

US Soccer Federation

International Transfer Clearance (ITC) Process

Revised and Effective 7.1.2011

BACKGROUND

FIFA requires all players over the age of 12, regardless of their ability or citizenship, to receive an international transfer clearance ("ITC") from their former country when they are attempting to register to play soccer in a different country (i.e., the United States). U.S. Soccer is responsible for obtaining that ITC on behalf of all non-US born players in the U.S. participating in a U.S. Soccer affiliated leagues.

FIFA, however, prohibits the transfer of players between the ages of 12 to 17 (minors) and in 2009 instituted the FIFA TMS system. TMS is an online method designed to provide FIFA with documentation to prove that a player fits either of two exceptions:

- (a) The player has moved with his/her parents to the U.S. for reasons other than playing soccer (such as for work); or
- (b) The player and prospective club are both located within 30 miles of an international border.

The requisite documents would be uploaded into the TMS system for reviewed by FIFA, who then makes the final determination on whether an ITC request could be fulfilled for a minor player.

However, U.S. Soccer has received a limited exemption from FIFA from the requirement to use the electronic FIFA TMS system. U.S. Soccer is now responsible for the review and determination of whether a player meets either of one of the two exceptions above. Although still required to uphold the same standards as FIFA, U.S. Soccer is able to review the documents on an expedited basis and determine whether an ITC request could be made for a minor player.

If the player can prove to FIFA that either of the two exceptions above has been met, U.S. Soccer would be permitted to request the ITC for that minor player. If the player does not meet one of the two above exceptions, the options available to the player to register are listed below.

Under FIFA's rules, there are four International Transfer Clearance Options by which a player born outside of the U.S. can register with an affiliated U.S. Soccer league:

1. **Entry Prior to Age 12** – Players who entered the U.S. prior to the age of 12 (regardless of their current age) can supply a copy of an official document to prove that fact (e.g. – report cards, doctor / immunization records, certificate of baptism, or a previous registration history with a sports program.)
2. **First Registration**
 - a. ***U.S. Citizens*** – U.S. citizens born outside of the U.S. (regardless of current age) may simply complete and sign the First Registration form attesting that the player has never been registered at any level to play soccer in any other country. U.S. Soccer can immediately clear the player.

b. **Non-U.S. Citizens** – A player born outside of the U.S., who is currently over the age of 18, may also complete and sign the First Registration form. U.S. Soccer will contact the foreign federation for confirmation, and once that is received, U.S. Soccer can clear the player.

3. **Minor ITC Request** – Any player currently between the ages of 12 to 17 who is NOT eligible for one of the two proceeding methods must prove to U.S. Soccer that he/she meets one of the exceptions (a) or (b) above. Once verified, U.S. Soccer will request the ITC from the former federation. Per FIFA regulations, that former federation has up to 30 days to respond to the request after which U.S. Soccer can issue a provisional international transfer clearance.
4. **ITC Request** – Players 18 years of age and over who are not eligible for the Entry Prior to Age 12 or First Registration options, will need to fill out the ITC Request Form and submit it to U.S. Soccer. U.S. Soccer will then request the ITC from the former federation. Per FIFA regulations, that former federation has up to 30 days to respond to the request after which U.S. Soccer can issue a provisional international transfer clearance.