

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1000

Zurich, 10 October 2005
GS/mha-tha

FIFA coordinated international match calendar for women's football

Dear Sir or Madam,

With regard to circular no. 977 dated 12 July 2005 and as a result of the feedback received from the confederations, we are pleased to provide you with some additional information concerning the coordinated international match calendar for women's football and the release of players for women's international matches.

The following calendar has now been approved for the year 2006 and will not be amended any further:

2006	Protected Event
18.02. - 23.02.	FIFA fixed date
11.03. - 16.03.	FIFA fixed date
25.03. - 30.03.	UEFA qualifiers
22.04. - 27.04.	UEFA qualifiers
06.05. - 11.05.	UEFA qualifiers
03.06. - 08.06.	FIFA fixed date
17.06. - 22.06.	UEFA qualifiers
16.07. - 30.07.	AFC Women's Championship
29.07. - 03.08.	FIFA fixed date
19.08. - 20.08.	UEFA qualifiers
26.08. - 31.08.	UEFA qualifiers
23.09. - 28.09.	UEFA qualifiers
28.10. - 02.11.	UEFA qualifying competition play-offs
03.11. - 20.11.	CONCACAF final qualifying tournament for Women's World Cup
04.11. - 09.11.	UEFA qualifying competition play-offs
18.11. - 23.11.	FIFA fixed date

We remind you of the attributes of the Women's Calendar contained in Circular 977:

Five fixed dates: Every year of the calendar includes five dates reserved for international friendly matches or official matches (e.g. matches in competitions organised by FIFA or the confederations). These are titled "FIFA fixed dates" in the calendar above.

Five free dates: Every year a member association may play friendly matches on five dates *in addition* to the five FIFA fixed dates listed in the calendar above. In these cases, it is the obligation of the member association to inform FIFA, the clubs of the players involved and the players themselves at least 30 days in advance of the dates selected. Clubs must confirm that they will release the players concerned within six days of receiving notification of the match date. ***We ask that you communicate this rule to the attention of all the clubs in your country that have women's teams.***

Dates of Confederation Qualifying tournaments: Each confederation is asked to notify FIFA of the dates they wish to protect for their qualifying tournaments by 1 July of the year prior (note that for the 2006 dates, the deadline was extended to 10 August of this year). These dates are also listed above in the calendar.

Release of players: All of the provisions of annex 1 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players (December 2004 edition, cf. enclosure and details given above) apply for the release of players in connection with the coordinated international match calendar for women's football. Clubs have no obligation to release players for matches played on dates that are not protected in the calendar above, unless use of a free date is requested by a member association, and a minimum of 30 day notice is given. If a representative team has a space of eight days or more between two matches, players are not permitted to remain with the representative team during this time.

Player must be released for the period of preparation before the match, as follows:

- a) for friendly matches: 48 hours
- b) for qualifying matches for an international tournament: four days (excluding the day of the match). The release period shall be extended to five days if the match concerned is held in a different confederation to the one in which the player's club is registered.
- c) for qualifying matches for an international tournament that are staged on a date earmarked for friendly matches: 48 hours (unless the date has also been designated by a confederation for its qualifying matches by the deadline of the year prior. In this case, the release period shall be 4/5 days).
- d) for the final competition of an international tournament: 14 days before the first match in the competition.

Number of times a player must be released: A club is obliged to release a player for ten international matches per year. If, after already having played ten matches in the same calendar year, an association has to play additional matches in a FIFA or confederation final competition for national "A" teams or another competition at the confederation level that serves as the qualifying tournament for a FIFA competition or for the finals of a confederation competition for national "A" teams, clubs will also be obliged to release players for the relevant matches.

2007 calendar:

Following the same procedure as has been used to compile the 2006 calendar, FIFA will ask the confederations to confirm the dates of their respective qualifying matches and final competitions by no later than 1 July 2006. These details will be communicated to the associations in due course.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Urs Linsi
General Secretary

Enc. - Circular no. 977
 - Annex 1 of the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players (December 2004 edition)

cc. - FIFA Executive Committee
 - Confederations
 - FIFA Committee for Women's Football and the FIFA Women's Competitions
 - FIFA Players' Status Committee