



## International Clearance Overview

## INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCE REQUIREMENT

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An International Transfer Certificate (ITC) is required for:

- All players competing in the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup
- All players participating on teams in the Development Academy
- Any players competing on a team/club that has an affiliation with a professional club. This includes:
  - All teams playing in sanctioned Professional Leagues (MLS, USL and NWSL)
  - Any youth or amateur team that has a legal, financial or de facto tie to a professional club

## PRACTICAL NOTES

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Prior clearance still valid if player has not subsequently registered with a club in a foreign federation

- e.g. Brazilian player received international clearance from U.S. Soccer to compete with club last season and has not registered elsewhere in the interim

High School and College soccer in the United States is not affiliated with U.S. Soccer and therefore does not follow FIFA's Regulations regarding ITCs

Players born in Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam must receive international clearance despite U.S. Citizenship

- Each territory has its own federation, which is a member of FIFA

## AMATEUR CLEARANCE METHODS

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Prior to 10 clearance

First Registration of U.S. citizen

Minors Process (plus First Registration or ITC)

First Registration of non-U.S. citizen (18+ only)

International Transfer Certificate

## AMATEUR INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCE



	Living in U.S. prior to age 10	Moved to U.S. after age 10, but was never registered outside U.S.	Previously registered with club outside the U.S.
Age 10-17, U.S. Citizen	Prior to 10	First Registration	Minors Process (ITC)
Age 10-17, Non-U.S. Citizen	Prior to 10	Minors Process (First Registration)	Minors Process (ITC)
Age 18+	Prior to 10	First Registration	ITC Request

## PRIOR TO 10

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Applicable when: player born outside of U.S. but moved to U.S. prior to the age of 10

- e.g. player born in India who moved to U.S. at age 8

Documentation necessary:

- P10 form
- One piece of official documentation demonstrating participation in daily life activities in the U.S. prior to the age of 10 (e.g. age 9 report card)

Cleared upon receipt and approval from U.S. Soccer

## FIRST REGISTRATION OF U.S. CITIZEN

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Applicable when: player born outside U.S. but is an American citizen who has never registered to play elsewhere

- e.g. player born to parents on U.S. military assignment in Germany

Documentation Necessary:

- First Registration Form
- Proof of U.S. citizenship (either passport, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or Certificate of Citizenship/Naturalization)

Cleared upon receipt and approval from U.S. Soccer

## MINORS PROCESS- BACKGROUND

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Article 19, FIFA Regulations- *general prohibition* on the international transfer/registration of minor players aged 10-17

- Enacted with intent of protecting youth soccer players from being moved internationally and taken advantage of by agents and/or large clubs
- Several limited, narrow exceptions to the general prohibition, but
  - FIFA places burden of proof on player
  - Very high threshold of evidence



## MINORS PROCESS- GENERAL

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### Applicable when:

- Player born outside U.S. or has played with a club under a foreign federation; and
- Player between the ages of 10-17, does not meet requirements for Prior to 10 or First Registration of U.S. citizen

e.g. player born in England who does not meet Prior to 10 or First Registration of U.S. citizen clearance avenues wants to register as a 16-year-old

## MINORS PROCESS- GENERAL, CONT.

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Documentation necessary varies based on type of clearance:

- Moved with parents for reasons not related to soccer
- 50km
- Foreign Exchange Student
- Refugee

Cleared upon approval from FIFA's Players' Status Committee (can take between several weeks to several months) and subsequent ITC or FR

## MINORS PROCESS- PARENTS EXCEPTION



Must demonstrate to FIFA that player moved with his/her parents for reasons not related to soccer. FIFA requires:

- Player Passport and birth certificate
- Parent passports and visas
- Proof of residence (lease or mortgage) and utility bill if over 6 mos. old
- Parent employment verification letter from employer (both parents)
- ITC/First Registration Form (whichever applicable)
- Club Letter addressing first contact with player
- Statement from parents describing reason for move
- Additional documentation depending on the circumstances involved

Most commonly used exception

## MINORS PROCESS- 50 KM EXCEPTION



Player lives outside the U.S., but both player and club are within 50km of their common borders and distance between them is less than 100km:

- Player passport and birth certificate
- Recent utility bill for parents' address
- ITC form
- Screenshots of distance between club, player, and border

## MINORS PROCESS- EXCHANGE STUDENT



Player taking part in an academic foreign exchange student program, and the club cannot have an affiliation or any links to a professional club:

- Player Passport, visa and birth certificate
- Parent passports and signed authorization to register for the specific club
- Host parent IDs, signed authorization to register for the specific club, proof of residence (utility bill)
- Player exchange program application, additional info on the program
- Documentation of academic education (detailed daily class schedule), confirmation of participation from home school
- Signed statement from exchange program or player's parents confirming return
- ITC/First Registration Form (whichever applicable)
- Club Letter addressing first contact with player

Duration of program must be less than a year, or if longer than a year, player must be turning 18 in less than a year or have less than a year remaining

## MINORS PROCESS- REFUGEE



Player is unaccompanied refugee moving without parents, and generally the club looking to join cannot have an affiliation or any links to a professional club:

- Proof of refugee status issued by U.S. government
- Player Passport and birth certificate
- Government decision regarding legal custody of the player, custody holder's authorization to register
- Declaration of status of player's parents
- ITC/First Registration Form (whichever applicable)

Player is accompanied refugee moving with parents, and generally the club looking to join cannot have an affiliation or any links to a professional club:

- Use Parents Exception, but substitute the parents proof of refugee status issued by U.S. Government for parent visas and employment verification

## FIRST REGISTRATION OF NON-U.S. CITIZEN (18+)



Applicable when: player born outside U.S. who has never registered to play elsewhere

- e.g. player born in Panama who has never registered with a club in Panama or any other federation

Documentation Necessary:

- First Registration Form
- Proof of ID (passport, visa, permanent resident card, or birth certificate)

Cleared upon confirmation of no registration record from federation where player was born

## INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATE (18+)



Applicable when: player last played for a club in a foreign federation

- e.g. player last played with club in Mexico

Documentation Necessary:

- ITC Form
- Proof of ID (passport, visa, permanent resident card, or birth certificate)

Cleared upon receipt and processing of ITC from federation where player last played; provisional clearance issued if no reply on day 31 *after U.S. Soccer sent the request*



## GOING FORWARD

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- All ITC processes will take place in the NDC
  - For those of you who have been using the department email, we will no longer accept ITC forms in that inbox
- We'll continue to use [player\\_registration@ussoccer.org](mailto:player_registration@ussoccer.org) as a resource to answer questions from Members
  - Questions from parents/players/coaches will be directed to the Members
  - This is similar to how we handled questions about PDIs

U.S. SOCCER



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