



# Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

A stable regulatory framework for clubs and players

June 2020

# **Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (Section IV)**



- The Professional Player
- The Amateur Player
- Rules applicable to both Professional & Amateur Players
- Concluding Articles

# Foreword



*This set of regulations is the result of long hours of discussion and consultation for the past 2 years, mostly in a social dialogue setting between representatives of clubs (employers) and players (employees), brokered by the Malta Football Association.*

*There were matters which Maltese football had found difficult to address along the years. The lack of freedom of movement of professional players even when out of contract was the most conspicuous one. All parties have shown maturity in addressing and embracing change, with all the challenges and opportunities that it will bring with it. This approach will hopefully pave the way for similar progress in other areas of our football governance.*

*This document summarises the main changes to the regulations with references to the actual provisions. It is intended to serve as a handbook for clubs and players alike.*

*All changes come into force on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020, at the start of the 2020/2021 football season.*

*Dr Angelo Chetcuti  
General Secretary*



## Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players Section IV of the Malta FA Regulations

# The Professional Player

# The Professional Player

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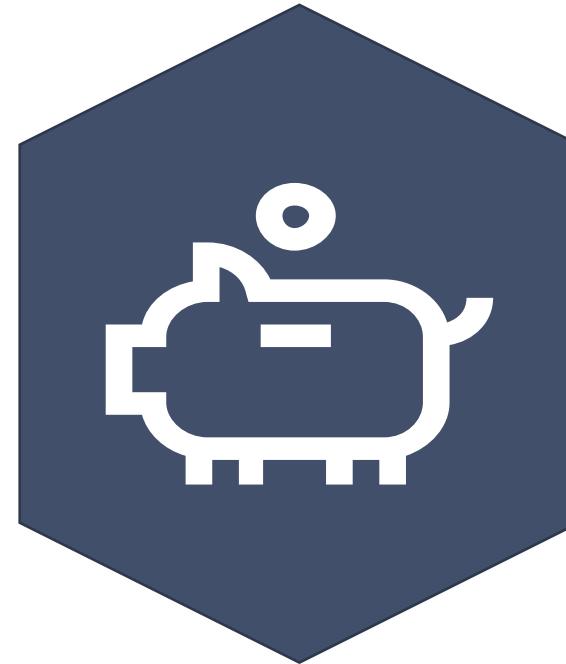


- 1.2 Definition of a Professional Player
- 2.1.3 Registration Process of a Professional Player
- 2.2.3c Third-party Ownership of a Player's Economic Rights
- 2.2.3e Respect of Contract
- 2.2.3f Compensation mechanism for breach of Contract
- 2.3.5 Requisition of Amateur Status
- 2.6.2 Provisions relating to contracts between Professional and Clubs
- 2.9 End of Agreed Period in an Agreement
- 2.10 Removal of the players' Transfer List

# Definition of a Professional Player



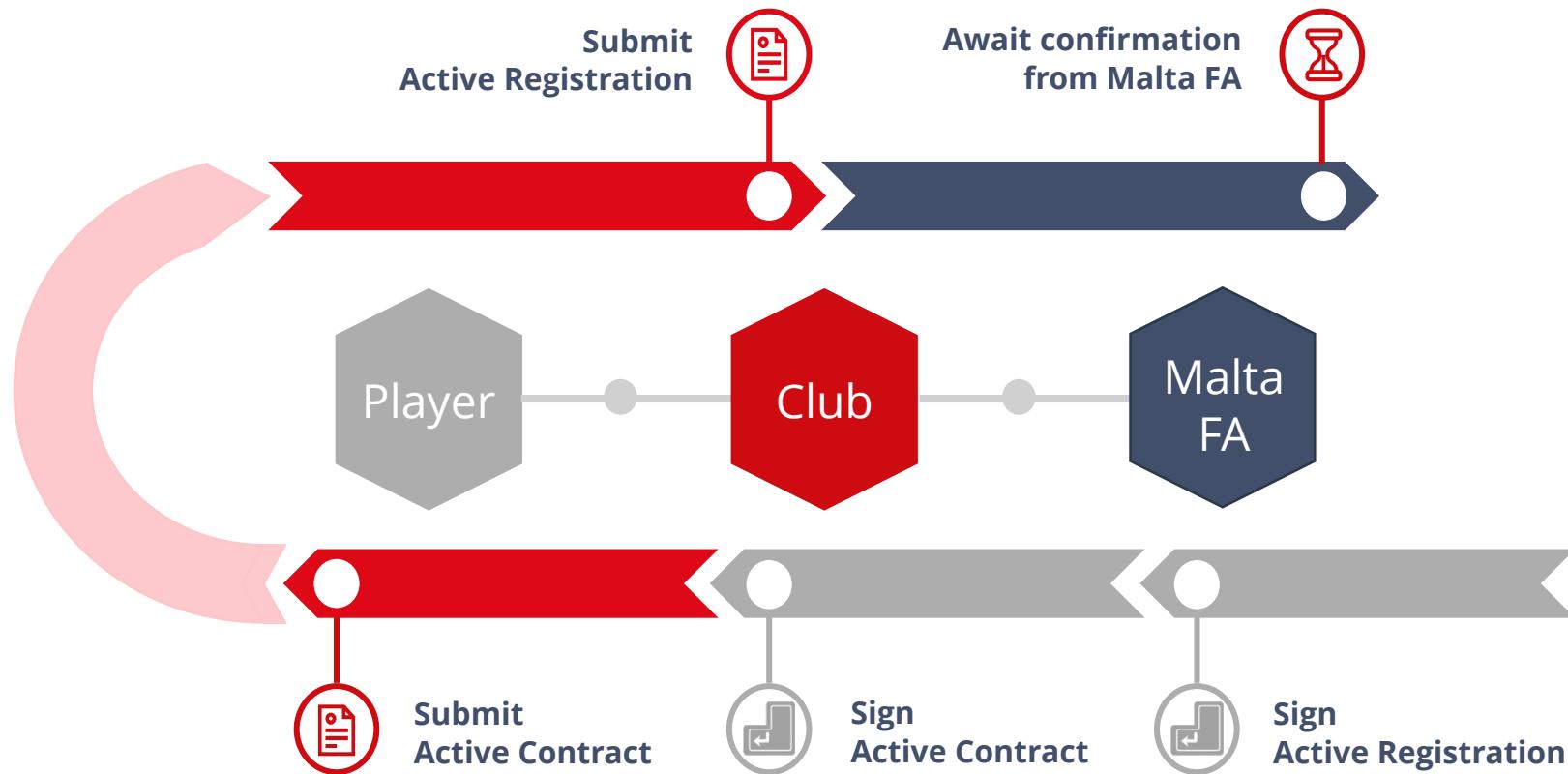
**Has a written  
contract with a club**



**Paid more for the  
footballing activity  
than expenses incurred**

- See Section IV Article 1.2 – *The Status of the Player*

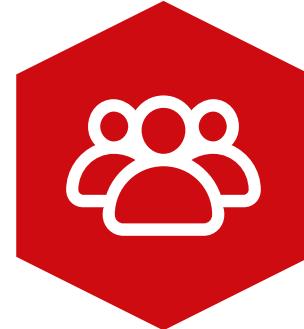
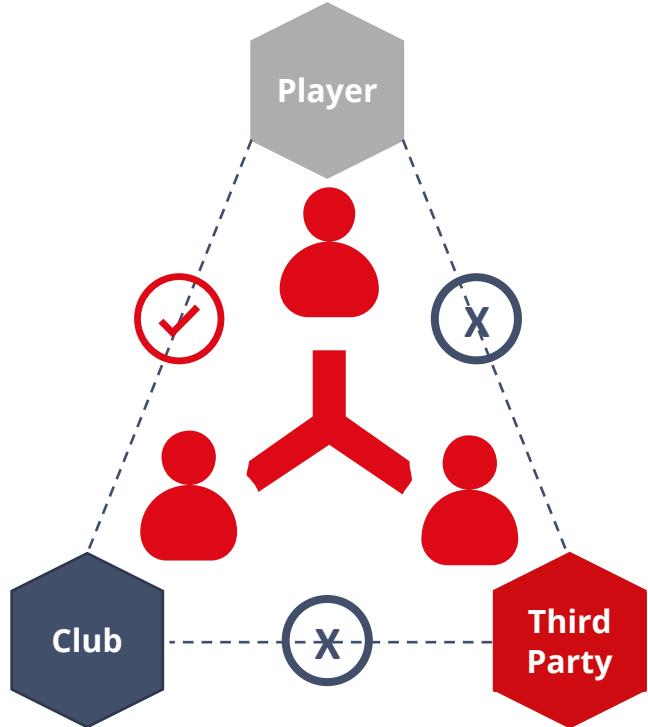
# Registration Process of a Professional Player



**Active Registration and Active Contract need to be submitted together within 14 days of the player's signature**

- See Section IV Article 2.1.3 – *The Registration of Professional Players*
- Players are registered via the online football management platform COMET.

# Third-party Ownership of Players' Economic Rights



No club or player shall enter into an agreement with a third party whereby a third party is being 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.

- See Section IV Article 2.2.3c – *The Professional Player's Contract*

# Respect of Contract



A contract between a professional player and a club may only be terminated:



**On expiry of the term or by mutual agreement\***



**Where there is just cause**



**Any abusive conduct by a party aimed at forcing the counter party to terminate**



\*Previously the player had to revert to the Complaints Board, and if he played with the same club in the following season, his previous contract was renewed automatically. This will be no longer the case

# Respect of Contract



Just cause for termination for overdue payables



**Full-time professional players: if a club fails to pay for 2 months (+ 15 days default notice)**



**Part-time professional players: if a club fails to pay for 4 months (+ 15 days default notice)**

**The Complaints Board shall, at the request of such player, give a free release to such player, who shall be deemed to have a just cause to terminate his contract**



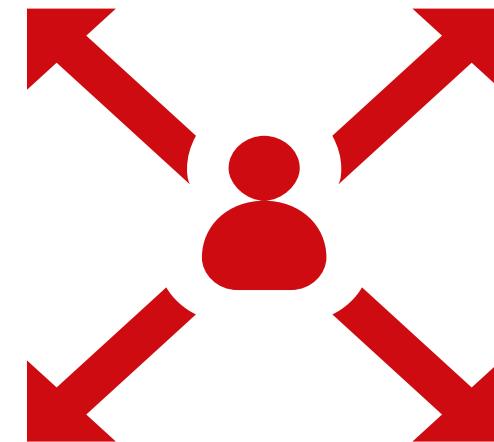
- See Section IV Article 2.2.4.1(h) – *Adherence to dues*

# Respect of Contract

**At the end of the contract, the player is free to obtain his release/move to another club without compensation.**

**The system of parameters to establish a player's value is abolished.**

**When a player is transferred while under contract, clubs are free to agree on the amount of the transfer fee.**



- See Section IV Article 2.2.3e – *The Professional Player's Contract*

Key  
change



# Compensation mechanism for breach of Contract

It is always recommendable that the consequences of breach of contract ought to be agreed upon and specified in the contract between the club and the player. However, where not provided in the contract, the unilateral termination of a contract by a Club or by a player without just cause will now give rise to a defined compensation mechanism based cumulatively on 3 components.



Remaining part of **contract**



**Transfer fee** incurred, if any, to sign the player



**Training compensation** if the player grew with the club

Key  
change



- See Section IV Article 2.2.3f – *The Professional Player's Contract*

# Compensation mechanism for breach of contract by player



**Example:** Contract of €1,000 monthly for 4 seasons.

Player joined club at 18 years of age for a transfer fee of €10,000.

Compensation for breach in end February of Season 2 of the contract:

1. **Remaining part of contract:** Season 2 (remainder) = €1,000 x 3 months = €3,000

Full salary for first season; half salary  
for the remainder of the contract

Season 3 & 4 = €500 x 20 months = €10,000

2. **Transfer fee incurred (amortised):**

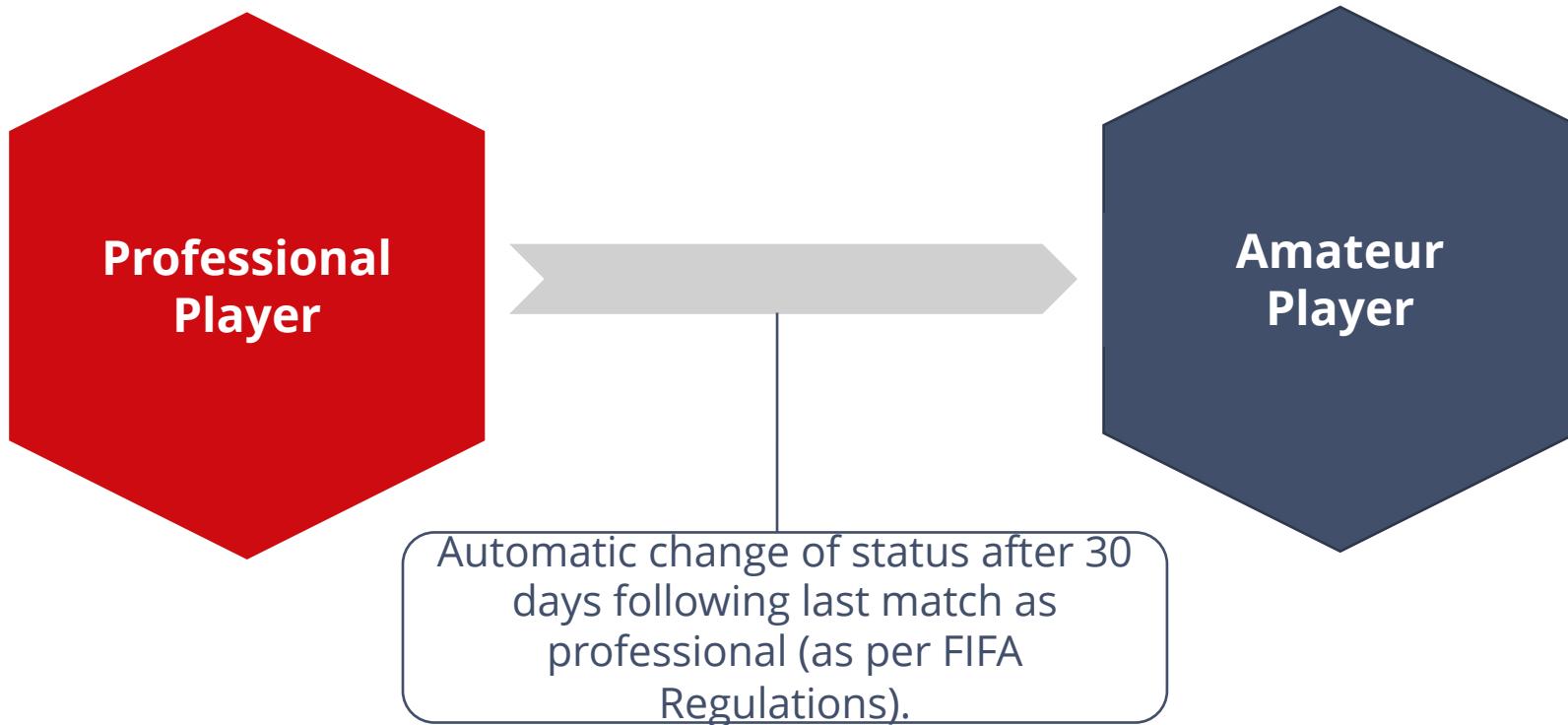
€10,000 ÷ 4 seasons X remaining part of contract (2 seasons, 3 months) = €5,625

3. **Training compensation X 1.5 seasons (18-19.5 years old).**

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- See Section IV Article 2.2.3f – *The Professional Player's Contract*

# Reacquisition of Amateur Status



- See Section IV Article 2.3.5 – *Change of Status of the Professional Player*

# Special Provisions relating to contracts between Professionals and Clubs

A professional player shall only be free to conclude a contract with another club if:



Contract with present club has expired



Contract due to expire within 6 months



A club intending to conclude a contract with a professional must inform the player's current club in writing and file the contract with the Association

Key change



- See Section IV Article 2.6.2 – *A Professional Player may not be interfered with*

# End of Agreed Period in an Agreement



When the period of engagement of a professional player comes to an end...



Player has  
automatic right  
to move



Club needs to  
renew the  
contract of the  
player



No parameters  
when player is  
out of contract



- See Section IV Article 2.9.1 – *End of Agreed Period in an Agreement*

# Removal of the Transfer List



**Players' Transfer List**  
Previously a club which no longer required the services of a professional player, could put such player on the Players' Transfer List

**Accessibility**  
The Players' Transfer List used to be posted on the Malta FA notice-board and its web-portal

**Club had to inform the Association**  
A club had to inform the Association in order for their player to be listed on the Players' Transfer List

**Reason for removal**  
The concept of the Transfer List has become obsolete

# The Amateur Player



# The Amateur Player

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- 3.1 The Registration of an Amateur Player with Member Clubs
- 3.4.1 For which clubs/teams an Amateur Player may play
- 3.12 Compensation payable to a club in respect of an Amateur player
- 3.19 Reacquisition of Amateur Status
- 3.20 The Amateur Players' List

# The Registration of an Amateur Player



## 35+ Years

Registration remains yearly (as is)



## 18+ Years

Players in their 2<sup>nd</sup> season of obligatory period are free to move



## 15-18 Years

Nursery compensation, previously payable if the player moved clubs, has been removed



## 12-15 Years

Nursery compensation, previously payable if the player moved clubs, has been removed

12-15 years: at the end of season 2019/20, players born 2005 are entitled to move  
15-18 years: at the end of season 2019/20, players born 2001 are entitled to move  
(i.e. No change to current regulations, except that no compensation will be involved)



**Key change**

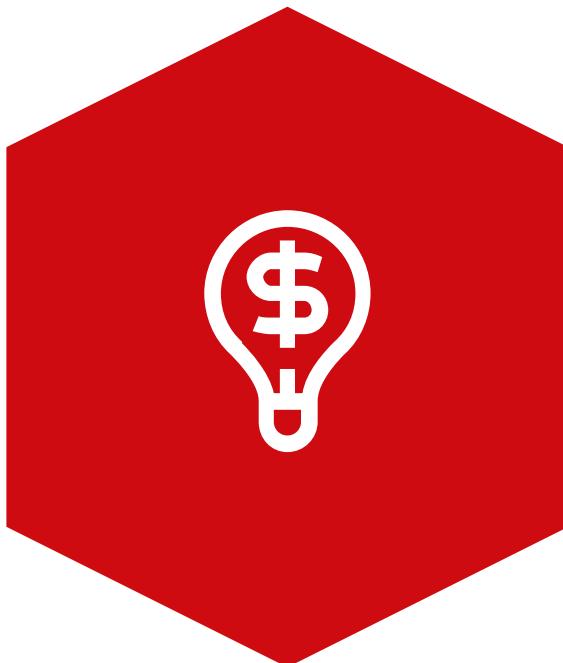


- See Section IV Article 3.1.4  
*The Registration of an Amateur Player with Member Clubs*

# The Registration of an Amateur Player with Member Clubs (18+)



At the end of the 2 year obligatory period of service, player has the right to be released...



No financial compensation is paid if player registers for another club (excluding training compensation if player is given his first professional contract)



Player has to request release in writing by sending an email to the club's official address and copying in [registrations@mfa.com.mt](mailto:registrations@mfa.com.mt) until 31<sup>st</sup> July.



Player who moves abroad will be free to join any club upon return to Malta at any time

- See Section IV Article 3.1.5 – *The Registration of an Amateur Player with Member Clubs*



# Example: Registration lifetime (18+) - as of 9th June 2020

Organisation	Type	Discipline	Parent	Cat	Date from	Date to	Registration type	Level	Status	Termination reason	
SWIEQI UNITED FC	FC	Football	Malta Football Association		14.07.2017		Registration	Amateur	CONFIRMED		

1<sup>ST</sup> SEASON  
2017/2018



2<sup>ND</sup> SEASON  
2018/2019\*



3<sup>RD</sup> SEASON  
2019/2020



4<sup>TH</sup> SEASON  
2020/2021\*



\*Player is entitled to be released at the end of the season

- See Section IV Article 3.1.4 – *The Registration of an Amateur Player with Member Clubs*

# Example: Lifetime of a registration made in January 2020



Organisation	Type	Discipline	Parent	Cat	Date from	Date to	Registration type	Level	Status
BIRZEBBUGA ST. PETER'S FC	FC	Football	Malta Football Association		08.01.2020		Registration	Amateur	CONFIRMED

1<sup>ST</sup> SEASON  
2019/2020



2<sup>ND</sup> SEASON  
2020/2021\*



3<sup>RD</sup> SEASON  
2021/2022



4<sup>TH</sup> SEASON  
2022/2023\*



\*Player is entitled to be released at the end of the season

- See Section IV Article 3.1.4 – *The Registration of an Amateur Player with Member Clubs*

# Example: Registration lifetime - as of 9th June 2020



Organisation	Type	Discipline	Parent	Cat	Date from	Date to	Registration type	Level	Status
QRENDI FC	FC	Football	Malta Football Association		30.01.2015		Registration	Amateur	CONFIRMED

1<sup>ST</sup> SEASON  
2014/2015

2<sup>ND</sup> SEASON  
2015/2016\*

3<sup>RD</sup> SEASON  
2016/2017

4<sup>TH</sup> SEASON  
2017/2018\*

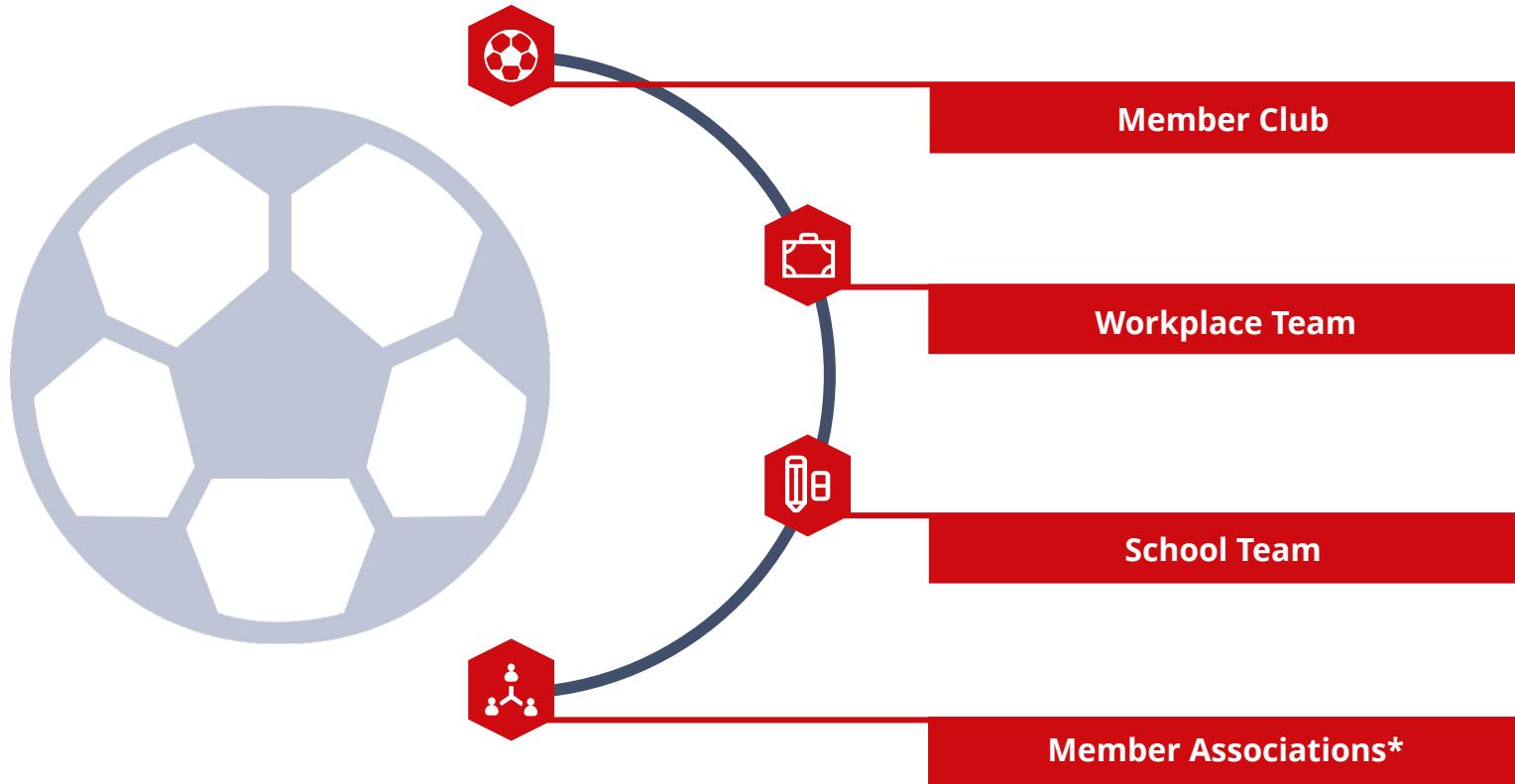
5<sup>TH</sup> SEASON  
2018/2019

6<sup>TH</sup> SEASON  
2019/2020\*

7<sup>TH</sup> SEASON  
2020/2021



# Clubs/Teams an Amateur Player may play for



\*Provided that player has not been prohibited by his club

- See Section IV Article 3.4.1 – *For which Clubs/Teams an Amateur player may play*

# The Amateur Players' List (formerly 'Retained List')

**50 Players**

**50 Players**

**15 Players**

**35 Players**

Age 12-15  
MALE

Age 16-18  
MALE

Age 12-15  
FEMALE

Age 16-18  
FEMALE

**TOTAL - 100 Players**

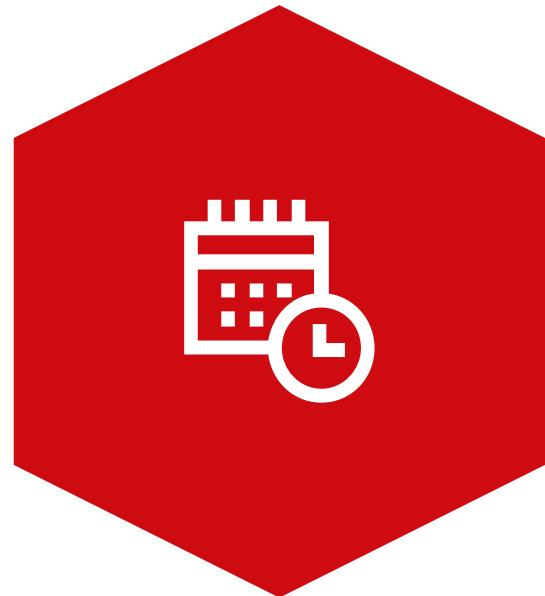
**TOTAL - 50 Players**

**Key change**



- See Section IV Article 3.20.2 – *The Amateur Players' List*

# The Amateur Players' List (formerly 'Retained List')



List to be submitted by end October and available upon request

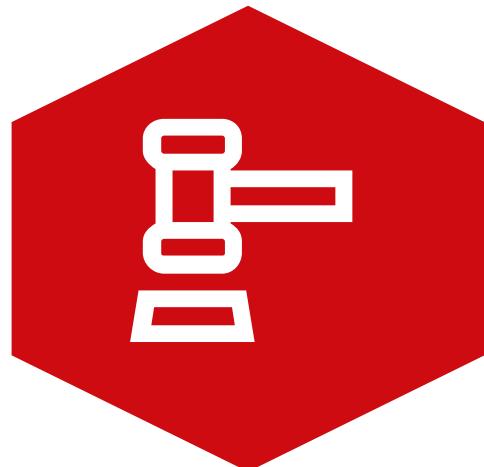


Loaned out players to be listed on retained list

- See Section IV Article 3.20.4 - *The Amateur Players' List*

# Training compensation

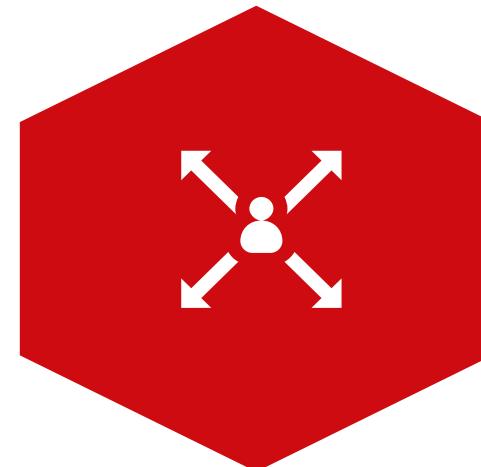
When a player is given his first professional contract, previous clubs which contributed to his development (between age 12 and 21) are to be compensated.



**Compensation will now be paid upon registration as professional (previously clubs had to monitor their former players and claim their respective amount).**



**The registering club may opt to deposit the amount of training compensation with the Association if there is no agreement with the player's previous club(s)**



**The Association shall within 45 days distribute the training compensation to the player's former club(s) entitled to it.**

**Key change**



- See Section IV Article – 3.16 *Training Compensation* and Annex II – *Training Compensation*

# Training Compensation



**Reduction of training compensation due when a player registers as a professional player by circa 25% as of 2020/21**

		Club entitled to Training Compensation		
Club paying training compensation	Premier Division	Premier Division	Challenge League*	National Amateur League*
	Premier Division	€1,500	€1,500	€2,250
	Challenge League*	€750	€1,000	€1,250

**Example:**

If an amateur player of a National Amateur League club signs as a professional for a Challenge League club after two seasons with the National Amateur League club, then the Challenge League club needs to pay  $\text{€}1,250 \times 2 = \text{€}2,500$

\*Subject to approval by the MFA AGM 2020

- See Section IV Annex II – *Training Compensation*

# Training Compensation (Further Examples)



## Challenge League\* to Premier League

If an amateur player of a Challenge League club signs as a professional for a Premier League club after two seasons with the Challenge League club, then the Premier League club needs to pay  $\text{€}1,500 \times 2 = \text{€}3,000$

## National Amateur League\* to Premier League

If an amateur player of a National Amateur League club signs as a professional for a Premier League club after four seasons with the National Amateur League club, then the Premier League club needs to pay  $\text{€}2,250 \times 4 = \text{€}9,000$

## Premier League to Challenge League\*

If an amateur player of a Premier League club signs as a professional for a Challenge League club after three seasons with the Premier League club, then the Challenge League club needs to pay  $\text{€}750 \times 3 = \text{€}2,250$

\*Subject to approval by the MFA AGM 2020

- See Section IV Annex II – *Training Compensation*

An aerial photograph of a large, green football pitch. The sky above is filled with white, fluffy clouds. In the background, there are rolling hills and some buildings. A bright white hexagonal graphic shape is positioned in the center of the field, containing the following text.

**Rules applicable  
to both  
professional and  
amateur players**

# **Rules applicable to both Professional and Amateur Players**



## **4.4 Transfer Windows**

Amateur players coming from abroad may only be registered during the official transfer windows of professional players.

### **4.14.3 Financial claims**

## **5.1 Questions relating to the registration of players**

### **Annex II Training Compensation**

# Fees applicable to disputes before the Complaints Board



# Questions related to Registration of Players



- Competence to decide on questions related to the registration of players given to the Complaints Board (previously Executive Committee)

The Complaints Board is composed of members nominated equally by clubs and players and an independent Chairman.

- Professional players who end their careers upon expiry of their contracts and amateurs who terminate their activity shall remain registered with their last club for a period of 30 months. This period begins on the day the player made his last appearance of the club in an official match.

This is in line with FIFA regulations.

- See Section IV Article 5.1 – *Questions relating to the registration of players*
- See Section IV Article 5.3 - *Automatic deregistration of players*

Key  
change





**Regulations:** [www.mfa.com.mt](http://www.mfa.com.mt)

**Resources:** [info.mfa.com.mt](http://info.mfa.com.mt)

**Queries:** [generalsecretary@mfa.com.mt](mailto:generalsecretary@mfa.com.mt)

The Social Dialogue Committee 2019/20 was composed as follows:

Chairman: Dr Angelo Chetcuti (General Secretary)

Deputy Chairman: Dr Matthew Paris (Vice-President)

Member Club' representatives: Mr Mario Debono; Mr Jesmond Abela; Dr Cory Greenland; Dr Peter Fenech; Mr Paul Zammit

Players' representatives: Dr Anthony Galea; Mr Carlo Mamo; Mr Konrad Sultana

Admin: Mr Kurt Formosa; Mr Louis Micallef