

MATCHES AGAINST FOREIGN CLUBS

Associations, Leagues and Clubs, members of The Association, wishing to play Associations, Leagues or Clubs of another Nationality must apply to The Association for consent at least 28 days before the date of the intended match.

The Association will inform the other Association concerned when consent has been given for matches applied for.

The rules connected with the playing of matches abroad are probably the ones which are broken most. A minimum notice of 28 days should be given, though experience shows that this is not enough. When a request is made for a match to be played against foreign opposition, home or away, the national association of the opponent's club must be approached to see if that club is properly affiliated. This takes time, and at busy periods such as Easter and Whitsuntide, when many junior clubs go abroad, frequently consent is not received until shortly before the match is to be played. More unfortunately, notification is received that the proposed opponents are not affiliated, in which case the match cannot be played. Clubs have been severely punished and banned from foreign touring for periods of time for breaches of this rule.

In the case of senior professional clubs, matches between European clubs may only be arranged by agents who are licensed by the European Federation (U.E.F.A.). Lists of licensed agents are obtainable from The Football Association. It is almost courting disaster to attempt to arrange a match against foreign opposition at short notice, and "short notice" means less than a month.

Clubs should ensure that they follow their safeguarding children policy and procedures at all times and refer to The FA's recommended guidance on Travel Trips and Tournaments via www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding/raising-awareness---downloads-section.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR BEHAVIOUR

On the two types of application form for Tours abroad, The FA states that -"All clubs given permission to play matches abroad are directed to ensure that, both on and off the field members of the party should uphold the prestige of The Association and of their clubs. It is a condition of permission being granted that a Director or Senior Committee Member of the club must travel with the party and must accept full responsibility for the actions and conduct of the party on tour."

Consent is also conditional upon the Laws of the Game being strictly observed. For example, even in friendly matches up to six substitutes may be used. If the matches are to be played outside Europe, clubs are reminded that in their own interest they should forward details of their visit and the matches to be played to the British Embassy in the countries concerned, and The Association will endeavour to assist in transmitting this information. This procedure is always followed in the case of an England or Representative FA side.

TRAVEL LICENCES FOR YOUNG PLAYERS

Since an increasing number of Junior/Youth Clubs are now applying for permission to play matches abroad, The FA some time ago, published information relating to young players travelling abroad.

Recently appointed or inexperienced secretaries should note carefully the following excerpts on Licences and Passports for certain types of player under the age of 18 years.

LICENCES

Under the terms of section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933 a young person under 18 years of age needs a licence if he or she is to play or perform abroad for profit. Thus it is an offence for a footballer of less than 18 years of age to be sent abroad to play for his team or country unless he has been granted a licence.

The onus for applying for the licence rests with the Club Manager or in cases of an International match with The Football Association.

To obtain a licence the Club Manager or The Football Association should send to the Bow Street Magistrates Court, London WC2:-

1.
 - (a) a completed 'Application for Licence' (form Q1 obtainable from the Bow Street Magistrates Court).
 - (b) a completed 'Notice to Police' (form Q10 obtainable from the Bow Street Magistrates Court).
 - (c) a copy of the Schedule (obtainable from the Bow Street Magistrates Court).
 - (d) a letter stating that:
 - (i) the player is physically fit to go abroad for the purpose of playing football.
 - (ii) the date of birth of the player is as shown on the 'Application for Licence'
 - (iii) the 'Application for Licence' is made with the consent of the parent or guardian of the player.
 - (e) details of the Club's visit abroad, i.e. dates of the tour and matches also the financial arrangements in so far as the players are concerned.
2. The Club should also send the following to the Police in whose area the player resides:-
 - (a) a copy of the completed 'Application for Licence' (form Q1).
 - (b) a completed 'Notice to Police' (form Q10 Supplied with form Q1).
3. The arrival of the player/s who is/are on licence must be reported to the local Consul in whose area the player/s will be staying while abroad. Details of the Consul's name and telephone number will be given to you by Bow Street when the licence is issued.
4. The return of the player/s who is/are on licence must be reported to Bow Street in writing immediately after he/they has/have returned to England.

PASSPORTS

Applications for passports in respect of footballers of less than 18 years of age going abroad to play football should be sent or taken to the nearest Passport Office. Each application should be accompanied by the Club Manager's written undertaking that the player will not be sent abroad to play for his team without a licence so long as he is under the age of eighteen. These requirements do not apply to players over the age of 18, nor where the passport is required for holiday purposes.