

#### 4. THE INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCE PROCESS FOR MINORS

4.1 Pursuant to the FIFA Regulations, the international clearance process applies to any minor player, being a player aged 10 to 18 years (*Minor*) seeking to register to play football in Australia at any level.

4.2 As a starting point, the FIFA Regulations provide: *International transfers of players are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18* (Art 19.1). This policy is intended to protect players under the age of 18 from potential exploitation.

4.3 The FIFA Regulations also apply to any Minor who is a foreign national (including refugees) seeking to register in Australia, **irrespective of whether they were registered to play football in their previous country or not**. The FIFA Regulations also capture any Australian Minors who are returning to Australia after having played abroad. Any such Minor seeking to register to play football will need to complete a Minor ITC Application.

4.4 Where a Minor was born in a country other than Australia and is **registering to play football for the first time**, the international clearance process will still need to be carried out. FFA is required to confirm that there is no record of registration of the player in their former country of residence and will still require supporting documents to request this information.

4.5 FFA is able to consider Minor ITC Applications for the transfer of Minors to amateur Australian Clubs who meet the FIFA exception in Art. 19.2(a) of the FIFA Regulations, being where *the player's parents move to the country in which the new Club is located for reasons not linked to football*.

4.6 For all other Minors (including exchange students, any child in Australia on refugee or protection visa, or Minors seeking to register with an Australian professional Club), FFA may be able to make an application on behalf of that Minor to the FIFA Players' Status Committee in Zurich. However, FFA is unable to make any guarantee as to the outcome of such an application. Please note that such applications can be very time consuming and require significant supporting documentation. Further, in FFA's experience, it is not unusual for FIFA to make a number of requests for further supporting documentation once the initial application is lodged.

4.7 Children aged under 10 do not require an ITC.

4.8 An individual player's footballing ability or nationality has no bearing on the ITC process.

4.9 There are six applications forms that address the specific requirements of each Minor ITC Application type. These forms must be fully completed and returned to the relevant Member Federation, together with all necessary documents supporting the application.

4.10 To avoid delays, please ensure that:

- (a) only Member Federations send the Minor ITC Application Form and supporting documents to FFA; and
- (b) the supporting documents provided are in accordance with the relevant enclosed checklists.

4.11 The below flowcharts will assist parents, Clubs and Member Federations to determine which application form to complete and which additional documentation is required to support a Minor ITC Application.