



## **The Official FA Line Of Approaching A Player Players Without Written Contracts**

### 2 (a) Regulations Concerning Approaches

Players who are not under written contract to a Club may be registered with a number of Clubs at any time, subject to the following provisions and those of the Competitions in which they play:

(i) Competitions sanctioned by The Association under regulation 3 of the “Regulations for the Sanction and Control of Competitions” may make their own regulations for the approach of Players between Clubs of the Competition;

(ii) during the current season<sup>4</sup> any Club wishing to approach a Player known to be registered with or having played for any other Club must give to the secretary of each such Club, seven days’ formal written notice of the intention to approach the Player; Formal written notice of approach need be given by:

(A) a Saturday Club only to all Saturday Clubs;

(B) a Sunday Club only to all Sunday Clubs; and

(C) a midweek Club only to all midweek Clubs;

(iii) the written notice must be sent by special delivery or recorded post, or a written acknowledgment otherwise obtained from the secretary or chairman of the Club approached. Facsimile or e-mail transmission may be used provided a receipt of acknowledgment is also obtained;

(iv) following the date of posting of the written notice of approach, or receipt of an acknowledgment: (A) the Player may be registered on or after the eighth day; and (B) the Player must have been registered on or before the 21st day;

(v) the approaching Club: (A) may not approach the same Player a second time in the same playing season; (B) may approach only one (1) Player at a Club at any time subject to Rule C2(a)(ix) below; and

(C) may not approach another Player at the same Club within 28 days of an earlier notice of approach or acknowledgment;

(vi) if an approach is made by a Player to another Club during the current season<sup>5</sup>, that Club shall give the Club(s), for which the Player is known to be registered or has played, seven days' notice of approach as set out in Rule C2(a)(i) to (v) above before registering the Player;

(vii) a Club which is the subject of a complaint alleging failure to give notice in accordance with this Rule may be subject to a charge of Misconduct pursuant to Rule E1(b);

(viii) a Club proved to have breached the provisions of this Rule may have its current registration of the Player cancelled and be subject to such other penalty as The Association or appropriate Affiliated Association deems appropriate, in accordance with relevant regulations of The Association from time to time in force; and

(ix) during the current season<sup>6</sup> a maximum of two Players may be approached in the manner described above if invited to trial at a licensed academy or centre of Excellence" of The Association, The FA Premier League or The Football League.

## **illegal approach**

- You are NOT allowed to approach a player or his parents directly.

You are NOT to offer incentives for them to join your club ie. Better training, free kit, trials at pro clubs, position in rep team, etc

You are NOT allowed to give a player or parents your phone number at a game and suggest it would be good for them to contact you about the development of their son or daughter.

## **What should I do ? If I want to approach a player from another club**

Ask you club secretary to write to the club of the player registering a day notice of approach towards a named player from their club.

- They can not refuse this line of approach and you have now given them 7 days to discuss with their player why they should want to leave and resolve any issues. • After 7 days you are free to approach the player and discuss joining your club This is then NOT an illegal approach, unless during discussions you offer any sort of incentives to sign for your club. (ie. Trails at pro club, position in rep team, free kit, etc )

## **What should I do ? When I am contacted by a parent/player about wishing to join my club**

- First thing is to refuse discussions until the players current club have been made aware of the request to talk to you.
- Secondly, ask your club secretary to write to the players current club registering a 7 day notice of approach. After 7 days you are then free to approach the player yourself if you so wish.
- Failure to follow this process could be deemed as attempting to induce a player to join your club (Illegal Approach)

## **What should I do ? When a player turns up at my training session.**

- Before allowing him to train you should contact his current club/manager and inform them that he is there and asking if he can train with you.
- The current club then have to give permission for him to take part. Without it you are guilty of attempting to induce a player to join your club. (Illegal Approach)
- Once you have permission they are free to train. Should they ask to join your club as a result of training then you should make the current club aware of this situation and send them a letter registering a 7 day approach. No contact should be made during this 7 day period to avoid an inducement allegation.

## **The way forward....**

You have all now been made aware of the correct way to deal with the movement of players between clubs. Failure to follow these procedures could result in you being found guilty of “ inducing or attempting to induce a player away from his/her current club to join yours”.

**YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.**