



QFA Regulations on the Status & Transfer of Players 2021/2022

Definitions

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

1. **“QFA”** means the Qatar Football Association.
2. **“FIFA”** means the Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
3. **“AFC”** means the Asian Football Confederation.
4. **“CAS”** The Court of Arbitration for Sport. Its headquarters is in Lausanne (Switzerland) and acknowledged by FIFA
5. **“QSAT”** Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal.
6. **“Financial Control Committee”** It is the authority concerned with the necessary controls to ensure the good financial performance of sports clubs and focus on protecting the creditor.
7. **“Competitions”** means the official competitions organized by QFA and QSLM for first, reserve and age category teams as per the relevant competitions regulations issued from time to time.
8. **“FIFA RSTP”** means the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players issued from time to time.
9. **“First division teams”** means the first team of a member club that has the right to participate in the Qatar Stars League.
10. **“Foreign player”** means a player who has not got the Qatari nationality and as per the relevant regulations and requirements is not registered as resident or local player.
11. **“Former association”** means the association to which the former club is affiliated.
12. **“Former club”** means the club that the player is leaving.
13. **“Intermediary:** a natural person who, for a fee or free of charge, represents players and/or clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding an employment contract or represents clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding a transfer agreement. An Intermediary can be either a Local or Foreign Intermediary in accordance with the QFA Regulations on working with Intermediaries.
14. **“Intermediary Entity”:** an agency, company or any other business organization performing Intermediaries’ activities.
15. **“Local player”** means a player with Qatari nationality and who is registered as such.

16. **“Resident player”** means a player who under these Regulations and as per the relevant requirements set up by the QFA is not considered as Foreign Player and who is registered as such.
17. **“Match list”** means the list including the players starting a match as well as the substitutes regarding all matches of the Competitions.
18. **“Member club”** means a football club, a football club company or multi sports club in membership of the QFA.
19. **“Minor”** means a player who has not yet reached the age of 18.
20. **“New association”** means the association to which the new club is affiliated.
21. **“New club”** means the club that the player is joining.
22. **“Official match”** means a match played within the framework of organised football, such as national league championships, national cups and international championship for clubs, but not including friendly and trial matches.
23. **“Actual playing time”** means the player’s participation at any time of the game (fielded-substitute).
24. **“Organised football”** means association football organized under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations and the associations, or authorized by them.
25. **“Protected period”** means a period of three entire seasons or three years, whichever comes first, following the entry into force of a contract, where such contract is concluded prior to the 28th birthday of the professional, or two entire seasons or two years, whichever comes first, following the entry into force of a contract, where such contract is concluded after the 28th birthday of the professional.
26. **“U23 Qatargas League”** means the league organized by QFA which combines the first teams aged under 23 years of old.
27. **“QNB STARS LEAGUE”** means the QNB Stars League.
28. **“QSLM”** means the Qatar Stars League Management.
29. **“Registration/Transfer period”** means a period fixed by the QFA in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of these Regulations.
30. **“Regulations”** means the present QFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
31. **“Sports Season”** for the purpose of these Regulations means the period starting on 1 July and ending on 30 June of the following year.

32. **“Second Division League”** the league competition organized by the QFA for the participation of the QFA second division clubs.
33. **“Annual Circular”** means the circular issued by the QFA at the commencement of the sports season and related to the number of players and the registration format.
34. **“Second division team”** means the first team of a member club with the right to participate in the second division competitions.
35. **“Transfer Matching System (TMS)”** means a web-based data information system of FIFA with the primary objective of simplifying the process of international player transfers as well as improving transparency and the flow of information.
36. **“Under 23 Team”** means the club’s under 23 team entitled to participate in the QNB Stars League with the senior team.

SECTION ONE: GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1 (SCOPE)

1. These Regulations establish binding rules concerning the status of football players, their eligibility to participate in organized football under the auspices of the QFA/QSLM or authorized by the QFA, their transfer between member clubs and the settlement of disputes between member clubs, players and/or coaches registered and/or formerly registered with the QFA when the dispute was brought up. These Regulations also foresee a system to reward the member clubs investing in the training and education of young players.
2. These Regulations are, in particular, binding for all member clubs as well as their football players, coaches and other administrative/technical staff registered at the QFA.

ARTICLE 2 (STATUS OF PLAYERS: AMATEURS AND PROFESSIONALS)

1. The players participating in the competitions are either professionals or amateurs.
2. A professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more than the expenses he effectively incurs in return for his footballing activity. All other players are considered as amateurs.

ARTICLE 3 (REACQUISITION OF AMATEUR STATUS)

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

ARTICLE 4 (RETIREMENT/TERMINATION OF ACTIVITY)

1. Professionals who end their careers upon expiry of their contracts and amateurs who terminate their activity shall remain registered at the QFA for their last member club for a period of 30 months.
2. This period begins on the day the player made his last appearance for the member club in an official match.

SECTION TWO: REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS, ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF/INCLUSION OF PLAYERS IN MATCH LIST AND ELIGIBILITY

ARTICLE 5 (REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS)

1. A player must be registered at the QFA to play for a member club as either a professional or an amateur in accordance with these Regulations.
2. Only registered players are eligible to participate in organised football competitions by the QFA or QSLM.
3. By the act of registering, a player agrees to abide by the statutes, regulations, decisions, awards and circular letters of FIFA, AFC and QFA, the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal (if established) and, where applicable, the QSLM.
4. A player may only be registered with one club at a time.
5. Players may be registered for a maximum of three clubs during one season. During this period, the player is only eligible to play in official matches for two clubs.
6. As an exception to this rule, a player moving between two clubs belonging to associations with overlapping seasons (i.e. start of the season in summer/autumn as opposed to winter/spring) may be eligible to play in official matches for a third club during the relevant season, provided he has fully complied with his contractual obligations towards his previous clubs. Equally, the provisions relating to the registration periods as well as to the minimum length of a contract as per these Regulations must be respected.
7. Under all circumstances, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of the competition. In particular, a player may not play official matches for more than two clubs competing in the same national championship or cup during the same season.

ARTICLE 6 (REGISTRATION PERIODS)

1. As a general rule, players may only be registered/transferred during one of the two annual registration periods fixed by the QFA, i.e. the first registration period and the second registration period.
2. As an exception to this rule:
 - a) a professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a registration period may be registered outside that registration period provided due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the competitions.
 - b) A professional who has mutually agreed with his club on the early termination of the employment relationship before the expiry of a registration period may also be registered outside that registration period subject to all other conditions as per this present paragraph as well as these Regulations.
 - c) Where a contract has been terminated with just cause, provisional measures may be taken in order to avoid abuse, subject that the matter does not fall under the competence of FIFA.

3. The first registration period shall begin after the completion of the season and shall normally end before the new season starts. This period may not exceed 12 weeks. The second registration period shall normally occur in the middle of the season and may not exceed four weeks. QFA may amend or modify the registration period dates up until they commence.
4. QFA undertakes to notify the member clubs on the registration periods for each season and/or on amendments/modifications, if any.
5. Players may only be registered for a member club upon submission of the official and valid QFA registration form to the QFA during a registration period unless provided otherwise in the present Regulations.
6. The provisions of this article apply to amateur players registered in QFA records.
7. The provisions concerning registration periods do not apply to competitions in which only amateurs participate. The QFA shall specify the periods when players may be registered for such competitions provided that due consideration is given to the sporting integrity of the relevant competition and shall notify them to the member clubs.

ARTICLE 7

A) (PRINCIPLES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS FOR FIRST DIVISION CLUBS)

1. The first division/reserved clubs shall be entitled to contract with and register a total number of 28 players in the official records.
2. The first division clubs shall be entitled to register among the number of players as specified in paragraph 1 of this Article 7 a maximum of four (5) foreign players:
 - a) (3) foreign players.
 - b) One (1) foreign player who has the nationality of one of AFC member associations.
 - c) One (1) Arab player who holds the nationality of an Arab country from the member states of the League of Arab States at the time of his registration.
 - d) The players mentioned above are eligible to participate in the match list, provided that none of them occupy the position of a goalkeeper at any time during the match.
3. Registration of no more than (6) resident players among the 28 players list in each first division/reserved club.
4. A resident player who was not born in the territory of the State of Qatar and exceeded the age of 28 years of old, cannot be newly registered as resident player under these Regulations, unless by means of QFA Executive Committee approval.
5. A player who was not born in the territory of the State of Qatar cannot be newly registered as resident player under these Regulations, unless by means of QFA Executive Committee approval.
6. All players' registration is subject to the Financial Control Regulations.

B) (PRINCIPLES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS FOR SECOND DIVISION CLUBS)

1. Registration of 26 players in the official records.
2. The second division clubs shall be entitled to register a maximum of four (5) foreign players:

- a) (3) foreign players.
 - b) One (1) foreign player who has the nationality of one of AFC member associations.
 - c) One (1) Arab player who holds the nationality of an Arab country from the member states of the League of Arab States at the time of his registration.
 - d) The players mentioned above are eligible to participate in the match list, provided that none of them occupy the position of a goalkeeper at any time during the match
3. Registration of a maximum of five (6) resident players (born in the territory of the State of Qatar) who don't exceed the age of 28 years of old, among the number of 26 players above.
 4. A resident player who was not born in the territory of the State of Qatar and exceeded the age of 28 years of old, cannot be newly registered as resident player under these Regulations, unless by means of QFA Executive Committee approval.
 5. A player who was not born in the territory of the State of Qatar cannot be newly registered as resident player under these Regulations, unless by means of QFA Executive Committee approval.
 6. All players' registration is subject to the Financial Control Regulations.

ARTICLE 8 (PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS)

QFA undertakes to notify the member clubs on the relevant procedures, requirements and the necessary documents/declarations concerning a player's registration prior to each season.

ARTICLE 9 (APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION)

1. The application for registration of a player must be submitted on the basis of the official QFA registration form together with all required information/ declarations/documentation. In particular, the application of a professional player must be made together with a copy of the relevant employment contract between the member club and the player.
2. The member club is exclusively responsible for the authenticity, correctness and completeness of the relevant information/declarations/documentation provided to the QFA related to a player's registration. Any violation may lead to disciplinary measures in accordance with the QFA Disciplinary Code.

ARTICLE 10 (MEDICAL EXAMINATION)

1. Any player can only be registered and is only eligible to be included in the match list concerning any matches within all Competitions for a first division team, a reserve team or a second division team of a member club if he has successfully passed a medical examination at Aspetar hospital including Electrocardiography. Each player has to undergo and successfully pass such medical examination on annual basis prior to each season. The relevant certificate confirming the player's health and fitness including the detailed results of the medical examination concerned must be submitted to the QFA duly signed by the doctor undertaking the relevant medical examination immediately upon conducting the relevant medical examination.

2. In the event that the medical examination period expires, the player will be suspended until the new medical examination is submitted.
3. Any player concerning all age categories can only be registered and is only eligible to be included in the match list concerning any matches within all Competitions if he has successfully passed a medical examination at an appropriate medical body approved within by the State of Qatar. Each player has to undergo and successfully pass such medical examination on annual basis prior to each season. The relevant certificate confirming the player's health and fitness including the detailed results of the medical examination concerned must be submitted to the QFA duly signed by the doctor undertaking the relevant medical examination immediately upon conducting the relevant medical examination.

ARTICLE 11 (PLAYER REGISTRATION DOCUMENT)

The QFA shall provide the member clubs with which a player is registered with a player document containing the relevant details for such player. The player document shall indicate the club(s) with which the player has been registered since the season of his 12th birthday. If a birthday falls between seasons, the player document shall indicate the club with which he was registered during the season following his birthday.

ARTICLE 12 (CHANGE OF REGISTRATION TITLE)

1. As a general rule and unless otherwise provided for in these Regulations, any player who is registered in the records of the QFA under the title as either foreign or resident player cannot be registered under any other title regardless of the period he spent in the State of Qatar.
2. However, if any such registered player participated/will participate for a QFA representative team (juniors category and above) in accordance with the relevant FIFA regulations governing such matter concerning an official AFC and/or FIFA competition played as of the beginning of the 2011/2012 season, his club may submit an application for consideration of the QFA Executive Committee to change the registration title to local.
3. The QFA Executive Committee may cancel a player's registration title as local or resident player if the player concerned no longer fulfils the relevant requirements set up by the QFA. Subject to the present Regulations and, in particular, the relevant quotas as per their Article 7, the player concerned may remain registered in the records of the QFA under a different registration title for which he fulfils at that time the conditions as per the QFA regulations and requirements set up by the QFA. Cancellation of a registration title and its consequences do not state a just cause for the player concerned to terminate the employment contract with the member club concerned.
4. Players registered in the first team category may not be downgraded to the under-23 category if they actually participate in a QNB Stars League match.
5. Players registered in the U-23 category may not be downgraded to the U-18 category if they actually participate in one of the QNB Stars League and U-23 QatarGas League matches.

6. Downgrading of players is permitted in the two cases mentioned above, only through the transfer and registration periods stipulated in the circulars issued by the Qatar Football Association.

ARTICLE 13 (DEREGISTRATION OF PLAYERS)

During the course of a season a local and/or resident player may be deregistered only – upon written request of a member club – if:

- a) the duration of the employment contract between the parties concerned has expired prior to deregistration;
- b) the player has been transferred – subject to all relevant regulations – to another club;
- c) the employment contract between the parties has been terminated by mutual termination agreement whereas original copy shall be provided to QFA and the FCC. If any party should not comply with its obligations as per the terms of the mutual termination agreement concerned, it may be subject to appropriate disciplinary sanctions by the QFA Disciplinary Committee; or

ARTICLE 14 (PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL STAFF)

1. QFA undertakes to notify the member clubs on the relevant procedures, requirements and the necessary documents concerning the registration of administrative/technical staff prior to each season. Only duly registered administrative/technical staff is authorized to enter the field of play and may sit next to the substitute players during matches. The relevant registration cards must be presented to the referees at any time.
2. Each member club can only replace a coach (the “*Former Coach*”) during the course of a season and register a new coach if prior to the latter’s new registration, it has submitted to the QFA a mutual termination agreement entered into by and between the club concerned and the Former Coach.

ARTICLE 15

FIRST: (PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUSION OF PLAYERS IN MATCH LIST/ELIGIBILITY FOR FIRST DIVISION TEAMS “QNB STARS LEAGUE, QATAR CUP, EMIR CUP, SHEIKH JASSEM CUP (SUPER CUP), PLAY-OFF MATCH”)

1. The maximum number of foreign players which can be included in the match list is five (5).
2. The maximum number of resident players which can be included in the first team match list may not exceed five (5) – subject to all other provisions as per the relevant QFA/QSLM competition regulations and/or any other relevant regulations governing such matter.
3. Players from the U19 category may be used to participate in the first division league matches, taking into account what was stated in the QNB Stars League Regulations as well as the Age Categories Competitions Regulations.

SECOND: (PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUSION OF PLAYERS IN MATCH LIST/ELIGIBILITY FOR RESERVED LEAGUE)

1. The maximum number of foreign players which can be included in the match list is five (5).

2. The maximum number of resident players which can be included in the first team match list may not exceed five (5).
3. Players from the U19 category may be used to participate in the Reserved League matches, taking into account what was stated in the Reserved League Regulations as well as the Age Categories Competitions Regulations.

THIRD: (PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUSION OF PLAYERS IN MATCH LIST/ELIGIBILITY FOR SECOND DIVISION TEAMS “SECOND DIVISION LEAGUE, SECOND DIVISION CUP, EMIR CUP, PLAY-OFF MATCH”)

1. The maximum number of foreign players which can be included in the match list is five (5).
2. The maximum number of resident players which can be included in the Second Division League team match list may not exceed five (5).
3. Players from the U19 category may be used to participate in the Second Division League matches, taking into account what was stated in the Second Division League Regulations as well as the Age Categories Competitions Regulations.

Fourth: At all times and during all Competitions it is always the sole and exclusive obligation and responsibility of the member clubs to ensure compliance with these Regulations as well as all other relevant QFA/QSLM regulations, circulars and requirements concerning, in particular, the eligibility of players, for including only eligible players in the match list as well as to comply with the maximum number of foreign/resident players which may be included in the match list. Any violation may lead to disciplinary sanctions to be imposed by the QFA judicial bodies.

SECTION THREE: CONTRACTS BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS AND CLUBS

ARTICLE 16 (GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO CONTRACTS BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS AND CLUBS)

1. Any contract between a member club and a professional shall be concluded on the latest template of the “*Football Player’s Contract*” issued by QFA/QSLM from time to time. Should the member club and the player intend to conclude a further, separate contract, the latter shall be approved by QFA prior to its signature as otherwise the QFA may consider it null and void. All relevant agreements between a professional player and a member club must be in writing.
2. Any contract between a member club and a professional shall be drafted in four original copies, one for each party and one to be lodged in front of the QFA and the QSLM.
3. If an intermediary/intermediary entity is involved in the negotiation of a contract, he/it shall be named in that contract. A contract shall also specify if no intermediary/intermediary entity is involved.
4. The minimum length of a contract shall be from its effective date until the end of the season, while the maximum length of a contract shall be five years subject to exceptions under the present Regulations.
5. Players under the age of 18 may not sign a contract as a professional.
6. A member club intending to conclude a contract with a professional/local player, they must adhere to the following:
 - a) Local Professional Player
 - A local professional player may not negotiate with another club except in the case of obtaining written approval from his current club, and in the event that the player does

not receive an offer to renew the professional contract with his current club after the deadline for submission of offers by the Qatar Stars League has expired, the player is entitled to register with a new club.

- b) Foreign Professional Player
 - a professional shall be free to conclude a contract with another member club if his contract with his present club has expired or is due to expire within six months.
7. Any member club, club official of any member club, or any other person with a view to inducing the player to change club in breach of this present paragraph 6 may be subject to disciplinary sanctions by the QFA Disciplinary Committee.
8. The validity of a contract may not be made subject to a positive medical examination and/or the granting of work permit. Each member club shall enter into an employment contract and/or any other contract with a player only after the player has successfully passed the medical examination as well as upon receipt of the relevant work permit for the player concerned, if necessary.
9. All payments made by a member club to a player shall be fully recorded in the accounting records of the club concerned.
10. The contract signed between the player and the club is subject to the regulations and provisions of the Qatar Football Association and the Qatar Stars League Management. It must be approved by the QSLM in order for it to be considered and enforceable. In no case is a professional player entitled to sign more than one contract with any club covering the same period of the contractual relationship between them. Violation of the provisions of this article is considered a grave breach that leads to referring the matter to the Disciplinary Committee to impose the appropriate sanctions against the violating parties (the club and the player) according to the data of each individual case.

ARTICLE 17: SPECIAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING CONTRACTS BETWEEN CLUBS AND RESIDENT/LOCAL PLAYERS

The foregoing provisions of this Section Three of these Regulations apply insofar as the following provisions of this Article 17 do not provide otherwise.

1. A professional (local or resident player) shall only be free to conclude a contract with another member club if his contract with his present club has expired and all other relevant requirements set up by the QFA/QSLM are fulfilled.
2. First Employment Contract as a Professional:
 - a) In the event a player is upgraded from the age categories and is entitled to sign his first employment contract as a professional at the age of 18, such contract shall be concluded with the member club where he is registered at the time of being eligible to sign his first employment contract (the "*Home Club*"). The contract shall have a maximum duration of three (3) years. As an exception and upon written approval of the QFA Executive Committee – and always subject to the relevant agreement between the parties concerned – the contract may have a maximum duration of five (5) years.
 - b) For this purpose, the Home Club shall offer to the player in writing an employment contract six months prior to the player reaching the age of 18.
 - c) The Home Club and the player shall agree on a fair salary. The QFA may be addressed to mediate a fair salary prior to the employment contract's conclusion if the Home Club and

the player cannot agree otherwise. For the purpose of determining a fair salary it may be issued separate regulations.

- d) In the event the player and the Home Club cannot reach an agreement on the terms of an employment contract despite the Home Club offered a fair salary, at the exclusive discretion of the QFA, the Player shall not be allowed to be registered with any other member club until reaching the age of twenty one (21) years.
- e) In the event the Home Club has not offered to the player an employment contract with a fair salary, at the exclusive discretion of the QFA, until the player has reached the age of 18, such player is free to sign an employment contract with another member club.
- f) All other member clubs, club officials of any member club, or any other person with a view to inducing the player to change club and to leave the Home Club are strictly forbidden to negotiate with the player on the conclusion of an employment contract until the player's first employment contract with his Home Club has expired or the player has turned 18 years without having received any contract offer from his Home Club as per the aforesaid requirements.
- g) All member clubs, club officials of any member club, or any other person with a view to inducing the player to leave his club who act in breach of the provisions of this Article 17 may be subject to disciplinary sanctions by the QFA Disciplinary Committee.

3. Settlement of Contracts

- a) In case an employment contract has expired or a player has been transferred to another member club during the course of an employment contract, the player and his former club shall settle all the obligations (e.g. the return of accommodation, car, etc) or payment of outstanding financial claims according to the principle of good faith within 10 days from the date of the employment contract's expiry date or the date of the relevant transfer contract's conclusion.
- b) The player and the member clubs in breach of the principles as per paragraph a) of this Article 17.4 may be subject to disciplinary sanctions by the QFA Disciplinary Committee.

SECTION FOUR: INTERNAL TRANSFER OF PLAYERS BETWEEN MEMBER CLUBS

ARTICLE 18 (GENERAL PROVISIONS)

1. An internal transfer is the transfer of a player from one member club to another member club.
2. Subject to the provisions of these Regulations, a player may be transferred from one member club to another member club with the player's expressed consent in writing. The player must be re-registered by the member club to which he is transferred to as per the relevant provision of these Regulations.
3. In the event of a player being transferred from one member club to another for the payment of a fee, a copy of the written transfer agreement must be sent to the QFA together with all relevant documents for the player's registration as well as the contract of employment. Such transfer agreement shall specify whether the relevant fee is inclusive or exclusive of the training compensation as per the present Regulations, where applicable.
4. The transfer of a player may be on definite and/or on temporary basis (loan).

5. All payments made between clubs for the transfer of a player shall be duly recorded in the accounting records of the clubs concerned.

ARTICLE 19 (LOAN)

1. Subject to the provisions of the QFA/QSLM Regulations, a professional may be loaned to another member club on the basis of a written agreement between him and the member clubs concerned. Any such loan is subject to the same rules as apply to the transfer of players, including the provisions on training compensation.
2. The two clubs involved in the player's loan process shall be bound by the loan contract forms issued and approved by the Qatar Football Association and the Qatar Stars League, and modifications to the loan contract forms (add - delete) will not be allowed, and no other loan agreements shall be taken into consideration.
3. In general, the minimum period of loan shall be the time between two registration periods.
4. As a general principle, the club has the right to conclude a loan agreement with the player for more than one sporting season in the event of reaching an agreement between all concerned parties (the two clubs - the player).
5. The member club that has accepted a player on loan basis is not entitled to transfer him to a third club without the written authorization of the member club that released the player on loan and of the player concerned.

ARTICLE 20 (ENFORCEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS)

Any disciplinary sanction imposed by the (QFA, QSLM, QSAT, QADC) on a player at the time he was registered for his former member club and which is not yet (entirely) served by the time the player concerned is registered at a new member club shall be enforced.

ARTICLE 21 (SPECIAL RULES FOR THE TRANSFER OF LOCAL/RESIDENT PLAYERS)

1. The Articles of this Section Four apply as far as not provided otherwise in this Article 21.
2. Notification of non-renewal of employment contract
 - a) Each member club shall notify a player in writing about its intention of non-renewal of an existing employment contract at least six months in advance of the employment contract's foreseen expiry date.
 - b) In the aforesaid case, the player is entitled to negotiate with another member club the terms of an employment contract. Such relevant negotiations shall only start three (3) months prior to the expiry of the employment contract concerned.
 - c) Until the start of such aforesaid time-limit the player may not be approached by any member club, or club official of any member club, or any other person with a view to inducing the player to change his present club, except with the latter's written permission.
 - d) In any case, the conclusion of an employment contract with a new club is subject thereto that all relevant requirements as per the present Regulations and, in particular, Article 17 par. 2 are fulfilled. If this is not the case, the Player, despite his right to negotiate a new employment contract, shall not enter into such employment contract with another member club.
 - e) Any party in breach of the provisions of the present Article 21.2 may be subject to disciplinary sanctions by the QFA Disciplinary Committee.

ARTICLE 22 (TRAINING COMPENSATION)

Training Compensation shall be paid to a player's training member club(s):

1. When a player signs his first contract as a professional.
2. Each time a professional is locally transferred until the end of the season of his 23rd birthday. The obligation to pay training compensation arises whether the transfer takes place during or at the end of the player's contract. The provisions concerning training compensation are set out in Annexe 1 of these Regulations.

ARTICLE 23 (INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF PLAYERS)

Concerning the international transfers of players between clubs belonging to different associations the FIFA RSTP apply directly.

SECTION FIVE: (MAINTENANCE OF CONTRACTUAL STABILITY BETWEEN PROFESSIONALS AND CLUBS)

ARTICLE 24 (OVERDUE PAYABLES)

1. Clubs are required to comply with their financial obligations towards players and other clubs as per the terms stipulated in the contracts signed with their professional players and in the transfer agreements.
2. Any club found to have delayed a due payment for more than 60 days without a prima facie contractual basis may be sanctioned in accordance with paragraph 4 below.
3. In order for a club to be considered to have overdue payables in the sense of the present article, the creditor (player or club) must have put the debtor club in default in writing (handover written notice, registered mail, email) and have granted a deadline of at least ten days for the debtor club to comply with its financial obligation(s).
4. In the event that the member club does not pay during the time limit stipulated in the notification, the player shall notify the club in writing via (handover written notice, registered mail, email) of the need to settle his overdue financial entitlements within a period of time not less than five days. After the end of the specified time limit without payment, and based on the circumstances of each case separately, the employment contract is considered terminated as a result of a just cause and without any consequences in accordance with the applicable regulations.
5. Within the scope of their respective jurisdiction, the FIFA Players' Status Committee, the Dispute Resolution Chamber, the single judge or the DRC judge may impose the following sanctions:
 - a) a warning;
 - b) a reprimand;
 - c) a fine;

- d) a ban from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, for one or two entire and consecutive registration periods.
6. The sanctions provided for in paragraph 5 above may be applied cumulatively.
 7. A repeated offence will be considered as an aggravating circumstance and lead to more severe penalty.
 8. The execution of the registration ban in accordance with paragraph 4 d) above may be suspended. By suspending the execution of a registration ban, the deciding body subjects the sanctioned club to a probationary period ranging from six months to two years.
 9. If the club benefiting from a suspended registration ban commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspension is automatically revoked and the registration ban executed; it is added to the sanction pronounced for the new infringement.
 10. The terms of the present article are without prejudice to the application of further measures in case of unilateral termination of the contractual relationship.
 11. Outside the scope of the jurisdiction of the FIFA Players' Status Committee and/or the Dispute Resolution Chamber (i.e. for local and resident players, where relevant), the QFA Disciplinary Committee may apply the aforesaid principles accordingly provided a member club has delayed a due payment for more than 60 days without a prima facie contractual basis.

ARTICLE 25 (RESPECT OF CONTRACT)

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

ARTICLE 26 (TERMINATING A CONTRACT WITH JUST CAUSE)

1. A contract may be terminated by either party without consequences of any kind (either payment of compensation or imposition of sporting sanctions) where there is just cause.
2. Subject to each particular case, players, who do not fall under the competence of FIFA Committees/Chambers, may have just cause for terminating an employment contract provided that:
 - a) a member club has persistently omitted to pay a player (at least 60 days as of the date of due payment) his financial rights of substantial nature (equivalent in total to at least two monthly salaries) as per the relevant employment contract(s) approved by QFA and/or QSLM;
 - b) The player concerned via written notice put the member club in default and requested payment within a time-limit of not less than 10 days; and
 - c) Payment has not been made within such time-limit and the player via written notice gave a final dead-line of not less than 5 days to the member club to settle the outstanding payments. Upon expiry of the final time-limit without payment and subject to the overall

circumstances of each particular case, just cause for terminating the employment contract without consequences as per the present Regulations may be at stake.

ARTICLE 27 (TERMINATING A CONTRACT WITH SPORTING JUST CAUSE)

1. An established professional who has, in the course of a season, appeared in fewer than ten per cent (10%) of the official matches in which his club has been involved may terminate his contract prematurely on the ground of sporting just cause.
2. Due consideration shall be given to the player's circumstances in the appraisal of such cases by the PSC. The existence of sporting just cause shall be established on a case-by-case basis.
3. In such a case, sporting sanctions shall not be imposed, though compensation may be payable. A professional may only terminate his contract on this basis in the 15 days following the last official match of the season of the club with which he is registered.

ARTICLE 28 (RESTRICTION ON TERMINATING A CONTRACT DURING THE SEASON)

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

ARTICLE 29 (CONSEQUENCES OF TERMINATING A CONTRACT WITHOUT JUST CAUSE)

The following provisions apply if a contract is terminated without just cause:

1. In all cases, the party in breach shall pay compensation. Subject to the provisions of Article 22 and Annexe 1 in relation to training compensation, and unless otherwise provided for in the contract, compensation for the breach shall be calculated with due consideration for the law of the State of Qatar, the specificity of sport, and any other objective criteria. These criteria shall include, in particular, the remuneration and other benefits due to the player under the existing contract and/or the new contract, the time remaining on the existing contract up to a maximum of five years, the fees and expenses paid or incurred by the former club (amortised over the term of the contract) and whether the contractual breach falls within a protected period.
2. Taking into consideration the above principles, the compensation due to the player shall be calculated as follows:
 - a) In the event that the player did not enter into a new contract after the termination of his previous contract, as a general rule, the compensation is equal to the remaining value of the contract that was terminated prematurely.
 - b) In the event that the player entered into a new contract by the time of the decision, the value of the new contract for the period equal to the remaining time of the contract that was terminated prematurely will be deducted from the remaining value of the contract that was terminated early (reduced compensation). Moreover, the matter is subject to early termination of the contract and the amounts owed, in addition to the reduced compensation, the player is entitled to an amount equal to three months' salary (overtime compensation). In the event of flagrant circumstances, the additional compensation may be increased to a maximum of 6 months' salary. The total compensation should not exceed the residual value of the premature terminated contract.

3. Entitlement to compensation cannot be assigned to a third party. If a professional is required to pay compensation, the professional and his new member club shall be jointly and severally liable for its payment. The amount may be stipulated in the contract or agreed between the parties.
4. In addition to the obligation to pay compensation, sporting sanctions may be imposed on players according to the following principles:
 - a) QFA may refer any player found to be in breach of contract during the protected period to the judicial bodies of the QFA which may impose in accordance with the QFA Disciplinary Code disciplinary sanctions which can exclusively be a warning, a fine and/or a restriction on playing in official matches for a period up to a maximum of six (6) months. These sporting sanctions shall take effect immediately once the player has been notified of the relevant decision.
 - b) The sporting sanctions shall remain suspended in the period between the last official match of the season and the first official match of the next season, in both case including national cups and international championship for clubs.
 - c) Unilateral breach without just cause or sporting just cause after the protected period shall not result in disciplinary sanctions.
 - d) Disciplinary measures may, however, be imposed outside the protected period for failure to give notice of termination within 15 days of the last official match of the season (including national cups) of the club with which the player is registered. The protected period starts again when, while renewing the contract, the duration of the previous contract is extended.
5. In addition to the obligation to pay compensation, sporting sanctions may be imposed on member clubs according to the following principles:
 - a) QFA may refer any member club found to be in breach of contract or found to be inducing a breach of contract during the protected period to the judicial bodies of the QFA which may impose in accordance with the QFA Disciplinary Code disciplinary sanctions which can exclusively be a warning, a fine, deduction or cancellation of points, relegation to a lower division and/or a ban from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, for two entire and consecutive registration periods.
 - b) In the latter case, the member club may be able to register new players only as of the next registration period following the complete serving of the relevant disciplinary sanction. In particular, it may not make use of the exception and the provisional measures stipulated in Article 6 paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of these Regulations in order to register players at an earlier stage.
 - c) It shall be presumed, unless established to the contrary, that any member club signing a professional who has terminated his contract without just cause has induced that professional to commit a breach.

6. Any person subject to the QFA Statutes and regulations who acts in a manner designed to induce a breach of contract between a professional and a club in order to facilitate the transfer of the player may be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

SECTION SIX: THIRD PARTY INFLUENCE ON AND OWNERSHIP OF PLAYER'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS

ARTICLE 30 (THIRD PARTY INFLUENCE ON CLUBS)

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

ARTICLE 31 (THIRD PARTY OWNERSHIP OF PLAYER'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS)

1. 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.
2. The interdiction as per paragraph 1 comes into force on 1 May 2015.
3. Agreements covered by paragraph 1 which predate 1 May 2015 may continue to be in place until their contractual expiration. However, their duration may not be extended.
4. The validity of any agreement covered by paragraph 1 signed between 1 January 2015 and 30 April 2015 may not have a contractual duration of more than 1 year beyond the effective date.
5. By the end of April 2015, all existing agreements covered by paragraph 1 need to be recorded within the Transfer Matching System (TMS). All clubs that have signed such agreements are required to upload them in their entirety, including possible annexes or amendments, in TMS, specifying the details of the third party concerned, the full name of the player as well as the duration of the agreement.
6. Disciplinary measures may be imposed on clubs or players that do not observe the obligations set out in this article.

SECTION SEVEN: PROTECTION OF MINORS/REGISTRATION AND REPORTING OF MINORS AT ACADEMIES

ARTICLE 32 (PROTECTION OF MINORS)

1. International transfers of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18.

The following exceptions to this rule apply:

The player's parents move to the country in which the new club is located for reasons not linked to football;

- a) The player lives no further than 50km from a national border and the club with which the player wishes to be registered in the neighbouring association is also within 50km of that border. The maximum distance between the player's domicile and the club's headquarters shall be 100km. In such cases, the player must continue to live at home and the two associations concerned must give their explicit consent.
2. The conditions of this article shall also apply to any player who has never previously been registered with a club and is not a national of the country in which he wishes to be registered for the first time.
3. Every international transfer according to paragraph 2 and every first registration according to paragraph 3 is subject to the approval of the sub-committee appointed by the FIFA Players' Status Committee for that purpose. The application for approval shall be submitted by the association that wishes to register the player. The former association shall be given the opportunity to submit its position. The sub-committee's approval shall be obtained prior to any request from an association for an International Transfer Certificate and/or a first registration. Any violations of this provision will be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code. In addition to the association that failed to apply to the sub-committee, sanctions may also be imposed on the former association for issuing an International Transfer Certificate without the approval of the sub-committee, as well as on the clubs that reached an agreement for the transfer of a minor.
4. The procedures for applying to the sub-committee for a first registration and an international transfer of a minor are contained in the FIFA RSTP, with the adherence to the (players registration system - circulars and regulations issued by the Qatar Football Association).

ARTICLE 33 (REGISTRATION AND REPORTING OF MINORS AT ACADEMIES)

1. Clubs that operate an academy with legal, financial or de facto links to the club are obliged to report all minors who attend the academy to the association upon whose territory the academy operates.
2. The QFA ensures that all academies operating in the State of Qatar without legal, financial or de facto links to a club:
 - a) run a club that participates in the relevant national championships; all players shall be reported to the QFA, or registered with the club itself; or
 - b) report all minors who attend the academy for the purpose of training.
3. The QFA shall keep a register comprising the names and dates of birth of the minors who have been reported to it by the clubs or academies.
4. Through the act of reporting, academies and players undertake to practise football in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, and to respect and promote the ethical principles of organised football.
5. Any violations of this provision will be sanctioned by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

6. Article 32 shall also apply to the reporting of all minor players who are not nationals of the country in which they wish to be reported.

SECTION EIGHT: RELEASE OF PLAYERS

ARTICLE 34 (RELEASE OF PLAYERS)

1. All member clubs are obliged to release players for matches of the representative teams of the QFA as requested by the QFA. The players shall follow a respective call from the QFA.
2. Requested players are not entitled to play any other matches as for those called upon by the QFA unless the QFA grants in writing a special exception.
3. A member club which is obliged to release a player related to a match of a QFA representative team has the right to request the postponement of a match fixed for its club. Such right does not exist for a member club related to first division matches, second division matches or reserve team matches if the relevant request for release concerns a player who is still entitled to play youth category matches and is called for an age category representative team of the QFA. In any case the relevant request must be made by the member club concerned in writing to the QFA immediately upon notification of the relevant release call. Otherwise it will not be considered.
4. The release of players with non-Qatari nationality shall comply with the relevant release criteria/regulations of FIFA and/or the relevant confederations, if any. Concerning the release of players with non-Qatari nationality the member clubs do not have the right to request the postponement of matches.

SECTION NINE: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

ARTICLE 35: (QATAR SPORTS ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL)

1. The Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal shall be competent to deal with any dispute related to these Regulations insofar as the competence is not assigned otherwise to QFA, a QFA body or a QFA judicial body.
2. The competencies and procedures of any of such bodies/tribunals, if any, will be set out in the relevant regulations governing such bodies/tribunals, if any.
3. In any case, the QFA shall be entitled to mediate disputes arising related to the present Regulations.
4. Unless otherwise provided in any relevant QFA regulations, no case related to these Regulations shall be heard if more than two years have elapsed since the event giving rise to the dispute.

SECTION TEN: FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 36: (FINANCIAL CONTROL REGULATIONS)

All financial matters resulting from players/coaches contracts as well as others to whom the provisions of these regulations apply are subject to the controls and provisions contained in the Financial Control Committee Regulations

ARTICLE 37: (MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR)

Any matters not provided for in these Regulations and cases of force majeure shall be decided by the QFA Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final. In addition to these Regulations there may be issued separate regulations concerning, in particular but not limited to, age category and/or amateur football.

ARTICLE 38: (ENFORCEMENT)

These Regulations were adopted by the QFA Executive Committee on 01/07/2021 and entered into force on immediately, unless annulled or amended by the QFA Executive Committee.

SECTION: ANNEX 1 (TRAINING COMPENSATION)

ARTICLE 1 (OBJECTIVE)

1. A player's training and education takes place between the ages of 12 and 23. Training compensation shall be payable up to the age of 23 for training incurred up to the age of 21.
2. The obligation to pay training compensation is without prejudice to any obligation to pay compensation for breach of contract.

ARTICLE 2 (PAYMENT OF TRAINING COMPENSATION)

1. Training compensation is due when:
 - I. a player is registered for the first time as a professional; or
 - II. a professional is transferred between member clubs (whether during or at the end of his contract) before the end of the season of his 23rd birthday.
2. Training compensation is not due if:
 - I. the former club terminates the player's contract without just cause (without prejudice to the rights of the previous clubs); or
 - II. a professional reacquires amateur status on being transferred.

ARTICLE 3 (LIABILITY TO PAY TRAINING COMPENSATION)

1. On registering as a professional for the first time, the member club with which the player is registered is responsible for paying training compensation within 30 days of registration as a professional player to every member club with which the player has previously been registered (in accordance with the players' career history) and that has contributed to his training starting from the season of his 12th birthday. The amount payable is calculated on a pro rata basis according to the period of training that the player spent with each member club. In the case of subsequent transfers of the professional, training compensation will only be owed to his former member club for the time he was effectively trained by that club. For the sake of clarification, in case of a subsequent transfer of a player from a member club for which he was registered as an amateur before he was registered for the first time as a professional upon conclusion of his first employment contract, such member club shall be compensated for the entire period it trained such player and not only for the time it trained him as professional in accordance with these Regulations.
2. In the above cases, the deadline for payment of training compensation is 30 days following the registration of the professional with the new member club.

ARTICLE 4 (TRAINING COSTS)

1. The training costs for players for the seasons between their 12th and 15th birthdays shall be per each complete season: QAR 25,000.00/- (Twenty-Five Thousand Qatari Riyals Only).

2. The training costs for players for the seasons between their 16th and 21st birthdays shall be per each complete season: QAR 50,000.00/- (Fifty Thousand Qatari Riyals Only).

ARTICLE 5 (DISCIPLINARY MEASURES)

The QFA Disciplinary Committee may impose disciplinary measures on member clubs or players that do not observe the obligations set out in this Annex.

ARTICLE 6 (LIMITATION OF TRAINING COMPENSATION TO QATARI CLUBS)

Training compensation as per the present Regulations shall only be paid between (Qatari) member clubs. For the sake of clarification, a member club shall not be obliged to pay training compensation under these Regulations to a club which is not affiliated to the QFA and no club not being affiliated to the QFA shall be entitled to training compensation under these Regulations.