

Release of players for national association representative matches in accordance with the Coordinated International Match Calendar

(Contrary to the Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players, Art. 36 Para. 2, which will be modified in accordance with the decision reached by the FIFA Executive Committee.)

a) Qualifying matches for an international competition played on fixed/set dates

These matches take priority over matches in a national championship. In other words, matches in the national championship or cup competition should not be arranged on one of the fixed/set dates.

A club holding the registration of a player called up to play in the national team must release him to the national association on the fixed/set dates for international matches in each calendar year (see enclosure "Coordinated International Match Calendar 2002 – 2004").

The player shall also be released for the period of preparation. If the player is called up to play in a qualifying match for an international competition, this period shall be 4 days (including the day of the match). The period of release shall be prolonged to 5 days if the match in question is held on a different continent to that on which the club is domiciled (Paragraph 5b).

b) Friendly matches on fixed/set dates

These matches take priority over matches in a national championship. In other words, matches in the national championship or cup competition should not be arranged on one of the fixed/set dates.

A club holding the registration of a player called up to play in the national team must release him to the national association on the fixed/set dates for international matches in each calendar year (see enclosure "Coordinated International Match Calendar 2002 – 2004"). The matches may be qualifying matches as defined under Art. 36 Paragraph 2a), or friendly matches.

The player shall also be released for the period of preparation. For a friendly match, this period shall be 48 hours (Paragraph 5a).

c) Qualifying matches for an international competition on a fixed/set date for friendly matches

In certain circumstances (force majeure, schedule problems etc), it may be necessary to play a qualifying match for an international competition on a date initially fixed/set for friendly matches. In this event, if a player is called up, he must be released to the national association as under section **a)** above, in accordance with Art. 36 Paragraph 2a). The period of release, however, shall only be 48 hours (Paragraph 5a).

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d) Friendly matches on a fixed/set date for qualifying matches for an international competition

If a national association does not have to play qualifying matches for an international competition, it may wish to play a friendly match on a fixed/set date.

In this event, if a player is called up, he must be released to the national association as under section **b)** above, and in accordance with Art. 36 Paragraphs 2a) and 5a). The period of release, however, shall only be 48 hours.

e) Friendly matches on dates outside the coordinated international match calendar

These matches do not take priority over matches in a national championship. A club is not obliged to release a player who has been called up if the friendly match in question is to be held on a date outside the coordinated international match calendar. In accordance with Article 36 Paragraph 4, a player shall only be released to the national association if his club agrees to his release.

f) Final competitions

In accordance with Article 36 Paragraphs 2b) and 5c), if a player is called up, he must be released to play in the final competition organised by FIFA or a confederation and held in a period fixed/set in the calendar. In this event, the period of release shall be 14 days.

g) General comments

1. We strongly recommend that all national associations endeavour to arrange international matches on either a Wednesday or Saturday. When possible, we also recommend that national associations try to arrange two international matches in the same calendar week, using the "Wednesday & Saturday" system.
2. The FIFA Executive Committee reserves the right to add extra fixed/set dates for international matches. In this event, players must be released in accordance with section **a)** above.