

FIFA International Clearance Overview



February 2017

International Clearance Required

- Any player born outside of the United States; OR
 - e.g. player born in Italy
- Any player who has previously registered with a club outside the United States
 - e.g. player most recently competed in Canada



Practical Notes

- Prior clearance still valid if player has not subsequently registered with a club in a foreign federation
 - e.g. Brazilian player received international clearance from USSF to compete with club last season and has not registered elsewhere in the interim
- High School soccer in the United States is not affiliated with U.S. Soccer and therefore does not follow FIFA's Regulations



Amateur Clearance Methods

- Prior to 10 clearance
- First Registration of U.S. citizen
- Minors Process
- First Registration of non-U.S. citizen
- International Transfer Certificate



Amateur International Clearance

	Living in U.S. prior to age 10	Moved to U.S. after age 10, but was never registered outside U.S.	Previously registered to club outside the U.S.
Age 10-17, U.S. Citizen	Prior to 10	First Registration	Minors Process
Age 10-17, Non-U.S. Citizen	Prior to 10	Minors Process	Minors Process
Age 18+	Prior to 10	First Registration	ITC Request



Prior to 10 Clearance

- Applicable when: player born outside of U.S. but moved to the U.S. prior to the age of 10
 - e.g. player born in India who moved to U.S. at age 8
- Documentation Necessary:
 - P10 Form
 - One piece of supporting documentation (report card from age 9, school enrollment history showing enrollment prior to age 10, etc.)
- Cleared upon receipt and approval from U.S. Soccer



First Registration of U.S. Citizen

- Applicable when: player born outside U.S. but is an American citizen who has never registered to play elsewhere
 - e.g. player born to parents on U.S. military assignment in Germany, who gained American citizenship at birth and has never registered
- Documentation Necessary:
 - First Registration Form
 - Proof of U.S. citizenship (passport, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, Certificate of Citizenship/Naturalization)
- Cleared upon receipt and approval from U.S. Soccer.



Minors Process- Background

- FIFA Regulations Article 19- general ban on the international transfer/registration of minor players
 - Enacted to protect youth soccer players from being taken advantage of by agents and/or large clubs
 - Several limited, narrow exceptions
 - FIFA places burden of proof on player
 - Very high threshold of evidence



Minors Process- General

- Applicable when:
 - Player born outside U.S. or has played with a club under a foreign federation; and
 - Player between the ages of 10-17, does not meet Prior to 10 or First Registration of U.S. citizen requirements
- e.g. player born in England who does not meet Prior to 10 or First Registration of U.S. citizen clearance avenues wants to register as a 16-year-old



Minors Process- General, cont.

- Documentation Necessary varies based on the type of clearance:
 - Moved with parents for reasons not related to soccer
 - 50 km
 - Foreign Exchange Student
 - Refugee
- Cleared upon approval from FIFA's Players' Status Committee (can take several weeks to several months) *and* subsequent ITC or FR



Minors Process- Parents Exception

- Must demonstrate player moved with his/her parents for reasons not related to soccer:
 - Player passport and birth certificate
 - Parent passports and visas
 - Proof of residence (lease or mortgage) and utility bill if over 6 mos. old
 - Parents proof of employment (both parents)
 - ITC/First Registration form (whichever applicable)
 - Club Letter addressing first contact with player
 - Statement from Parents describing reason for move
 - Additional documentation depending on the circumstances involved
- Most commonly used exception



Minors Process- 50km Exception

- Player lives outside the U.S., but both player and club are within 50 km of their common borders and distance between them is less than 100km:
 - Player passport and birth certificate
 - Recent utility bill for parents address
 - ITC form
 - Screenshots of distance between club, player, and border



Minors Process- Exchange Student

- Player taking part in an academic foreign exchange student program:
 - Player passport, visa and birth certificate
 - Birth parent passports, authorization to register
 - Host parent passports, authorization to register, proof of residence
 - Player exchange program application, additional info on the program
 - Documentation of academic education, confirmation from home school
 - ITC/First Registration form (whichever applicable)
 - Club Letter addressing first contact with player
- Duration of program must be less than a year, or if longer than a year, the player must be turning 18 in less than a year or have less than a year remaining



Minors Process- Refugee

- Unaccompanied refugee player moving without parents:
 - Proof of refugee status issued by U.S. government
 - Player passport and birth certificate
 - Government decision regarding legal custody of the player and custody holder's authorization to register
 - Declaration of status of player's parents
 - ITC/First Registration form (whichever applicable)
- Refugee player moving with parents:
 - Use Parents Exception, but substitute proof of refugee status issued by U.S. government for parents visas and employment verification



First Registration of non-U.S. Citizen (18+)

- Applicable when: player born outside U.S. who has never registered to play elsewhere
 - e.g. player born in Panama who has never registered with a club in Panama or under any other federation
- Documentation Necessary:
 - First Registration Form
 - Proof of ID (passport, visa, permanent resident card, birth certificate)
- Cleared upon confirmation of no registration record from federation where player was born



International Transfer Certificate (18+)

- Applicable when: last club that the player played for is under a foreign federation
 - e.g. played with FMF affiliate club
- Documentation Necessary:
 - ITC Form
 - Proof of ID (passport, visa, permanent resident card, birth certificate)
- Cleared upon receipt and processing of ITC from federation where player previously played; Provisional on day 31 *after we sent the request* if no reply



Practical Note: U.S. Territories

- Players born in Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam, must receive international clearance despite U.S. citizenship
- Each territory has their own Federation which is a member of FIFA



Wrap-up

- Questions and Clearance requests should be submitted to player_registration@ussoccer.org

