custody-holding parent	The player's custody-holding parent resides in the new country for employment	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
			The player's custody-holding parent resides in the new country for another reason not linked to football	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
			The player's custody-holding parent has always resided in the country to which the player moves	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	Parental authority taken away from the player's parents and awarded to a third person (legal guardian) by a national authority*			The player follows his/her appointed legal guardian who moves to the new country for employment	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
				The player follows his/her appointed legal guardian who moves to the new country for another reason not linked to football	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
				The player joins his/her appointed legal guardian who already resides in the new country	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Both player's parents deceased	Parental authority awarded to a third person (legal guardian) by a national authority*			The player follows his/her appointed legal guardian that is moving to the new country for employment	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
					The player follows his/her appointed legal guardian that is moving to the new country for another reason not linked to football	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
					The player moves internationally to join his/her legal guardian who already resides in the new country	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

* In such case, the documentation referring to the player's parents should relate to the player's legal guardian.

1. This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.
2. Instead of an employment contract, an employment certificate (confirming the employment, position and date of contract) or a company registry (in case of self employment) can also be provided.
3. Explanatory statement from the player's parent(s) as to the reason for the move, along with documents corroborating the reason invoked.
4. Proof of birth must contain the player's birth date and filiation.
5. Such as government-issued ID card or passport.
6. Proof of residence must have been recently issued and indicate the residence start date in the new country.
7. Such as Divorce decree (where applicable) or authorisation of the player's non-moving parent allowing the player to reside in the new country with the (moving) parent.
8. To be uploaded in place of the documents normally provided under the categories "Employment contract – player's parent(s)/other documents corroborating the reason invoked" and "Work permit – player's parents".

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Circumstances	Documents to be submitted							
	Employment contract of the player ¹ and Work permit of the player ¹	Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player ²	Proof of identity and nationality of the player ³	Proof of identity and nationality of the player's parent(s) ³	Proof of refugee status of the player's parent(s) ⁴	Proof of residence of the player's parent(s) ⁵	Status of new club ⁶	Request for approval of first registration or international transfer ⁷
<p>Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP*</p> <p><i>"The player is moving for humanitarian reasons with his/her parents"</i></p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p>The player is moving internationally to the new country with one or both of his/her parents who cannot be expected to return to their country of origin or their previous country of residence given that their lives or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Cf. FAQs, question 13.

- This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.
- Proof of birth must contain the player's date of birth and filiation.
- Such as government-issued ID card or passport.
- A copy of the decision taken by the relevant national authority that grants the player's parent(s) the status of refugee(s) or "protected person(s)", or alternatively, an official confirmation from the relevant national authority that the player's parent(s) have been admitted to the procedure for being granted the right of asylum, as well as a copy of the temporary residence permit of the player's parents in the host country. The FIFA administration and the sub-committee understand that said documents may contain privileged and/or sensitive data. Therefore, they will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be used within the scope of the minor application. In particular, they will not be disclosed, under any circumstance, in full or in part, to third parties not involved in the decision-making process related to the minor application in question.
- Proof of residence must have been recently issued and indicate the residence start date in the new country.
- A declaration issued by the football association of the minor player's host country indicating whether the club with which the player wishes to be registered is professional or purely amateur (club without a professional team and without legal, financial or de facto links to a professional club).
- Such request should, where possible, be accompanied by confirmation as to whether the player is currently registered or has ever been registered with a club at the association of his/her home country (or any other country) and, if so, the date when he/she played the last official match for that club. In case of doubts as to the registration with a club in the country of the player's nationality and possible former club, confirmation issued by the FIFA Players' Status Department whether the player has indeed been registered with that club is required.

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Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 b) of the RSTP <i>"The player is over 16 and is moving within the territory of the EU/EEA"</i>			Documents to be submitted							
			Employment contract of the player ¹	Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player ²	Proof of identity and nationality of the player ³	Documentation of academic education ⁴	Documentation of accommodation/care ⁵	Documentation of football education ⁶	Parental authorisation	Request for approval of first registration or international transfer
Circumstances										
Player is aged between 16 and 18	The player moves from a country outside the territory of the EU/EEA to an EU/EEA country	The player holds the nationality of an EU/EEA member state	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	The player moves from one EU/EEA country to another EU/EEA country	The player does not have the nationality of an EU/EEA member state and has been previously registered with a club within the territory of the EU/EEA in accordance with the RSTP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		The player has the nationality of an EU/EEA member state	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.
- Proof of birth must contain the player's date of birth and filiation.
- Such as government-issued ID card or passport.
- The documentation of academic education must include a signed and stamped statement issued by the relevant academic provider that confirms the player's enrolment, the qualification the player will receive upon completion of the course, the player's expected date of graduation, and a signed weekly academic schedule of the player that clearly indicates the days on which each class meets and the duration of each class.
- Such as a signed and stamped confirmation issued by the club wishing to register the player that states that the club will provide the player with accommodation and indicates the address of said accommodation as well as the name of the person responsible for the player.
- Proof of adequate football education and/or training in line with the highest national standards requires the submission of the following documentation and information:
 - for male players, the club's training category in accordance with art. 4 pars 1 and 2 of Annexe 4 to the RSTP regarding training compensation; for female and/or futsal players, a statement from the association concerned (along with any relevant documentary evidence) confirming that the applicant club is deemed to be in "line with the highest national standards" of women's football and/or futsal education in that country;
 - the player's weekly football training schedule (including the day and duration of each training session);
 - a statement of the club wishing to register the player that specifies the team of the club that the player will be joining.

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Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP <i>"Both player and club are within 50km of their common border and the distance between the two is less than 100km"</i>				Documents to be submitted									
				Employment contract of the player ¹	Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player ²	Proof of identity and nationality of the player ³	Proof of residence of the player ⁴	Proof of Distance: 50 km rule ⁵	Proof of consent of releasing association	Request for approval of first registration or international transfer	Proof of residence of the player's parent(s) ⁶	Documentation corroborating that the player's parent moving to or residing in the new country has custody of the player ⁶	
Circumstances													
The distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters is not more than 100km	The distance from the player's domicile to the closest common border of the neighbouring association is not more than 50km and The distance from the closest common border of the neighbouring association to the club's headquarters is not more than 50km	The player resides with both biological parents	The player's parents are not moving internationally	The player's parents have always resided at their current address	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
				The player's parents have been residing at their current address for a considerable period of time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
				The player's parents have recently moved within their country of residence to their current address	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	The player resides with a custody-holding parent	The player's parent is not moving internationally	The player's parent has always resided at the current address	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
			The player's parent has been residing at the current address for a considerable period of time	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
			The player's parent has recently moved within the country of residence to the current address	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

1. This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.
2. Proof of birth must contain the player's date of birth and filiation.
3. Such as government-issued ID card or passport.
4. Proof of residence must have been recently issued and indicate the residence start date at the current address.
5. The distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters, measured in terms of the "route travelled", must not be more than 100km. Moreover, the distance between the player's domicile/club's headquarters and the closest common border, measured in point-to-point distance (aka "as the crow flies"), must not be more than 50km. In this regard, a screenshot/snapshot of Google Maps showing the aforementioned can be provided.
6. Such as Divorce decree (where applicable) or authorisation of the other parent.

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Circumstances	Documents to be submitted									
	Employment contract of the player ¹ and Work permit of the player ¹	Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player ²	Proof of identity and nationality of the player ³	Proof of refugee status of the player ⁴	Proof of custody ⁵	Authorisation of custody holder ⁶	Parental situation ⁷	Status of new club ⁸	Status of player with former club ⁹	Request for approval of first registration or international transfer ¹⁰
<p>Exception: Art. 19 par. 2 d) of the RSTP</p> <p><i>"The player is moving for humanitarian reasons without his/her parents"</i></p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p>The player is moving internationally to the new country without his/her parents and cannot be expected to return to his/her country of origin or his/her previous country given that his/her life or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

1. This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.
2. Proof of birth must contain the player's date of birth and filiation.
3. Such as government-issued ID card or passport.
4. A copy of the decision taken by the relevant national authority that grants the player the status of refugee or "protected person", or alternatively, an official confirmation from the relevant national authority that the minor player has been admitted to the procedure for being granted the right of asylum, as well as a copy of his/her temporary residence permit in the host country. The FIFA administration and the sub-committee understand that said documents may contain privileged and/or sensitive data. Therefore, they will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be used within the scope of the minor application. In particular, they will not be disclosed, under any circumstance, in full or in part, to third parties not involved in the decision-making process related to the minor application in question.
5. A copy of the decision of the competent national authority regarding the current legal custody of the minor player.
6. A declaration of consent issued by the party that has custody of the minor player consenting to the player's registration with the club of the host country's football association.
7. A declaration regarding the current situation and whereabouts of the player's biological parents that is provided by the minor player, or the association of the player's host country, or any other competent authority.
8. A declaration issued by the football association of the minor player's host country indicating whether the club with which the player wishes to be registered is professional or purely amateur (club without a professional team and without legal, financial or de facto links to a professional club).
9. A declaration issued by the minor player indicating whether he/she has ever been registered for a club in his/her home country (or any other country) and, if so, whether the player was previously registered as an amateur or a professional; this documentation is required only in the case of an international transfer.
10. Such request should, where possible, be accompanied by confirmation as to whether the player is currently registered or has ever been registered with a club at the association of his home country (or any other country) and, if so, the date when he played the last official match for that club. In case of doubts as to the registration with a club in the country of the player's nationality and possible former club, confirmation issued by the FIFA Players' Status Department whether the player has indeed been registered with that club is required.

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Circumstances		Documents to be submitted												
		Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player ¹	Proof of identity and nationality of the player ²	Proof of identity and nationality of the player's parent(s) ²	Documentation of exchange programme ³	Registration form for exchange programme ⁴	Confirmation of player's return ⁵	Documentation of academic education ⁶	Confirmation of player's participation from academic institution in home country ⁷	Documentation of accommodation/care ⁸	Status of new club and duration of registration ⁹	Authorisation of host parents ¹⁰	Parental authorisation ¹¹	Request for approval of first registration or international transfer
The player's new club has purely amateur status (club without a professional team and without legal, financial or de facto links to a professional club)	The duration of the player's academic study abroad programme and the duration of the player's envisaged registration is less than a year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	The duration of the player's academic study abroad programme is longer than a year, but the player is turning 18 in less than a year	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	The duration of the player's academic study abroad programme is longer than a year, but there is less than a year of the programme remaining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

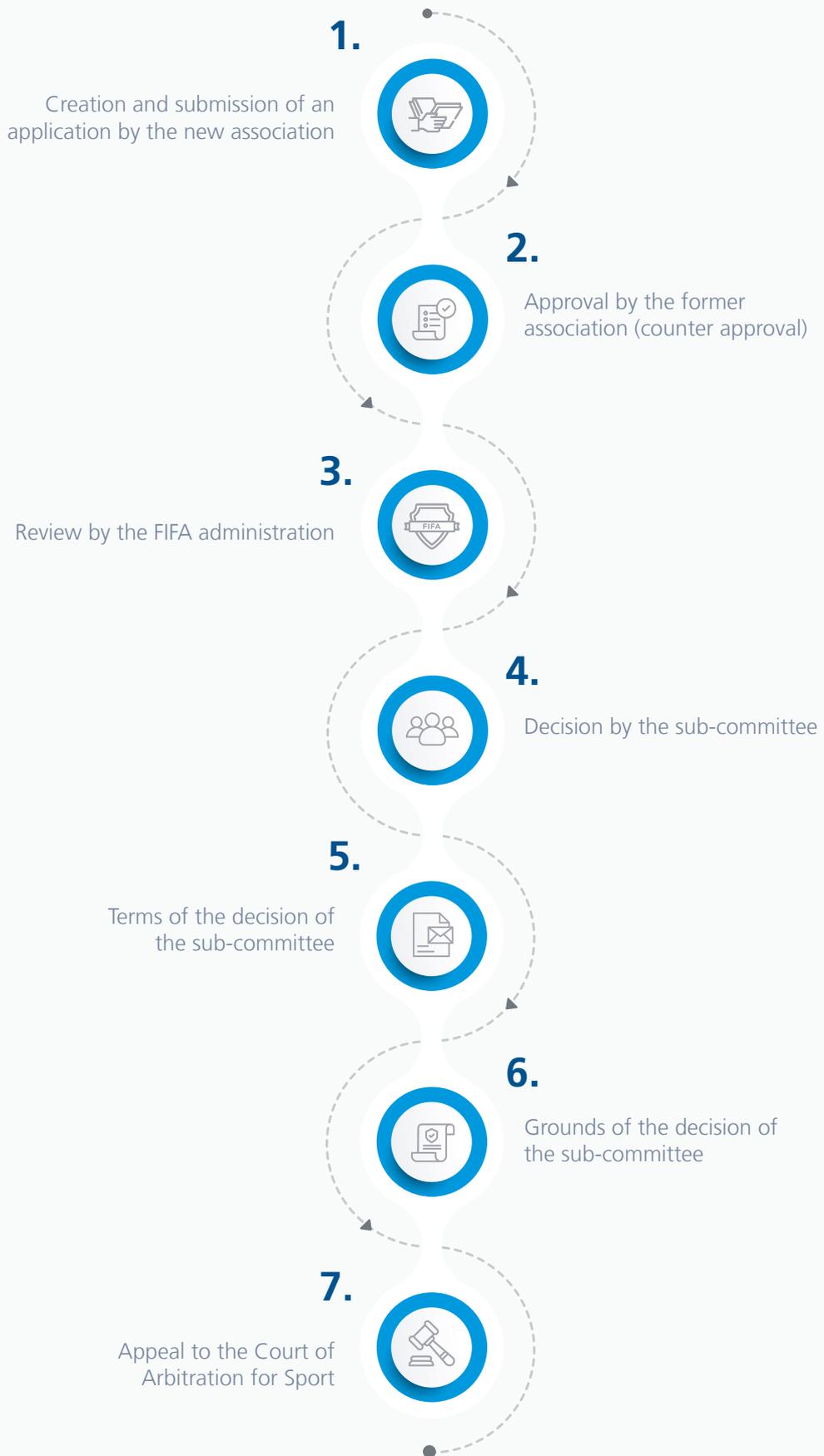
1. Proof of birth must contain the player's date of birth and filiation.
2. Such as government-issued ID card or passport.
3. Official information about the exchange programme (name, purpose, funding, duration, etc.) provided by the organisers of the exchange programme.
4. A copy of the registration form for the relevant exchange programme signed by the minor player and/or his parents.
5. Confirmation, issued and signed by the organisers of the exchange programme or the minor player's parents, that the minor player will return to his/her home country upon completion of the programme.
6. Confirmation, issued and signed by the minor player's academic institution (school/college) in his/her host country, that indicates the dates of the envisaged duration of the relevant studies and includes a detailed timetable of the player's classes.
7. Confirmation of the player's participation in the relevant exchange programme, issued by the minor player's academic institution in his/her home country.
8. Specific details concerning the supervision and accommodation of the minor player during the exchange programme that include, in particular, the exact name and address of the player's host parents.
9. A declaration issued by the football association of the minor player's host country indicating whether the club with which the player wishes to be registered is professional or purely amateur (club without professional team and without legal, financial or de facto links to a professional club), as well as the exact start and end dates of the envisaged registration of the player.
10. A declaration of consent issued by the minor player's host parents consenting to the player's registration with the club of the host country's football association.
11. A declaration of consent issued by the minor player's own parents consenting to the player's registration with the club of the host country's football association.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Exception: Art. 19 pars 3 and 4 of the RSTP</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Player is registering for the first time and has lived continuously for the last five years in the country of intended registration prior to this request"</i></p>	Documents to be submitted				
	Employment contract of the player ¹	Proof of birth (birth certificate) of the player ²	Proof of identity and nationality of the player ³	Proof of residence of the player ⁴	Request for approval of first registration
<p style="text-align: center;">Circumstances</p> <p>Player has lived <u>continuously for the last five years</u> in the country of intended registration prior to the request</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

1. This documentation is required only in the case of the registration of a professional player. In such a case, the contract provided must contain all essential elements (including start and end date, remuneration, signatures, etc.), as well as its annexes.
2. Proof of birth must contain the player's date of birth and filiation.
3. Such as government-issued ID card or passport.
4. Proof of residence must have been recently issued and indicate the player's residence start date at the current address. Alternatively, the association can submit the player's school records duly signed and recently issued by the relevant academic institution, provided that said records clearly indicate that the player has been enrolled without interruption over the last five years at said institution.

MINOR APPLICATION PROCESS



PROCESS

1. Creation and submission of an application by the new association

After having gathered all the mandatory documents from the player, his/her parent(s) and/or the affiliated club, the new association will be responsible for creating the minor application and entering all the relevant information in TMS (cf. art. 5 of Annexe 2 to the RSTP).

For each minor application, the new association must upload the mandatory documents in PDF format (the overview of the relevant documents to be uploaded depending on the various individual circumstances surrounding the international move of a minor player can be found in the Minor Application Guide – cf. pages 5 to 11).

2. Approval by the former association (counter approval)

If a request for approval of an international transfer (except when humanitarian reasons are invoked) is submitted, the former association will be given access to the documents in TMS. It will then have seven days to (i) submit a statement through TMS in relation to the minor application and (ii) either approve or dispute said application (cf. art. 6 pars 1 and 2 of Annexe 2 to the RSTP).

If there is no response from the former association within seven days, the minor application will automatically be transmitted to FIFA via TMS for review and decision.

3. Review by the FIFA administration

Upon receipt by the FIFA administration, the minor application is assigned to a case handler who will be responsible for reviewing the information and the documentation submitted.

During the review, the FIFA administration may request additional information and/or documentation via TMS to the parties involved in order to supplement the minor application initially submitted. The party concerned must submit its response, along with the requested information and/or documentation, via TMS within the deadline given.

Once the review is complete, the FIFA administration makes a proposal which is submitted – together with the minor application – to the member(s) of the sub-committee for decision. It should be noted that the proposal made by the FIFA administration to the member(s) of the sub-committee is merely a (non-binding) recommendation.

4. Decision by the sub-committee

Upon receipt of the minor application, the member(s) of the sub-committee analyse(s) the case and submit(s) its decision in TMS.

5. Terms of the decision of the sub-committee

Once the member(s) of the sub-committee submit(s) the decision in TMS, the terms of the decision will be legally (and automatically) notified to the association(s) concerned via TMS (cf. art. 9 pars 1 and 2 of Annexe 2 to the RSTP).

The terms of the decision will state whether the application is “Accepted”, “Rejected” or “Not admissible”.

If the minor application is accepted, the parties concerned can complete the relevant steps leading to the player’s transfer or first registration.

6. Grounds of the decision of the sub-committee

The association(s) concerned has/have ten days from the date of notification of the terms of the decision to request the grounds of the decision. Failure to do so will result in the decision becoming final and binding (cf. art. 9 par. 2 of Annexe 2 to the RSTP).

If an association requests the grounds of the decision, the motivated decision will be notified to the association(s) in full, written form via TMS.

7. Appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport

According to art. 58 par. 1 of the FIFA Statutes, the sub-committee’s decision may be appealed before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (**CAS**) within 21 days of the notification of the grounds of the decision.

FAQs

INTRODUCTION TO THE FAQs

Over the years, several questions have been raised about the minor application process (cf. art. 19 par. 4 of the RSTP in conjunction with Annexe 2). Some of them, which have been frequently asked, have been compiled in this section in order to provide practical advice while clarifying various aspects and situations that the FIFA administration has come across from the minor applications it has received in the past.

The questions are grouped from general to specific questions relating to each of the exceptions of art. 19 of the RSTP.

Finally, please note that the FAQs are meant merely to serve as guidelines for the administrative process of minor applications in the TMS, but can by no means influence any decision to be taken by the sub-committee.

I. GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. When does an international transfer or a first registration of a minor player occur?

If a minor player has never been registered at an association for the purpose of playing organised football¹ in his/her life and wants to be registered (for the first time) with a club affiliated to a member association, his/her registration constitutes a first registration.

If a minor player is registered at an association and now wants to be registered with a new club affiliated to another association, his/her registration with his/her new club constitutes an international transfer, i.e. said move would be subject to an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) as per art. 9 of the RSTP.

2. Is the first registration of a national minor player subject to the sub-committee's approval?

According to art. 19 par. 3 of the RSTP, the provisions of art. 19 (including those related to the mandatory prior approval of the sub-committee) also apply to any player who (i) has never previously been registered with a club, (ii) is not a national of the country in which he/she wishes to be registered for the first time, and (iii) has not lived continuously for the last five years in said country.

As such, the first registration of a minor player holding the nationality of the country where he/she wishes to be registered is not subject to the sub-committee's approval.

In this regard, it has to be noted that it is the responsibility of the association wishing to register the player to act with due diligence when investigating whether the player was previously registered or not.

3. Is the international transfer of a national minor player subject to the sub-committee's approval?

Where an international transfer of a minor player occurs, i.e. when the issuance of an ITC is needed², the prior approval of the sub-committee is always required regardless of the minor player's nationality, that is to say, also in cases where the minor player is a national of the country where he/she wishes to be registered.

4. What is the situation for a minor player who stopped playing football and subsequently wants to be (re-)registered?

In this particular situation, professionals who end their careers upon expiry of their contracts and amateurs who terminate their activity remain registered at the association of their last club for a period of 30 months (cf. art. 4 of the RSTP).

As such, if a minor player was previously registered at an association, but subsequently stopped playing, the date of his/her last appearance for his previous club in an official match would have to be taken into account in order to determine whether his/her registration with

1. Cf. definition number 6 in the RSTP.
2. Cf. also question 1 supra.

his/her new club constitutes a potential (international) transfer (if his/her last appearance for his/her previous club in an official match occurred less than 30 months prior to the envisaged registration) or a first registration (if his/her last appearance for his previous club in an official match occurred more than 30 months prior to the envisaged registration).

5. What is the standard of proof used by the sub-committee to evaluate whether one of the exceptions is fulfilled?

In accordance with the jurisprudence of the sub-committee, the member association applying for the registration of a foreign minor player on the basis of one of the exceptions of art. 19 par. 2 of the RSTP must prove “beyond reasonable doubt”³ that the requirements of said exception are met.

6. How old can the documents submitted in the context of a minor application be?

As a general rule, the sub-committee considers that, where possible, the documents provided should have been issued recently.

In particular, according to constant jurisprudence of the sub-committee, most of the documents submitted (particularly the relevant proof of residence) should have been issued:

- (i) less than six months prior to the submission of the minor application in TMS by the relevant member association, in case the minor application is submitted on behalf of a purely amateur club (cf. art. 2 of the RSTP); or
- (ii) less than three months prior to the submission of the minor application in TMS by the relevant member association, in case the minor application is submitted on behalf of a professional club.

7. Are the decisions rendered by the sub-committee published?

In accordance with art. 20 of the Rules Governing the Procedures of the Players’ Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber, the FIFA administration may publish decisions issued by the Players’ Status Committee or the Dispute Resolution Chamber. This provision also applies to the decisions rendered by the sub-committee.

Nevertheless, in order to safeguard the privacy and/or safety of the parties involved, while keeping in mind the confidentiality of the information and documentation provided in the context of a minor application (cf. question 8 *infra*), the FIFA administration would only publish anonymised and/or redacted versions of the decisions passed by the sub-committee.

The decisions are published on legal.fifa.com.

3. CAS 2013/A/3140 A. v. Atlético Madrid & RFEF & FIFA, CAS 2015/A/4312 John Kenneth Hilton v. FIFA and CAS 2017/A/5244 Oscar Bobb & Associação Juvenil Escola de Futebol Hernâni Gonçalves v. FIFA.

8. What about data protection regarding the documentation to be provided in TMS within the context of a minor application?

The information provided in TMS and contained in the system is strictly confidential.

This is all the more important for the FIFA administration and the sub-committee regarding documents and information related to minors and/or their parents.

The FIFA administration and the sub-committee understand that said documents may contain privileged and/or sensitive data. Therefore, they are treated with strict confidentiality and are only used within the scope of the minor application. In particular, this information will not, under any circumstance, be disclosed, either in full or in part, to third parties not involved in the decision-making process related to the minor application in question (such third parties may include the authorities of the player's former country and the player's country of origin, in cases where humanitarian reasons are invoked – cf. also answer to question 14 *infra*).

II. ART. 19 PAR. 2 A) OF THE RSTP - GENERAL

9. What reasons – other than work-related reasons – are covered by the scope of this exception?

Although work is recognised as the most common reason leading a family to move from one country to another, the sub-committee recognises other reasons as the basis for a move, including:

- better education of the player and/or his parents;
- better living conditions;
- return to the country of origin;
- family reunion/reunification;
- investment;
- medical reasons; and
- retirement.

The above-mentioned list is obviously not exhaustive and serves merely as a guideline for the type of reasons that have been invoked in the context of minor applications submitted to the sub-committee in the past.

In relation to the above, in order to ease the process, associations may submit an explanatory statement from the player's parents regarding the reason that led them to move to the new country, along with the relevant documentary evidence supporting said statement, such as:

- school certificates indicating the date of the player's enrolment (if the move occurred for educational reasons);
- proof of residence from relatives (if applicable) living in the country where the player's parents moved (if the move occurred for family reunion or if the player's parents return to their country of origin);
- medical certificates in support of the medical reason invoked, if applicable;
- proof of investment made in the new country indicating in particular, the reasons for said investment and the date when it was made.

For the sake of completeness, it needs to be clarified that, regardless of the reason invoked, these applications were only accepted by the sub-committee in situations where it was clear that the player's parents moved to the new country for the reason invoked and not for the player's football career.

10. Under which circumstances would a player moving with only one parent be accepted?

In accordance with the jurisprudence of the sub-committee, the player's move with only one parent has been accepted in the following circumstances:

- (i) the player joins a parent who is already living abroad and who has shared (or full) custody of the player (the consent of the other parent is needed in case of shared custody);
- (ii) the player joins a parent who is already living abroad following the death of the other parent;
- (iii) the player joins a parent who is already living abroad after a national court awards full custody of the player to that parent; and
- (iv) the player moves abroad with a custody-holding parent for reasons not linked to football (the consent of the other parent and/or proof of custody is needed in such cases).

The above-mentioned list is obviously not exhaustive and serves merely as a guideline for the type of reasons that have been invoked before the sub-committee in the past.

11. Under which circumstances would a player moving without his/her parents be accepted?

Within the context of the exception outlined in art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP, the sub-committee has recognised, only in very limited circumstances, the possibility for a player to move to a new country without his/her parents.

In particular, the sub-committee has accepted applications in the following very strict circumstances:

- (i) The player's legal guardianship has been withdrawn from the player's parents by a national court and been awarded to a third person or a relative;
- (ii) The player's legal guardianship has been withdrawn from the custody-holding parent by a national court and been awarded to a third person or a relative; and
- (iii) The player's parents passed away, as a consequence of which the player's legal guardianship was assigned to a third person or a relative.

III. ART. 19 PAR. 2 A) OF THE RSTP – SPECIFIC SITUATIONS

12. Can an application potentially be accepted if the player's parents are moving to the new country because of one of the player's parents' football career?

This question has been raised on many occasions in situations where one of the player's parents (i) is a (professional) football player, a football coach or working within the football industry, and (ii) moved with his/her family to a new country as a result of a professional opportunity.

Although literally speaking, in such cases the move of the player's parents is "linked to football", the sub-committee clarified on several occasions that (i) the provision of art. 19 par. 2 a) is aimed at preventing parents' moves motivated by the player's football career, and (ii) said exception could be applicable to situations where the move was motivated by one of the player's parents' football career.

13. The player's parents have not left their country of residence while the minor player was registered with a club abroad. The player now wants to be registered again with a club in his parents' country of residence. How should such cases be processed?

This situation refers to cases where:

- (i) the minor player was previously registered abroad on the basis of art. 19 par. 2 b), or art. 19 par. 2 d) of the RSTP and now wants to be registered (again) in the country where his/her parents are residing; or
- (ii) the minor player was previously registered abroad on the basis of art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP, while still residing with his/her parents in their country of residence, and now wants to be registered (again) in the country where his/her parents are residing.

According to the strict wording of the RSTP, the aforementioned circumstances do not fall within the scope of the exception of art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP which, as a general rule, requires the relocation of the player's parents. Nevertheless, it is deemed that a situation where the player has always lived or is living again with his/her parents in their country of residence, without them moving, is in line with the *ratio legis* of art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP.

As such, it has been clarified that the member association wishing to register a minor player under these circumstances must submit an application on the basis of the exception outlined in art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP.

In such cases, the member association should provide – in addition to the documentation already listed in the Minor Application Guide (cf. page 5) – an explanatory statement along with evidence that the player's parent(s) has/have been continuously residing in the country where the player wishes now to play while he/she was previously registered abroad. Said documentation would have to be uploaded in TMS under the category "Other".

14. Is the reason “The minor player is moving for humanitarian reasons accompanied by his/her parents” in TMS an additional exception to those listed under art. 19 par. 2 of the RSTP?

No.

The above-mentioned reason is not an additional exception to the general principle outlined in art. 19 par. 1 of the RSTP, but rather a situation that would, in principle, fall under art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP.

However, applications based on the reason “The minor player is moving for humanitarian reasons accompanied by his/her parents” require a specific (and distinct) procedure in order to ensure the appropriate protection of the minor player and his/her family.

As a matter of fact, in accordance with FIFA circular no. 1635, if an association submits an application prior to the international transfer of a minor moving for humanitarian reasons (if he/she was previously registered at the association of his/her nationality or any other association) via TMS, the former association will not have access to the information contained therein, it will not be invited to provide comments and it will not be notified of the sub-committee’s decision.

IV. ART. 19 PAR. 2 B) OF THE RSTP

15. Is the exception applicable to first registrations of players?

Although a first registration of a minor does not strictly speaking fall within the scope of art. 19 par. 2 b) of the RSTP, which requires a transfer within the European Union (**EU**) or the European Economic Area (**EEA**), a player who was not previously registered and has the nationality of an EU or EEA country will also benefit from the principle of free movement within the EU on the basis of said exception.

According to the well-established jurisprudence of the sub-committee, this exception is applicable to first registrations in situations where a minor player who has the nationality of an EU or EEA country wishes to be registered for the first time in an EU/EEA country.⁴

16. How does the exception apply to international transfers?

The international transfer of a player from an EU/EEA country to another EU/EEA country – regardless of the player's nationality – strictly speaking always falls within the scope of art. 19 par. 2 b) of the RSTP, which concerns transfers taking place within the territory of the EU or EEA.

According to the now extensive jurisprudence of the sub-committee, confirmed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (**CAS**),⁵ in the interests of maintaining the principle of equal treatment, the international transfer from outside the EU/EEA to the EU/EEA of a minor player who has the nationality of an EU/EEA member state should be treated the same as a transfer within the EU/EEA of a minor player who is a national of an EU/EEA member state, and, as such, benefit from the provisions in art. 19 par. 2 b) of the RSTP.

For the sake of good order, if the country of a member association has a bilateral agreement on the free movement of workers with the EU and/or the EEA, said member association could potentially also benefit from the exception in art. 19 par. 2 b). The association concerned must provide a copy of the relevant law/the applicable provisions of the law granting it such right.

17. With respect to art. 19 par. 2 b) i. of the RSTP, how can it be demonstrated/established that the football education provided is “in line with the highest national standards”?

In accordance with the relevant jurisprudence of the sub-committee, football education and/or training “in line with the highest national standards” is, as a general rule, established on the basis of the financial investment of each club concerned in training young players.

With regard to men's football, the assessment of whether a club provides an adequate football education and/or training “in line with the highest national standards” is mainly made taking into consideration the association's annual classification of clubs into training categories I to IV (cf. art. 4 of Annexe 4 to the RSTP and FIFA circular no. 1726).

With regard to women's football as well as futsal, as such classification does not exist, a

4. The approval of the sub-committee prior to the first registration of the minor player is, however, only required if the latter does not have the nationality of the EU/EEA country where he/she wishes to be registered for the first time (see also question 2 *supra*).

5. CAS 2012/A/2862 FC Girondins de Bordeaux v. FIFA and CAS 2016/A/4903 Club Atlético Vélez Sarsfield v. The FA & Manchester City & FIFA.

statement from the association concerned confirming that the applicant club is in “line with the highest national standards” of women’s football education / futsal education in that country (along with any relevant documentary evidence in support of said statement) must be provided in lieu of the training category.

18. With respect to art. 19 par. 2 b) i. of the RSTP, is there a minimum amount of football education and/or training to be provided per week by the player’s club?

To date, the sub-committee has not established a minimum requirement.

The relevant assessment is made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account various criteria, such as the team with which the player is training, and the type and frequency of training provided.

19. With respect to art. 19 par. 2 b) ii. of the RSTP, how many hours of academic education are considered sufficient?

According to the well-established jurisprudence of the sub-committee, and as a matter of principle, an academic load of eight hours per week has been considered the minimum requirement in order to allow a player to pursue a career other than football should he/she cease his/her playing career. This assessment is however conducted on a case-by-case basis due to the various existing academic courses and subjects.

20. With respect to art. 19 par. 2 b) ii. of the RSTP, are distance learning and/or online classes accepted by the sub-committee?

Yes.

Distance learning and/or online classes have been accepted by the sub-committee in cases where:

- (i) the academic institution providing distance learning and/or online classes confirms the player’s enrolment in the relevant academic course;
- (ii) said academic course is considered to enable the player to pursue another career should he/she cease to play football;
- (iii) the academic load meets, at the very least, the requirements set out above (cf. question 19 *supra*); and
- (iv) the player’s new club appoints a mentor to the player in charge of ensuring that the latter duly attends his/her distance learning courses/online classes.

Having said that, it needs to be emphasised that, in any event, such situations are analysed on a case-by-case basis by the sub-committee taking into account the nature of the academic course in which the player is enrolled.

21. With respect to art. 19 par. 2 b) ii. of the RSTP, is a minor player still required to go to school in situations where, in the new country where he/she wishes to be registered, minors from 16 to 18 are no longer obliged to follow an academic education?

Yes.

The RSTP establish provisions for the minor player to follow either an academic course at a school, or undertake vocational education and/or training in addition to his/her football training that will allow him/her to pursue a career other than football should he/she cease to play professional football.

In accordance with the jurisprudence of the sub-committee, the member association applying for the registration of the minor player needs to provide evidence that the educational pathway the player is engaged in will allow him/her to pursue another career should he/she cease to play football.

22. With respect to art. 19 par. 2 b) ii. of the RSTP, is a minor player still required to follow an academic course if (i) he/she has already graduated from high school or from the relevant course he/she was following in his/her former country, or (ii) he/she has already completed mandatory education in his/her home country?

In accordance with the spirit of the RSTP and the jurisprudence of the sub-committee, the player will be required to follow *supra* an academic course, vocational education and/or training (cf. questions 19, 20 and 21 *supra*) that would allow him/her to pursue a career other than football.

V. ART. 19 PAR. 2 C) OF THE RSTP

23. What is considered to be “the player’s domicile”?

In accordance with the relevant jurisprudence of the sub-committee, the player’s domicile (or home) is always considered to be the main address where the player’s parent(s) reside.

In other words, any secondary residence of the player’s parent(s) or the place of residence of a relative/third person cannot be considered “the player’s domicile”.

The sub-committee has always held that such interpretation is necessary in order to uphold the *ratio legis* of the provisions concerning the protection of minors.

24. Can the club’s training facilities be considered “the club’s headquarters”?

As a general rule, the distance requirements are measured from and to the club’s headquarters, i.e. where the club has its registered seat.

Having said that, on some occasions, the sub-committee considered that the club’s training facilities or the club’s stadium could be taken into account for the purpose of the relevant calculations, provided that the relevant distance requirements are complied with.

25. How are the distance requirements calculated?

Art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP clearly sets out the following cumulative requirements:

- (i) the distance between the player’s home and the common border must not exceed 50km;
- (ii) similarly, the distance between the club’s headquarters and the common border must not exceed 50km; and
- (iii) the total distance between the player’s home and the club’s headquarters must not be more than 100km.

However, the RSTP do not expressly state how the aforementioned distance should be calculated.

In this regard, and in accordance with the relevant jurisprudence of the sub-committee, the distance requirements are calculated as follows:

- (i) The calculation of the 50km distance between the player’s home and the (closest) common border is based on the straight, point-to-point distance (aka “as the crow flies”) between the two respective locations;
- (ii) The calculation of the 50km distance between the club’s headquarters and the (closest) common border is based on the straight, point-to-point distance (aka “as the crow flies”) between the two respective locations;
- (iii) The calculation of the 100km distance between the player’s home and the club’s headquarters is based on the distance of the “route of travel” between the two respective locations.

Such calculations can be made with various websites (such as Google Maps). The relevant printouts can be provided as supporting evidence.

Please find below a few calculation examples:

Situation 1

The player lives in city Y of country A.

The player wants to be registered with club X located in neighbouring country B.

The player's address in city Y is located 23km (point-to-point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

Club X's seat is located 11km (point-to-point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

The "route travel" between the player's address and the club's seat is 37km.

Assessment

✔ The distance requirements of art. 19 par. 2 c) **are cumulatively met.**

Situation 2

The player lives in city Y of country A.

The player wants to be registered with club X located in the neighbouring country B.

The player's address in city Y is located 54km (point to point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

Club X's seat is located 15km (point to point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

The "route travel" between the player's address and the club's seat is 70km.

Assessment

✘ The distance requirements of art. 19 par. 2 c) **are not cumulatively met** since the player's address is located more than 50 km from the (closest) common border.

- Border
- Road from Player's address to Club x's seat

Such calculations can be made with various websites (such as Google Maps). The relevant printouts can be provided as supporting evidence.

Please find below a few calculation examples:

Situation 3

The player lives in city Y of country A.

The player wants to be registered with club X located in neighbouring country B.

The player's address in city Y is located 23km (point-to-point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

Club X's seat is located 61km (point-to-point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

The "route travel" between the player's address and the club's seat is 90km.

Assessment

The distance requirements of art. 19 par. 2 c) **are not cumulatively met** since the club's seat is located more than 50km from the (closest) common border.

Situation 4

The player lives in city Y of country A.

The player wants to be registered with club X located in neighbouring country B.

The player's address in city Y is located 41km (point-to-point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

Club X's seat is located 48km (point-to-point distance) from the (closest) common border between country A and country B.

The "route travel" between the player's address and the club's seat is 104km.

Assessment

The distance requirements of art. 19 par. 2 c) **are not cumulatively met** since the "route travel" from the player's address to the club's seat is more than 100km.

- Border
- Road from Player's address to Club x's seat

VI. ART. 19 PAR. 2 C) OF THE RSTP – SPECIFIC SITUATIONS

26. The player’s parent(s) moved to a new country for reasons not linked to football and the player wishes to be registered with a club located in a neighbouring country of the new country of residence of his/her parent(s). How should such a case be processed?

The member association wishing to submit an application on the basis of such circumstances must apply the exception outlined in art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP.

In the case of an international transfer, it will have to select in TMS the association where the player was previously registered as the player’s former association (and not the country where the player (now) resides with his/her parent(s).

In such cases, the new association will have to provide – together with the documentation already listed in the Minor Application Guide (cf. page 8) – the relevant proof that the move of one or both of the player’s parents to their new country of residence was not motivated by the player’s football career, namely an explanatory statement from the player’s parent(s) as to the reason for the move, along with documents corroborating the reason invoked. Said documentation would have to be uploaded in TMS under the category “Other”.

In line with the jurisprudence of the sub-committee, and although the member association would request the sub-committee’s approval on the basis of the exception outlined in art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP, the requirements of **both** art. 19 par. 2 c) **and** art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP must be cumulatively fulfilled.

Please find below a practical example:

Situation	Application to be submitted
<p>The player was registered for a club in country A and moved with his/her parents to country B for reasons not linked to football.</p> <p>The player’s parents take up residence in city Z of country B.</p> <p>The player wishes to be registered with a club located in city X of country C.</p> <p>The player and his/her parents’ address in city Z is located less than 50km from the (closest) common border between countries B and C, and less than 100km from the seat of the club where the player intends to be registered in country C. In addition, the club in city X is located less than 50km from the (closest) common border between countries B and C.</p>	<p>The member association of country C will have to request the approval of the sub-committee prior to the request of the International Transfer Certificate of the player from country A, on the basis of the exception outlined in art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP and will have to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the documentation listed in the Minor Application Guide (page 8); and (ii) documentary evidence demonstrating that the player’s parents’ move to country B was not motivated by the player’s football career (to be uploaded under the category “Other”).

VII. ART. 19 PAR. 2 D) OF THE RSTP

27. Is the decision from a national authority granting the player the status of refugee or “protected person” always needed for the minor application?

If the player has been granted refugee status, i.e. he/she has a residence permit unequivocally stating that he/she is a refugee, a decision from the national authorities granting him/her said status is, in principle, not needed. A copy of the player’s residence permit is in this case, in principle, sufficient.

If the player has been granted any status other than refugee status, the member association concerned must provide:

- (i) a copy of the decision taken by the relevant national authorities confirming that the player is “a protected person” that left his/her country in order to protect his/her life or freedom that was at threat in his/her former country or country of origin; or
- (ii) official documentation regarding the player’s immigration status in the new country that would corroborate that he/she is “a protected person” that left his/her country in order to protect his/her life or freedom that was at threat in his/her former country or country of origin (e.g. residence permit, along with a copy of the applicable law on the basis of which the player was granted said permit, etc.).

VIII. ART. 19 PAR. 2 E) OF THE RSTP

28. Does the sub-committee recognise exchange programmes privately organised by the player's family and that does not involve an exchange programme organiser and/or the player's previous school?

The sub-committee has accepted such applications on limited occasions, provided that all other requirements of the exception were also met.

29. Is a minor player obliged to follow an academic education abroad if he/she has already graduated from high school or from the relevant course he/she was following in his/her former country?

In accordance with the wording of art. 19 par. 2 e) of the RSTP, said exception is applicable to a player (i) who is a student, and (ii) who moves without his/her parents to another country temporarily (iii) for academic reasons in order to undertake an exchange programme.

As such, the sub-committee has so far considered that the academic education of the player has to be the primary reason of his/her move. In other words, it needs to be established that the player will be enrolled in an academic course abroad in order to be able to possibly benefit from the exception in question.

IX. ART. 19 PAR. 3 AND 4 A) OF THE RSTP

30. How are the five years of continuous residence calculated?

The sub-committee has always held that the member association applying for the registration of a foreign minor player on the basis of art. 19 par. 3 of the RSTP must prove that the player has lived without interruption in the country of intended registration for the last five years.

The five years are counted (back) from the date on which the minor application is submitted in TMS by the association wishing to register the minor player.

31. What if a minor player has been residing for a considerable amount of time in the new country of intended registration but less than 5 years?

Although a case-by-case assessment is conducted by the sub-committee, the requirements regarding the player's continuous residence in the country of intended registration for the last five years are very strictly applied.

As such, if a member association cannot provide evidence that the player has been continuously residing for the last five years in its country, it must look into the other exceptions and apply on the basis of the one that corresponds most closely to the player's situation (e.g. art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP, if the player's parents also moved to the country of intended registration and if their move was not linked to the player's football career, etc.), along with submitting the relevant documentation listed in the Minor Application Guide for said exception.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

REFERENCE MATERIALS

FIFA Circulars

- no. 1726 - Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players – categorisation of clubs, registration periods and eligibility
- no. 1709 – Amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players
- no. 1635 – International transfer of players
- no. 1587 – International transfer of professional minor players
- no. 1576 – Limited minor exemption

CAS Awards

- CAS 2019/A/6301 Chelsea Football Club Limited v. FIFA
- CAS 2017/A/5244 Oscar Bobb & Associação Juvenil Escola de Futebol Hernâni Gonçalves v. FIFA
- CAS 2016/A/4903 Club Atlético Vélez Sarsfield v. The FA & Manchester City & FIFA
- CAS 2016/A/4805 Atlético Madrid v. FIFA
- CAS 2016/A/4785 Real Madrid v. FIFA
- CAS 2015/A/4312 John Kenneth Hilton v. FIFA
- CAS 2015/A/4178 Zohran Ludovic Bassong & RSC Anderlecht v. FIFA
- CAS 2014/A/3793 Barcelona v. FIFA
- CAS 2014/A/3611 Real Madrid FC v. FIFA
- CAS 2013/A/3140 A. v. Atlético Madrid & RFEF & FIFA
- CAS 2012/A/2862 FC Girondins de Bordeaux v. FIFA
- CAS 2011/A/2494 FC Girondins de Bordeaux v. FIFA
- CAS 2011/A/2354 E. v. FIFA
- CAS 2008/A/1485 FC Midtjylland v. FIFA
- CAS 2005/A/955 & 956 Cadiz & Acuña Caballero v. FIFA

CONTACT

CONTACT

FIFA is fully committed to answering any questions or enquiries concerning the content of this document and/or any regulatory matters regarding the protection of minors that member associations, clubs, players and their families, and football stakeholders around the world may have.

As such, please feel free to contact us at any time at: legal@fifa.org.