



# Football Australia Circular

Circular No. 26-02

1 October 2026

**TO THE MEMBERS OF FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA**

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION, STATUS AND TRANSFER REGULATIONS**

The purpose of this Circular is to provide an update regarding amendments to the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations (**NRSTRs**).

The NRSTRs regulate the conduct of football competitions and matches in Australia. In particular, the NRSTRs regulate the status, eligibility, registration, contracting, payments and loan and transfer of players who enter into, participate in, and leave football in Australia.

Capitalised terms used in this Circular have the meaning prescribed to them in the NRSTRs unless the context requires otherwise.

Football Australia has made some amendments to the NRSTRs to strengthen accountability across the football ecosystem in relation to registration fees and to provide greater clarity regarding participant registration requirements. Additional amendments have been made to the Australian Championship Player Roster Rules set out in Schedule 4 to the NRSTRs.

The key amendments align the NRSTRs with the current governance environment and enhanced Play Football functionality, including requirements for clubs to disclose their portion of a player's registration fee in Play Football. The amendments also clarify that a participant must first register through Play Football before completing any subsequent registration process.

The amendments to the Australian Championship Player Roster Rules relate to expanded player rosters and roster compliance mechanisms for the 2026 Australian Championship season.

All amendments to the NRSTRs are detailed in **Annexure 1** to this Circular.

A copy of the revised NRSTRs is available [here](#).

The information contained in this Circular is provided as a guide only. To the extent there is any inconsistency between the contents of this Circular and the provisions of the NRSTRs, the provisions of the NRSTRs prevail.

If you have any queries in relation to the updated NRSTRs, please contact Football Australia's Regulatory team at: [regulatory@footballaustralia.com.au](mailto:regulatory@footballaustralia.com.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Kugeler".

**Martin Kugeler**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Football Australia

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## Annexure 1

| Reference                           | Marked-up Amendments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <b>Registration-related Changes</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Article 1.1 Definition of 'Player'  | <b>Player</b> means any person who is, from time to time, registered to play at a Club, registered to participate in a MiniRoos program, registered to participate in any other football program <u>or type</u> delivered by FA, a Member Federation, a District Association or a Club, or selected as a playing member of a National Team, regardless of gender, age or status as an Amateur or Professional.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Article 6.2                         | <b>6.2 Registration Mandatory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) A person must be registered with FA before they can play for a Club, participate in a MiniRoos program, or participate in any other football program <u>or type</u> delivered by FA, a Member Federation, a District Association or a Club. By the act of registration, a Player agrees to abide by the FA Statutes and, if applicable, the FIFA Statutes and the AFC Statutes.</li> <li>(b) Subject to article 6.13(b), a Club must not play any person in any Match unless that person is registered with FA as a Player with that Club in accordance with this article 6.</li> <li>(c) A Member Federation, a District Association or a Club must not allow any person to participate in a MiniRoos program, or participate in any other football program <u>or type</u> that it delivers, unless that person is registered with FA as a Player in the relevant program in accordance with this article 6.</li> </ul>                                                          |
| Article 6.6                         | <b>6.6 Commencement and Duration of a Player's Registration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Subject to article 6.6(b), the registration of an Amateur or a Professional <u>only becomes</u> <del>is</del> effective from the date the Player is <del>made active</del> <u>approved</u> by <del>their</del> <u>the relevant</u> Club, <u>District Association, Member Federation, Competition Administrator, or FA (as the case may be)</u> within the National Online Registration System and continues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) in the case of an Amateur, for a Season and, unless it is terminated earlier in accordance with article 12, ends on the later of the end of that Season or the time as specified in the Competition Rules; or</li> <li>(ii) in the case of a Professional, ends in accordance with the Player's Professional Player Contract.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) A Player may not be <del>made 'active'</del> <u>approved</u> in the National Online Registration System unless and until:</li> </ul> |

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|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the application to register that Player complies with the requirements of these Regulations;</li> <li>(ii) that Player has been assigned a FIFA ID in the National Online Registration System; and</li> <li>(iii) where that Player was previously registered with a Club, a National Transfer has been created in <u>the</u> and captured by <u>the</u> National DTMS.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Article 6.15 | <p><b>6.15 Registration Fees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) A Club may charge a reasonable fee to Players provided that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) it discloses in the National Online Registration System all fees, levies and charges imposed by the Club, <del>its District Association and/or Member Federation, and the national registration fee payable to FA</del>; and</li> <li>(ii) the fee reflects actual expenses related to the Player's participation in a Competition.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) The onus is on the <del>party-Club</del> imposing the fee, levy or charge to satisfy <u>the Club's District Association, Member Federation and/or FA</u> that it is reasonable.</li> </ul> |
| Article 6.17 | <p><b><u>6.17 Use of National Online Registration System</u></b></p> <p><u>Where a Player is required under this article 6 to register via the National Online Registration System, that Player's registration must be effected through the National Online Registration System as the mandatory first point of entry. All FA fees, levies and charges associated with that registration, and any subsequent amendment, update or management of the Player's registration record, must be processed via the National Online Registration System unless otherwise approved by FA in its sole and absolute discretion.</u></p>                                                                                                                    |

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| Article 16.3                                                     | <p><b><u>16.3 Use of National Online Registration System</u></b></p> <p><u>Where an Official is required under this article 16 to register via the National Online Registration System, that Official's registration must be effected through the National Online Registration System as the mandatory first point of entry. All FA fees, levies and charges associated with that registration, and any subsequent amendment, update or management of the Official's registration record, must be processed via the National Online Registration System unless otherwise approved by FA in its sole and absolute discretion.</u></p> |
| Article 21(a)                                                    | <p><b>21 Enforcement and Transitional Measures</b></p> <p>(a) These Regulations come into force from <del>4-August</del> <u>22 September</u> 2026 and operate until they are amended or replaced.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Amendments to Australian Championship Player Roster Rules</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Schedule 4, item 1.1<br>Definition of 'AFC Visa Player'          | <p><b><i>AFC Visa Player</i></b> means any Player who is not an Australian Player and who holds a citizenship from an AFC <del>National-member</del> Association.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Schedule 4, item 1.1<br>Definition of 'OFC Visa Player'          | <p><b><i>OFC Visa Player</i></b> means any Player who is not an Australian Player and who holds a citizenship from an OFC <del>National-member</del> Association.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Schedule 4, item 1.1<br>Definition of 'Visa Player'              | <p><b><i>Visa Player</i></b> means any Player who is not an Australian Player and includes (for the avoidance of doubt) an AFC Visa Player and an OFC Visa Player.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Schedule 4, item 1.2(c)                                          | <p><u>(c) Where a Club's Australian Championship Player Roster falls below the minimum roster size prescribed in item 1.2(e)(i), or otherwise ceases to comply with one or more of the Australian Championship Player Roster Rules prescribed in item 1.2(e), FA may:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>(i) direct the Club to rectify the non-compliance within a specified period; and/or</u></li> <li><u>(ii) impose sanctions on the Club in accordance with these Regulations.</u></li> </ul>                                                                                                                   |
| Schedule 4, item 1.2(d)                                          | <p><u>(d) Where FA directs a Club to rectify any non-compliance pursuant to item 1.2(c)(i), any Player to be added to the Club's Australian Championship Player Roster for the purpose of rectifying that non-compliance must:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>(i) have been registered with the Club at the conclusion of the immediately preceding NPL season;</u></li> <li><u>(ii) satisfy all applicable eligibility and registration requirements under these Regulations and the NRSTRs; and</u></li> </ul>                                                                                                  |

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|                         | <u>(iii)</u> satisfy the Australian Championship Player Roster Rule in respect of which non-compliance arose.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Schedule 4, item 1.2(e) | <p>(e) At all times during an Australian Championship Season, a Club's Australian Championship Player Roster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) must include a minimum of <u>twenty</u> (20) Australian Championship Players;</li> <li>(ii) must not exceed the maximum of <u>twenty three</u> (23) Australian Championship Players, <u>provided that a Club may register up to three (3) additional Australian Championship Players above that limit where each such additional Player is an U20 Youth Player. For the avoidance of doubt, a Club's Australian Championship Player Roster must not exceed twenty-six (26) Australian Championship Players in total;</u></li> <li>(iii) must include a minimum of two (2) goalkeepers (note item <u>1.2(e)(vii)</u><del>1.2(e)(vii)</del> below);</li> <li>(iv) must include a minimum of three (3) Homegrown Players at any one time;</li> <li>(v) must include a minimum of <del>six</del><u>five</u> (5)<del>(6)</del> U23 Youth Players of which at least <del>three</del><u>two</u> (2)<del>(3)</del> must be U20 Youth Players. Age eligible substitute goalkeepers and Visa Players will not to be counted toward meeting these minimum requirements;</li> <li><u>(vi)</u> may include a maximum of <del>two</del><u>three</u> (2)<del>3</del> outfield Visa Players <u>provided that:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>(A)</u> no more than two (2) outfield Visa Players may be Visa Players generally; and</li> <li><del>(A)(B)</del> <u>where a Club includes a third outfield Visa Player, that Player</u> <del>– comprising players classified as AFC Visa Players, OFC Visa Players, or Visa Players, in addition to one (1) further outfield Visa Player who must be either an AFC Visa Player or an OFC Visa Player;</del></li> </ul> </li> <li><del>(vi)(vii)</del> must not include any goalkeepers who are not classified as Australian Players, unless the goalkeeper is party to a pre-existing multi-year Professional Player Contract – executed and in effect prior to 19 September 2024 – with the Club for the 2026 season; and</li> <li><del>(vii)(viii)</del> must be utilised to include minimum of sixteen (16) Australian Championship Players and a maximum of eighteen (18) Australian Championship Players on the Club's Australian Championship Match Day Team Sheet.</li> </ul> |
| Schedule 4, item 1.2(f) | <p><u>(f)</u> In addition to the requirements in <b>item 1.2(e)</b><del>1.2(e)</del> above, an Australian Championship Match Day Team Sheet must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>(i)</u> a minimum of three (3) U23 Youth Players, of which at least one (1) must be an U20 Youth Player; <u>and</u></li> <li><del>(i)(ii)</del> <u>a minimum of two (2) goalkeepers.</u></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |