



National Registration Regulations (NRR)

Fact Sheet

*What FFV Clubs
need to Know*

National Registration Regulations (NRR)

The National Registration Regulations (NRR) govern the registration, contracting, loan and transfer of all Amateur and Professional players who play football under the jurisdiction of Football Federation Australia (FFA), Member Federations (Football Federation Victoria – FFV), Regional Associations and Clubs.

The NRR came into effect from January 1, 2007.

Each member federation (FFV) must comply with these Regulations and ensure compliance of these regulations by clubs, players and officials within its jurisdiction.

Registration of Football Club

Upon registration the club agrees to comply with FFA Statutes, the NRR, the Code of Conduct and the Grievance Resolution Regulations.

A club must be registered with FFA using Prescribed Form NRR 02 – Application for Registration of Football Club

Status of Players

A player participating in football is either an *Amateur* or *Professional*

Amateur Players

An Amateur is any Player that is not a Professional. *i.e. A player that IS NOT paid to play football for a club and DOES NOT have a contract with a club.*

A club may reimburse a Player for expenses incurred without affecting the Players amateur status up to the value of \$100 a week including for travel, kit, equipment or insurance premiums.

Professional Players

A Professional is a Player who has a written contract with a club in which that player is paid to play football for that club in the form of Prescribed Form NRR 05 – Professional Player Contract.

Professional players are classed as *Casual Employees*. As employers clubs are required to comply with PAYG Income Tax and Superannuation laws.

A Player must be the statutory school leaving age in each State or Territory before the player can be signed as a Professional in that State or Territory.

In Victoria, the minimum age required to register as a Professional Player is 15 years of age

A player registered as a Professional cannot re-register as an Amateur until at least 30 days after the players' last match as a professional.

Registration Fees

A Club is able to charge a reasonable fee to players provided that all fees, levies and charges imposed by the Club, Regional Association/ FFV and FFA are disclosed. The fee must accurately reflect expenses related to the player's participation in a competition.

Registration Periods

A Professional player may be registered during only two Registration Periods;

- A maximum 12 Week Period between the completion of a Season and the start of the next Season
- A maximum 4 week period during the season

Registration periods DO NOT apply to competitions in which ONLY Amateurs participate

Timeframes in which Amateurs can be registered will be specified in the Registration Regulations and Guidelines

Amateurs must be registered in the set Registration Periods for professional league clubs (Premier League and State 1)

FFV REGISTRATION PERIODS

MENS VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

12 Week Period:

November 16 2007 to February 8 2008, 5.00pm

4 Week Period:

May 7 2008 to June 4 2008, 5.00pm

MENS STATE LEAGUE ONE

12 Week Period:

January 4 2008 to March 28 2008, 5.00pm

4 Week Period:

June 4 to July 2 2008, 5.00pm

AMATEUR LEAGUES

January 2 2008 to July 2 2008, 5.00pm

Registration of Players

A player MUST be registered with FFA before he or she can play football for a club as either a Professional or an Amateur. Upon registration the player agrees to abide by FFA Statutes, AFC Statutes and FIFA Statutes.

A club MUST NOT play any person in any Match unless that person is registered with FFA as a Player with that Club.

Dual Registration of Players IS NOT permitted. A Player can be registered with ONLY one club at any one time.

If an overseas Player was previously registered with an International Club, FFA MUST request an International Transfer Certificate (*ITC*) from the National Association of that International Club. A player CANNOT be registered until an *ITC* is received.

A *provisional clearance* will be issued by FFA after 30 days have elapsed from the date of request.

An *ITC* IS NOT required for a player under 12 years of age.

A Player on a Tourist Visa can register for a club ONLY as an Amateur, provided an *ITC* has been requested and received by FFA.

A Player, whether Amateur or Professional, is free to register at 3 clubs during the period January 1 to December 31 each year but can only participate in matches for the first 2 clubs.

Amateur Players

An Amateur player is registered from the date the registration form is signed until the end of the season. The player is free to re-register the following season with the same club, or another club of his or her choice.

Registering an Amateur Player

All new players MUST provide evidence of NAME and AGE by producing a copy of either one of the following; birth certificate, passport or drivers' licence.

For an Amateur player to be registered in Season 2008, the following MUST be completed by the club;

- For a **new player without an 8-digit FFA ID**, the club MUST lodge an original *Prescribed Form NRR 03 – Registration of Amateur Player*, signed by both the Club and Player (or Parent/ Legal Guardian)
- For a **player with an existing 8-digit FFA ID**, the club MUST ensure a *2008 Prescribed Form NRR 03 – Registration of Amateur Player* is completed and signed by both the Club and Player (or Parent/ Legal Guardian). This form MUST be retained by the club; and be available upon request from the FFV or FFA.

Amateur Player Changing Clubs During a Season

For an Amateur to change clubs during a season, the player MUST complete *Prescribed Form NRR 08 – Notification of Cancellation of Amateur Registration* signed by both the old Club and Player.

In order to register with a new Club, the player MUST complete *Prescribed Form NRR 11 – Supplementary Registration Form* signed by both the new Club and Player

Both forms MUST be lodged to FFV in order for the player movement to be processed.

Professional Players

ALL Professional players across Australia will be required to complete a standard registration form for Professional Players.

Registration documents MUST be lodged within the specified FFV Registration Periods.

Registering a Professional Player

ALL Players MUST provide evidence of AGE and, if applicable, the right to work in Australia. For a Professional Player to be registered in Season 2007, the club MUST lodge a, signed *Prescribed Form 04 – Application for Registration of Professional Player* and an original *Prescribed Form 05 – Professional Player Contract* signed by both Club and Player

Contracts

There will be one standard player contract for all professional players across Australia. Clubs CANNOT sign a Professional Player using any other form of contract.

All player contracts MUST be in the form of
Prescribed Form 05 – Professional Player Contract

The **Maximum term of a contract** is as follows:

- **5 Years** for players **over the age of 18**
- **3 Years** for players **under the age of 18** (but over the statutory school leaving age in Victoria of 15 years of age)

ALL Contracts for Minors (under 18) must be **signed** by the Minor and a Parent or Legal Guardian

The **Minimum term of a contract** is from the date of registration until the end of the season. All Player contracts must have an end-term date within 30 days of the final match of a season.

A Club can Contract Visa Players provided the Club ensures it meets ALL legal requirements pertaining to the **obtaining and maintaining of a valid Visa or work permit**, including, where applicable, a letter of endorsement from FFA, the payment of any minimum salary and any sponsorship requirements as determined by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

Termination of a Professional Player Contract can occur in the following circumstances:

- When the **contract expires**
- By **mutual written consent**
- By a Club for *Just Cause*
- By a Player for *Just Cause* including *Sporting Just Cause*

A Contract can be terminated by mutual written Consent using *Prescribed Form 09 – Mutual Termination of Professional Player Contract*

Just Cause involves legal reasons; eg. Non-payment of wages by a club or a player failing to attend matches or training as specified in the Contract

Sporting Just Cause can be established if a player has appeared in less than 10% of matches during a season for which the player has made themselves available or through other circumstances to be established on a case by case basis (refer to *Article 7.3* of NRR)

A contract CANNOT be terminated by a Club or a Player without a valid reason. If a Contract were to be terminated by either party without Just Cause, a Grievance Procedure to recover compensation may be initiated against the party adjudged to have been at fault. The party at fault may also be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

Transfers and Loans

A Professional Player can Transfer to another club within Australia while still under contract.

A Professional Player can be placed on Loan on the condition that consent is provided by the player, the existing club and the new club. The **minimum loan period** is the **time between two registration periods**. When a loan has expired, a player's registration will immediately revert back to the original club.

ALL Transfer and Loan applications MUST be submitted during one of the two specified FFV Registration Periods.

Transfer or Loan of a Professional Player

To transfer or loan a Professional Player from an Australian Club *Prescribed Form 06 – Application for Transfer or Loan* MUST be completed by the old club, the new Club and the Professional Player

To complete the Transfer of a Professional Player, *Prescribed Form 04 – Application for Registration of Professional Player* and a new *Prescribed Form 05 – Professional Player Contract* MUST also be completed by both Club and Player and lodged to FFV.

For Loan Applications any written loan agreement signed by the new club, the old club and the player should be lodged with the *Prescribed Forms* indicated above.

A Player may be loaned to an A-League Club as a Replacement Player on a short-term basis in accordance with A-League Competition Rules and procedures set out above.

An Amateur Player CANNOT be transferred or loaned within Australia.

A Minor (player under the age of 18) CANNOT be transferred to an International Club.

Transfer Fees

Domestic transfer fees are payable provided the Professional Player is still under contract.

A Club CANNOT claim a transfer fee for a player who is out of contract, including if the Professional Player Contact has been validly terminated.

A Player out of contract is deemed to be a *Free Agent*.

A Club may request a Transfer Fee for a Professional Player up to a MAXIMUM amount of 50% of the total salary owing to the player for the remainder of the contract.

Transfer Fee – Example

If a player signed a **3-year contract** with a professional club in the Victorian Premier League for a **Base Wage of \$200 for 26 weeks per year** over the 3 years and **transferred to a club** in the NSW Premier League **after the first year**, the MAXIMUM transfer fee the Victorian club could claim is **\$5,200**.

This is 50% of the value remaining on the contract after the first year (50% of \$10,400).

Calculation: \$200 (per week) x 26 weeks x 2 years = \$10,400; 50% of this = \$5,200

A fee may be negotiated to be less than 50% of the remaining value on the contract.

Transfer Fees MUST be paid in FULL to FFV within 30 days of the date of registration. FFV will then distribute the fee to the appropriate parties (refer to *Article 10.5* of NRR).

Training Compensation

Training Compensation is compensation which MAY be payable upon registration of a professional who is under the age of 23 years to reflect the training and development of that player by previous clubs.

Under FIFA Regulations, for Professional Players under 23 years of age, training compensation is payable when:

- A player registers as a professional for the first time
- A player is transferred between clubs of two different countries (eg. Transferred between an Australian and English Club) above a Category 4 Club

Within Australia, if a player under the age of 23 signs their first professional contract the following sums are set as follows:

- Signing with an A-league club; \$5 000
- Signing with any other club; \$3 000

Exceptions are ONLY made if a player signs with an A-League Club and it is only his second Club (ALL previous contract[s] were signed with the same club), the fixed sum is \$3 000.

Except where specified above, Training Compensation is NOT payable for a player who transfers between Clubs within Australia.

Compensation is ONLY payable as a player moves up through the player pathway from State League Clubs to the A-League.

Training Compensation – Examples

Training Compensation will apply in the following circumstances:

Signing first professional contract under the age of 23 with *any other club*

i) *Paul White* is a 20 year old player registered with *Club X* in State League 2NW. *Paul* then signs his first Professional Contract with *Club Y* in the Victorian Premier League, still at the age of 20. Training Compensation set at **\$3 000** will be payable by the VPL Club and subsequently distributed amongst *Paul White*'s clubs from the age of 12.

Signing first professional contract under the age of 23 with *an A-League club*

ii) *Bob Jones* is a 21 year old player registered with *Club X* in State League 2NW. *Bob* then signs his first Professional Contract with *Melbourne Victory FC* in the A-League, at the age of 22. Training Compensation set at **\$5 000** will be payable by Melbourne Victory FC and subsequently distributed amongst *Bob Jones*' clubs from the age of 12.

Solidarity Contribution

Solidarity Contribution is an amount paid to a Professional Player's former clubs that were involved in the players' training and education between the ages of 12 and 23 years.

Solidarity Contribution is the **sum of 10% of any transfer fee** and **MUST** be used by a Club to further train and educate players.

Solidarity Contribution is calculated and distributed to Clubs with which the Professional has been registered in the following manner:

- 5% (or 0.5% of the transfer fee) for each season of the 12th to the 15th Birthday and;
- 10% (or 1% of the transfer fee) for each season of the 16th to the 23rd Birthday

Release of Players

Clubs are obliged to release its players for State/ Territory representative duties provided the Player is eligible and available. A Player may refuse to play provided they show reasonable justification.

A State/ territory must give a Player and the Player's Club at least 7 days written notice before the first match.

A Club releasing a player IS NOT entitled to financial compensation.

Disciplinary Sanctions

In order to meet the stated objectives of the NRR, its terms MUST be strictly complied with and its spirit and intent honoured and FFA and Member Federations (FFV) have the right to impose disciplinary sanctions to enforce and encourage compliance with these regulations.

The following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed against an entity (including Clubs):

- i. a reprimand;
- ii. a fine;
- iii. placement of the entity on a bond;
- iv. a deduction or loss of competition points;
- v. ban on the registration or transfer of any Players for a specified period of time;
- vi. annulment of the registration of a Player;
- vii. suspension from participation in a Match or Matches;
- viii. exclusion, suspension or expulsion from a competition; or
- ix. such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA Statutes or FFA Statutes.

Refer to Article 14 of NRR for detailed information on Disciplinary Sanctions.

Grievance Procedures

The Football Federation Australia *Grievance Procedures* apply exclusively to facilitate the expeditious and fair resolution of Grievances that arise between FFA, State Federations, Regional Associations, Clubs, Players, Officials and Agents (*Participants*).

Each *Participant* submits exclusively to the jurisdiction of the Grievance Procedure and agrees that unless and until the Grievance Procedure has been exhausted, it will not attempt to resolve any Grievance in a court of law.

FAQ

Where can a Club obtain the National Registration Regulations (NRR) booklet?

The NRR booklet can be obtained from Football Federation Victoria offices. A soft copy or online version of the document can be downloaded from the following location on the FFV website; <http://www.footballfedvic.com.au/registrations/NRR/>

Where can a Club obtain the Prescribed Registration Forms?

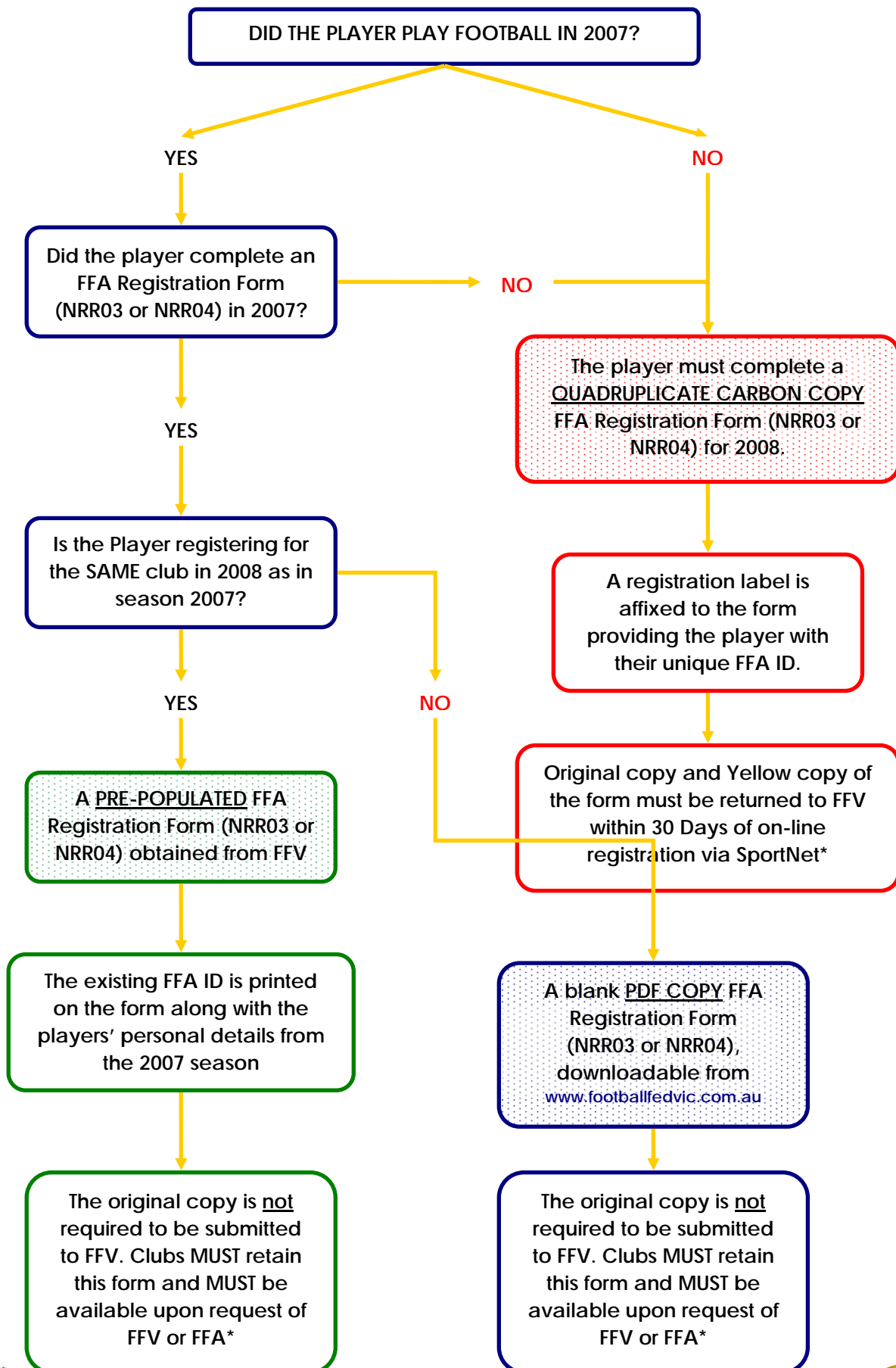
Clubs can obtain the Prescribed Player Registration forms from Football Federation Victoria or from a Regional Association affiliated to FFV for Regional Clubs.

Prescribed Forms are also available via the Football Federation Victoria website in the *Registrations Section (Forms)*. Please visit; <http://www.footballfedvic.com.au/registrations/forms/>

How can a Club find out more about the National Registration Regulations (NRR)?

Clubs may call the Registrations Department on 9474 1845 to get further clarification on the NRR.

2008 PLAYER REGISTRATION PROCEDURE



* All players MUST also be Registered via the on-line SportNet system