

THE NEW FIFA LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON FEMALE PLAYERS, COACHES AND MINORS

by *Salvatore Civile** and *Sarah Huchet***

ABSTRACT: On 4 December 2020, the FIFA Council approved the reforms to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) which, above all, sought to afford greater protection to female players and introduce a new regulatory framework for football coaches, previously endorsed by the FIFA Football Stakeholders Committee. On 14 December 2020, FIFA issued the circular no. 1743 notifying these changes to the RSTP and the Rules Governing the Procedures of the Players' Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber (Procedural Rules) to all member associations, confirming that they would take effect from 1 January 2021. The circular also announces a new exception for the international transfer of minors in the context of Brexit, new definitions in the RSTP and other specifications on training rewards. The article provides an overview of all the changes and their likely impact for the football stakeholders.

Keywords: *FIFA – RSTP – Procedural Rules – Female Players – Coaches – Transfer of Minors – Training Compensation – Solidarity Mechanisms.*

SUMMARY: 1. Introduction – 2. The FIFA Circular no. 1743 – 3. Specific labour conditions for professional female players – 4. New regulatory framework for coaches – 5. New exception for the international transfer of minors – 6. Enforcement of monetary decisions by FIFA bodies – 7. Other amendments to the RSTP – 8. Conclusions

* Attorney-at-law admitted before Italian Courts, naming Partner of the boutique law firm Studio Civile, Milan (Italy) and since 2013 founding member and President of the Italian Sports Lawyers Association (AIAS). He is selected pro bono lawyer at UEFA Legal Aid project (Nyon, Switzerland) and Arbitrator at ECA - European Handball Federation Court of Arbitration (Wien, Austria). He is appointed arbitrator in the Arbitration Panels of Italian Serie A League established by the Italian football FA (FIGC), player's union (AIC) and the league (LNPA). He is also national sports judge at FITw - Italian Twirling Federation. He is Vice Director and member of the Editorial Board of the Italian Review of Sport Law and Economy (RDES) and author of publications and articles on sports law topics. E-mail: avvocato@studiocivale.it.

** Trainee Lawyer at Studio Civile and admitted to the Centre regional de formation à la profession d'avocat (Regional training centre for the Bar), Paris (France). E-mail: s.huchet@studiocivale.it.