



TAS / CAS
TRIBUNAL ARBITRAL DU SPORT
COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT
TRIBUNAL ARBITRAL DEL DEPORTE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOOTBALL – REGULATORY (FIFA RSTP)

THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS) CONFIRMS THE AMENDMENT TO ANNEX 7 OF THE FIFA REGULATIONS ON THE STATUS AND TRANSFER OF PLAYERS (RSTP) CONCERNING THE SUSPENSION OF CONTRACTS BETWEEN PLAYERS / COACHES AND CLUBS AFFILIATED TO THE UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION OF FOOTBALL (UAF) OR TO THE FOOTBALL UNION OF RUSSIA (FUR)

Lausanne, 13 January 2023 - The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has issued its decisions in the arbitration procedures between the Ukrainian club FC Shakhtar Donetsk and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), and the Russian clubs FC Zenit JSC, FC Dynamo Moscow, FC Sochi, PFC CSKA Moscow, FC Krasnodar, FC Lokomotiv, FC Rostov, FC Rubin and FIFA.

The object of both arbitrations was the decision rendered by the Bureau of the FIFA Council on 20 June 2022 (the Challenged Decision) which extended the application of Annex 7 (“Temporary rules addressing the exceptional situation deriving from the war in Ukraine”) to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) until 30 June 2023.

Employment contracts of an international dimension with clubs affiliated to the UAF (Ukraine)

In its original version, Annex 7 provided that a contract of an international dimension between a player or a coach and a club affiliated to the UAF was automatically suspended until 30 June 2022. The Challenged Decision replaced the automatic suspension with an option for players or coaches to suspend their contracts unilaterally until 30 June 2023, provided that a mutual agreement with the club could not be reached before or on 30 June 2022.

Employment contracts of an international dimension with clubs affiliated to the FUR (Russia)

In its original version, Annex 7 provided that a contract of an international dimension between a player or a coach and a club affiliated to the FUR could be suspended unilaterally by the player or the coach until 30 June 2022, provided that a mutual agreement with the club could not be reached before or on 10 March 2022. The Appealed Decision extended the possible unilateral suspension by a player or a coach until 30 June 2023, provided that a mutual agreement with the club could not be reached before or on 30 June 2022.

The CAS arbitrations were handled by two different CAS Panels. Both Panels dismissed the appeals and confirmed the Challenged Decision. Both Panels emphasized that the Challenged Decision was the consequence of a legitimate objective, in the light of the FIFA Statutes, and that the measures adopted were not grossly disproportionate and remained within the sphere of discretion granted to FIFA by Swiss law.

The reasoned awards are being finalised and will be notified to the parties shortly.