ASSER INSTITUTE

Centre for International & European Law

2026

The FIFA Transfer System in Theory and Practice

September 30 – December 16

Wednesday - 30 September - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 1: History and foundations of the FIFA Transfer System

This first lecture will focus on putting the FIFA transfer system into its historical context and on reflecting on its main pillars. The aim will be to situate the current RSTP in the long-term trajectory of football's regulation, as well as to reflect critically about the purposes it fulfils.

Wednesday - 7 October - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 2: The RSTP and FIFA's administrative control over the transnational movement of players

The second lecture will be focused on the administrative infrastructure (e.g. the Player Passport, the ITC, the registration periods, the FIFA TMS, the FIFA Clearing House) put in place by FIFA to control the movement of players and funds transnationally. The operation of the FIFA transfer system is entirely dependent on the operation of this infrastructure and it is crucial to fully grasp its different processes and functions.

Wednesday - 14 October - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 3: The RSTP and the termination of contracts (I) – What is just cause?

The third and fourth lecture will turn to the core of the FIFA transfer system: the RSTP's regulation of the termination of contracts between players and clubs. First, the focus will be on the RSTP's definition of just cause and its interpretation by the FIFA Tribunal and the CAS. When does a player (or a club) have just cause to terminate their contract with their club (or player)? This is a crucial question, as it conditions the imposition of a vast range of consequences discussed in the next lecture.

Wednesday - 21 October - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 4: The RSTP and the termination of contracts (II) – What are the consequences of a termination of contract without just cause?

The fourth lecture will outline the range of consequences foreseen by the RSTP in the event of a termination of a player contract without just cause. These consequences extend from the obligation to pay a compensation to a range of sporting sanctions. They are a key pillar of the existence of the FIFA transfer system, as they constitute the financial and sporting risks which are worth paying a transfer fee to prevent from materializing. The 2027 reform will substantively reshape these consequences and the conditions that control their application.

<u>Wednesday - 28 October - 16:00 – 18:00 CET</u>

Lecture 5: The rights of players under the RSTP

The fifth lecture will be dedicated to the specific rights granted to players by the RSTP. These include their rights regarding overdue payables (unpaid salaries or bonuses), their newly acquired right to a share of the transfer fee, the minimum contractual rights enshrined in the RSTP, and the specific set of rights enjoyed by female players. We will as well touch upon the rights derived from the case law of the FIFA Football Tribunal (including cases involving abusive demotions, training in isolation, deregistration, unfair dismissal when injured, abusive disciplinary procedures and sanctions).

<u>Wednesday - 11 November - 16:00 – 18:00 CET</u>

Lecture 6: The RSTP as mechanism of redistribution to training clubs: Training compensation and the solidarity mechanism

The sixth lecture will discuss the role of the FIFA transfer system in compensating clubs for their training of players. We will zoom in on the two mechanisms included in the RSTP: the training compensation and the solidarity mechanism, aimed at ensuring that resources trickle down to the clubs in which successful players have trained. We will also discuss the general redistributive function of the transfer market and its operation as a channel to distribute funds from rich clubs and leagues to less wealthy ones.

<u>Wednesday - 18 November - 16:00 – 18:00 CET</u>

Lecture 7: The dark side of the transfer market: Minor transfers, Third-Party Ownership and Agents

This lecture will turn to the way in which FIFA aims to regulate a range of negative externalities linked to the existence of the transfer market. In particular, we will study the rules introduced by FIFA to prevent the trafficking of minors (by regulating academies, trials, minor movement), bridge transfers, third-party ownership, and abusive relationships with agents. We will also discuss how they have been implemented in practice by FIFA and interpreted in disputes by the FIFA Tribunal and the CAS.

<u>Wednesday - 2 December - 16:00 – 18:00 CET</u>

Lecture 8: The enforcement of the RSTP: The role of the FIFA Football tribunal and the CAS

The eighth lecture will be dedicated to the enforcement of the FIFA RSTP and in particular the operation of the FIFA Tribunal (and on appeal of the CAS). We will also discuss the role of

FIFA (through the competence of the disciplinary committee) in ensuring compliance within the football community with the decisions of the FIFA Tribunal and the CAS.

Wednesday - 9 December - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 9: The FIFA transfer system and EU law: uneasy bedfellows

The final lecture will look at the intersection between EU law and FIFA's transfer system. From the Bosman ruling onwards, EU law has played a key role in shaping and re-shaping the transfer system. In fact, the fundamental reform of the RSTP 2027 is a response to the critique raised recently by the CJEU in the Diarra ruling. Understanding the interaction between EU law and the FIFA transfer system is key to grasping its direction of travel and the potential challenges ahead.

Wednesday - 16 December - 16:00 – 17:30 CET

Christmas roundtable: What future for the FIFA transfer system?

We will close the course with a roundtable with practitioners to reflect on the future of the FIFA transfer system. Will the 2027 RSTP be deemed compatible with EU law by the CJEU if challenged? Will it change the way the transfer market operates in practice? Will it strengthen the position of players vis-à-vis clubs? What should FIFA and the social partners focus on in the future to improve the system and limit its negative externalities? The participants will also get a chance to raise the questions they consider pertinent during an extensive Q&A.

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