

FIFA®



Football Tribunal Report 2025/2026

SEPTEMBER 2026

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1.

Foreword

Dear members of the football family,

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Football Tribunal Report, which presents the activity of the FIFA Football Tribunal and the FIFA administration for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

This reporting period was marked by both continuity and transition. The Football Tribunal continued to serve as a central forum for the resolution of international football disputes and the processing of regulatory applications, while operating within a regulatory environment that is evolving rapidly in response to the needs of the game. Through the FIFA Legal Portal and the Transfer Matching System, football stakeholders around the world continued to access specialised, efficient and increasingly digital procedures for matters involving players, coaches, clubs and Member Associations.

The figures presented in this report confirm the scale and importance of the services provided by the Football Tribunal. During the 2025/2026 period, the Disputes and Regulatory Applications Department (D&RA) of the FIFA Legal & Compliance Division received and processed over 22,000 claims, applications and enquiries. Contractual and employment-related disputes before the Players' Status Chamber and the Dispute Resolution Chamber reached their highest levels to date, while regulatory applications continued to represent the majority of the department's activity. This included a further increase in applications for the registration of minors and a notable rise in eligibility and change-of-association matters which, when viewed together, reveal a clear departure from the more gradual growth recorded in previous reporting periods. The combined number of the eligibility and change-of-association requests increased from 254 in 2024/2025 to 348 in 2025/2026, a rise of 37%. The timing and distribution of these requests indicate that this exceptional increase was closely connected to the FIFA World Cup 2026™, a connection explored in detail in this report.

The year also represented the first full reporting period following the approval of the Interim Regulatory Framework (IRF), which introduced important amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. Within this context, the Football Tribunal was called upon to apply and interpret the revised framework in a number of significant employment-related disputes. While the jurisprudence will continue to develop in real time, these decisions have already provided crucial guidance on the practical operation of the IRF and will contribute to greater consistency, predictability and legal certainty for football stakeholders.

At the same time, the period covered by this report illustrates the breadth of the Football Tribunal's role beyond traditional dispute resolution. Section 4, "Regulatory applications", demonstrates the continued importance of FIFA's work in areas such as the protection of minors, international registration procedures, eligibility to play for representative teams and requests for a change of association. In particular, eligibility and change-of-association matters acquired renewed relevance in the lead-up to the FIFA World Cup 2026, as Member Associations sought clarity and, where permitted by the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes (RGAS), to broaden the pool of players available to their representative teams during the final stages of qualification and in preparation for the tournament.

Another important development during the reporting period was the continued implementation of the regulatory framework for national dispute resolution chambers (NDRCs). Since the entry into force of that framework, the Football Tribunal has recognised a growing number of NDRCs that meet the applicable requirements, thereby supporting the development of reliable, independent and FIFA-recognised dispute resolution mechanisms at national level.

The DR&A, operating from the FIFA office in Miami, continues to support the Football Tribunal with the same level of commitment to quality, consistency and service to the football community. Looking ahead, and with particular focus on the upcoming entry into force of the new Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players on 1 January 2027, FIFA will continue to modernise its processes, further strengthen the accessibility and efficiency of its procedures, and ensure that the Football Tribunal remains responsive to the legal and regulatory challenges and opportunities of modern football.

Yours faithfully,

FIFA



Jan Kleiner

Director of Football Regulatory



Erika Montemor Ferreira

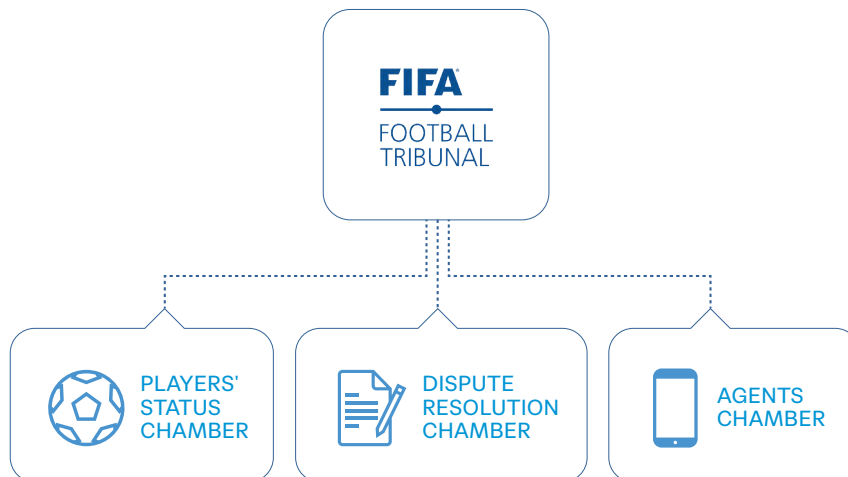
Head of Disputes & Regulatory Applications



2.

Overview

The Football Tribunal (FT) is the FIFA decision-making body for football-related disputes and regulatory applications and is composed of three chambers:¹



Sitting within the Legal & Compliance Division and the Football Regulatory Subdivision, the D&RA deals with contractual disputes with an international dimension as well as regulatory applications that fall under the competence of the Players' Status Chamber (PSC) and the Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC), acting as the secretariat to the FT.²

As in previous editions, we have put together this Football Tribunal Report 2025/2026 to provide an extensive overview of the decisions passed by the chambers of the FT and the work done by the FIFA administration in the period between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.

This report addresses the disputes and regulatory applications regulated by the FIFA Statutes as well as in the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) and processed within the framework of the FIFA dispute resolution system in accordance with the Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal (Procedural Rules) over the course of the corresponding period.

¹ The current composition of the chambers can be found in the annexe.

² On 30 December 2023, the Bureau of the Council approved the worldwide temporary suspension of the FIFA Football Agent Regulations (FFAR) until the European Court of Justice renders a final decision in the pending proceedings concerning the regulations ([cf. FIFA circular no. 1873](#)). As article 20 of the FFAR is temporarily suspended, the Agents Chamber (AC) currently has no jurisdiction to hear disputes as would otherwise be provided in the FFAR. Consequently, the activities of the AC are not taken into account for the purposes of this report.

Taking into account the various competences of the DRC and the PSC, this report is divided into two main areas:

- a) dispute resolution, including contractual disputes involving players, coaches, clubs and Member Associations with an international dimension, as well as solidarity mechanism and training compensation matters; and
- b) registration and eligibility matters, including disputes over the release of international transfer certificates (ITCs), regulatory applications to change association, eligibility matters concerning playing for national teams, and applications to register minors.

The period between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026 marked a new all-time high for the D&RA, which received a total of 22,417 cases, applications and enquiries.

Overall, we witnessed a 2.8% increase in regulatory applications compared to the previous period, as the result of an increase in both applications for the registration of minor players – 712 additional cases compared to 2024/2025 – and eligibility and change-of-association submissions, which collectively grew by 37%.

The number of contractual and employment-related disputes lodged before the FT also reached a new record in the 2025/2026 period, increasing by 14.7% compared to the previous reporting period.

In contrast, and as expected, the 2025/2026 period showed a significant reduction in the number of claims for solidarity contributions and training compensation (-34.1%) as a direct result of the implementation of the FIFA Clearing House.

Dispute resolution	3,827
Players' Status Chamber	1,129
Dispute Resolution Chamber	2,698
Employment-related disputes	2,346
Solidarity contribution claims	205
Training compensation claims	147
Regulatory applications	18,590
Validation exceptions	949
Applications for minors	17,293
Eligibility	162
Changes of association	186
Total	22,417

Figure 1: Cases, applications and enquiries received by the D&RA in 2025/2026





3.

Football
Tribunal

FIFA provides dispute resolution services to football stakeholders via the FT and within the framework of the FIFA regulations. The PSC and the DRC are the FIFA decision-making bodies competent to adjudicate on contractual disputes involving Member Associations, clubs, players, coaches and licensed match agents, as well as on regulatory applications, in accordance with article 2 paragraph 1 of the Procedural Rules in combination with articles 22 and 23 of the RSTP.³

The time required to process contractual disputes may vary significantly from case to case, depending on the nature and complexity of the matter as well as procedural factors such as the number of parties involved, the volume of submissions and evidence provided, and the existence of counterclaims or related proceedings.

The FIFA administration, in accordance with the Procedural Rules, may also propose a settlement to the parties without the need for a formal decision by the FT in disputes without *prima facie* complex facts or legal issues, or in cases where there is clearly established jurisprudence of the FT. Since being implemented in 2021, proposals from the FIFA administration have become an important tool in the dispute resolution process by significantly reducing the time it takes to resolve straightforward cases.

On average, the time elapsed between the receipt of a duly filed claim and its resolution by means of a decision or an accepted proposal⁴ was 111.5 days in the 2025/2026 period (105.2 days for cases under the competence of the PSC and 114.5 days for cases before the DRC).

While the average processing time increased during the 2025/2026 period, the FIFA administration and the FT continued to handle contractual disputes within a specialised and comparatively efficient framework. The increase in duration over the current reporting period reflects the all-time-high number of incoming disputes as well as the broader context in which those disputes were processed, including the growing complexity of claims, the specialisation and high quality of legal representatives involved, the impact of counterclaims and multi-party proceedings as well as the Interim Regulatory Framework, and the continued need and commitment to ensure the consistent application of the evolving regulatory landscape. The FT remains committed to balancing efficiency with the quality and consistency expected of an international dispute resolution system and will continue to strive for excellence in the services provided to football stakeholders.

³ Three editions of the RSTP were in force during the period covered by this report, namely the October 2024, January 2025 and July 2025 editions. Two editions of the Procedural Rules were in force during the reporting period, namely the January 2025 and January 2026 editions. Where relevant, this report indicates any particularities relating to the relevant edition.

⁴ Cf. article 20 of the Procedural Rules.

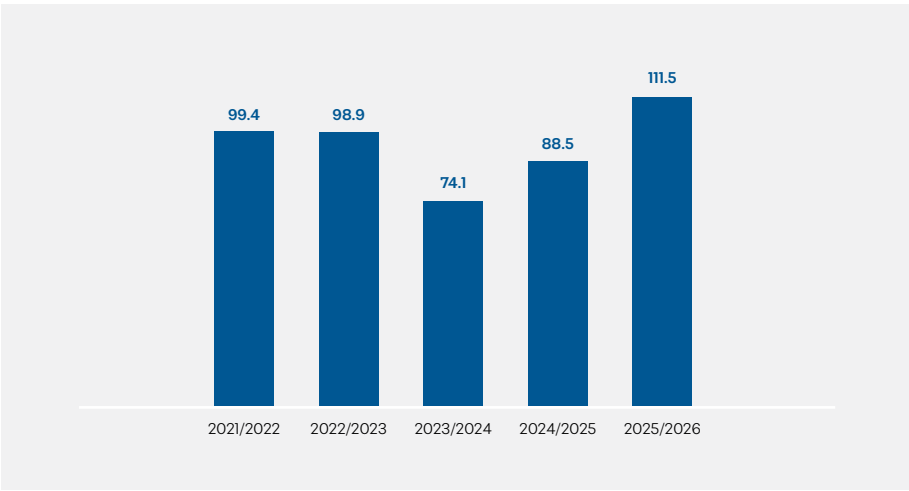


Figure 2: Average processing time of contractual disputes resolved by a decision or an accepted proposal (in days)

3.1 Players' Status Chamber

According to article 22 paragraphs 1 c) and g) and article 23 paragraph 2 of the RSTP, the PSC is competent to hear contractual disputes between a club or an association and a coach of an international dimension, as well as disputes between clubs belonging to different associations.

In 2025/2026, the PSC **received** a record 1,129 claims, the highest figure recorded to date.

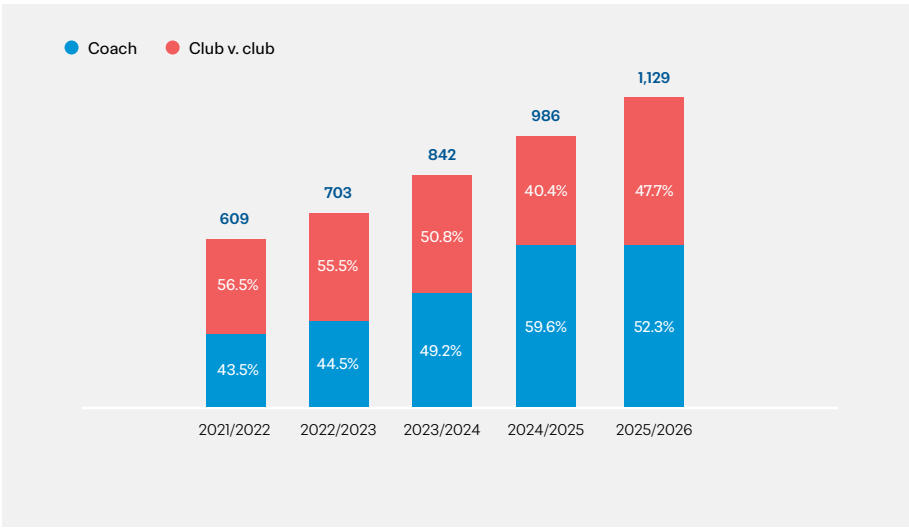


Figure 3: Claims received by the PSC by type

In addition, the number of claims **resolved** by the PSC also reached new heights in 2025/2026, with a total of 1,085 claims. Almost half of these cases (45.4%) were resolved with a decision passed by the PSC, while 32.7% of the cases were closed for other reasons, e.g. because the parties reached an amicable settlement (either privately or through FIFA mediation), because the party concerned did not complete its claim, or because the claim could not be processed for other reasons.

In 2025/2026, the proposals mechanism continued to be consistently effective, with 234 claims (21.6%) being resolved as the result of a proposal from the FIFA administration being accepted (or not rejected) by the parties. This percentage increased from 19.4% in the previous year, confirming the reliability and effectiveness of this expedited resolution pathway.

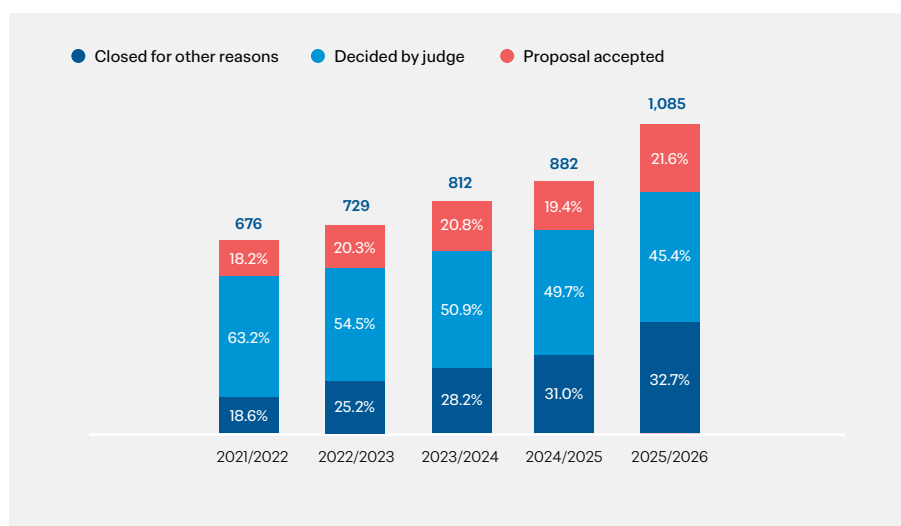


Figure 4: Claims resolved by the PSC by type of closure

Lastly, pursuant to article 19 of the RSTP and article 29 of the Procedural Rules, the PSC is also competent to adjudicate and resolve regulatory applications regarding:

- international transfers or first registrations of minors (cf. art. 19. par. 4 of the RSTP);
- limited minor exemption (LME) requests (cf. art. 19. par. 7 of the RSTP);
- FIFA's intervention to authorise player registrations, where referred by the FIFA general secretariat (cf. art. 14. par. 2 of Annexe 3 to the RSTP);
- requests for eligibility (cf. art. 8 par. 2 b) of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes (RGAS));
- change of association (cf. art. 10 par. 4 of the RGAS); and
- the late return of players from representative-team duty (cf. art. 1 par. 10 of Annexe 1 to the RSTP).

The relevant data on regulatory applications can be found in section 4 below.

3.2 Dispute Resolution Chamber

The DRC provides dispute resolution based on equal representation of player and club representatives, along with the participation of an independent chairperson or deputy (cf. art. 4 par. 3 of the Procedural Rules).

According to article 22 paragraphs 1 a), b), d), e) and f) and article 23 paragraph 1 of the RSTP, the DRC is competent to adjudicate on:

- disputes between clubs and players in relation to the maintenance of contractual stability (cf. arts 13–18) where there has been an ITC request;
- employment-related disputes between a club and a player of an international dimension;⁵
- disputes relating to training compensation (cf. art. 20) and the solidarity mechanism (cf. art. 21) between clubs belonging to different associations;
- disputes relating to training compensation (cf. art. 20) and the solidarity mechanism (cf. art. 21) between clubs belonging to the same association, provided that the transfer of a player at the basis of the dispute occurs between clubs belonging to different associations; and
- matters of legal or factual complexity in an Electronic Player Passport (EPP) review process in accordance with article 10 paragraph 3 of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations (FCHR) and disputes between clubs in accordance with article 18 paragraph 2 of the FCHR.

All payments related to training compensation and the solidarity mechanism that fall under the FCHR are processed exclusively via the FIFA Clearing House. Equally, the EPP process and claims regarding training rewards are conducted entirely through TMS as per the FCHR and the Procedural Rules. All other contractual and employment-related disputes are conducted exclusively through the Legal Portal.

⁵ On 18 January 2024, FIFA introduced the new National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, incorporating the new National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations (see FIFA circular no. 1876). As of January 2025, the parties to a dispute are allowed to explicitly opt in writing for such disputes to be decided by an NDRC, or a national dispute resolution body operating under an equivalent name, that has been officially recognised by FIFA. Any jurisdiction clause of this nature must be exclusive and included either directly in the relevant contract or in a collective bargaining agreement applicable to the parties.

3.2.1 Employment-related disputes

In 2025/2026, the DRC once again set a new record of claims **received** and processed, with a total of 2,346 employment-related disputes between players and clubs, which represented an increase of 14.8% compared to the previous year.

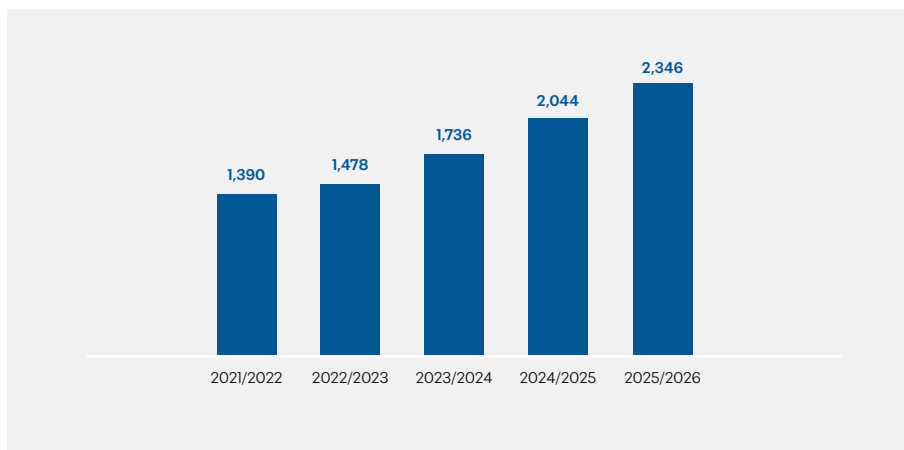


Figure 5: Employment-related disputes received by the DRC

Similarly, the number of claims **resolved** by the DRC reached a new record in 2025/2026, with 2,171 claims resolved in total, representing an increase of 20.4% compared to the 2024/2025 period. More than 50% of these claims were decided by the DRC, while a further 25.7% were closed for other reasons. The remaining claims, accounting for 20.6% of the total, were resolved following the acceptance, either expressly or tacitly, of a proposal issued by FIFA. This represents a 23.8% increase in the number of successful proposals compared to 2024/2025 and confirms the continued year-on-year increase in the effectiveness of the proposal mechanism.

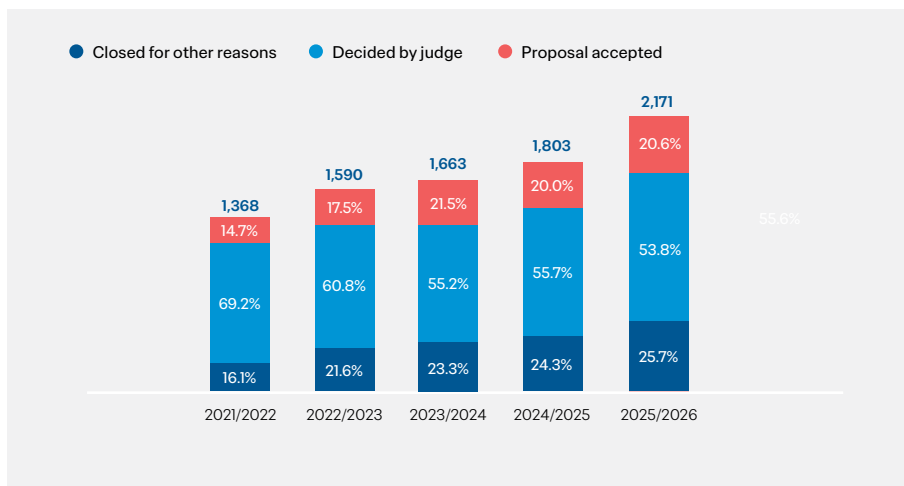


Figure 6: Employment-related disputes resolved by the DRC by type of closure

3.2.2 Claims for training rewards

Since the launch of the FIFA Clearing House on 16 November 2022, the distribution of training rewards related to international transfers, first professional registrations and domestic transfers with an international dimension have been conducted via the EPP process, and these training rewards have been paid through the FIFA Clearing House entity based in Paris.

As a result, only training rewards claims concerning transfers that occurred prior to 16 November 2022 may be lodged before the FT. Exceptionally, claims in relation to transfers that occurred from 16 November 2022 and in respect of which a training club invokes the provisions of article 18 paragraph 2 of the FCHR may be lodged before the FT.

Considering the above and, in particular the four years elapsed, the number of training rewards claims submitted through TMS before the FT decreased once again by more than 30% (352 claims for training rewards were submitted through TMS in 2025/2026, whilst 534 claims were submitted in 2024/2025).

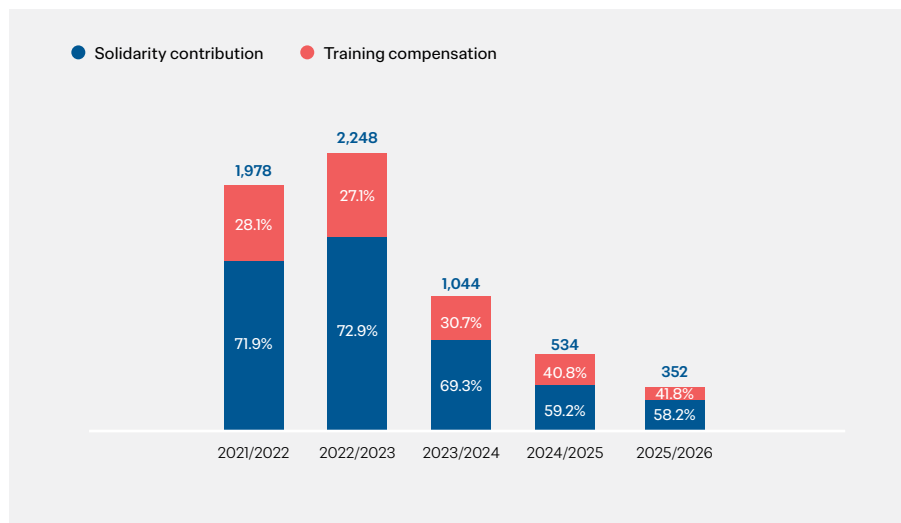


Figure 7: Claims for training rewards received

As a direct consequence of this decrease, the number of resolved claims for training rewards was also much lower than in the previous period (-34.0%).

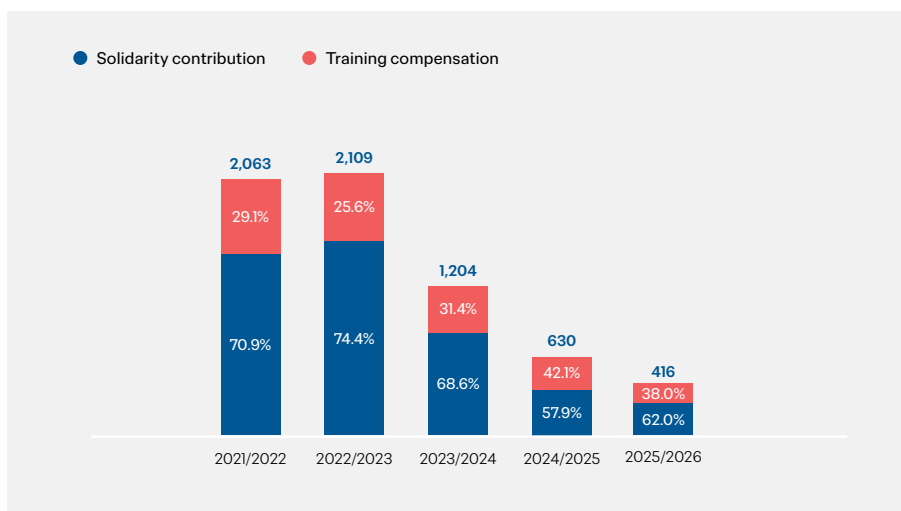


Figure 8: Claims for training rewards resolved

On the other hand, in 2025/2026, 25,499 EPPs were generated, more than 90% of which had already been resolved at the time of publication. The majority of EPPs were related to training compensation triggered by a first professional registration. If we filter out EPPs discarded in the initial phases, most EPPs leading to actual entitlements stem from international transfers.

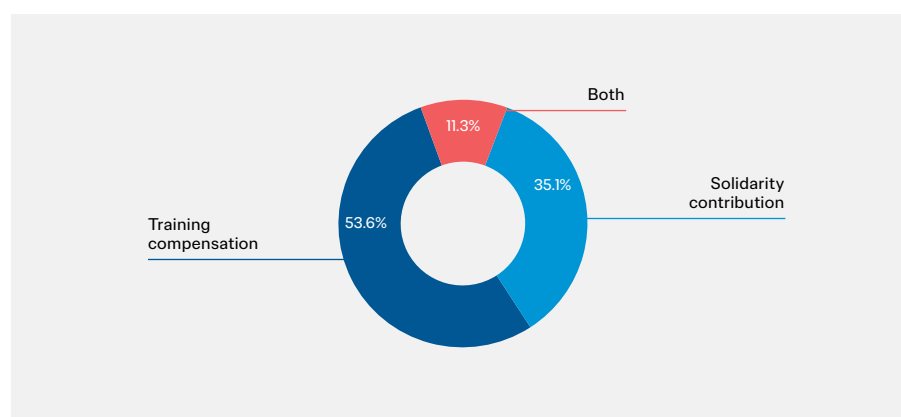


Figure 9: EPPs generated in 2025/2026 by type of training reward

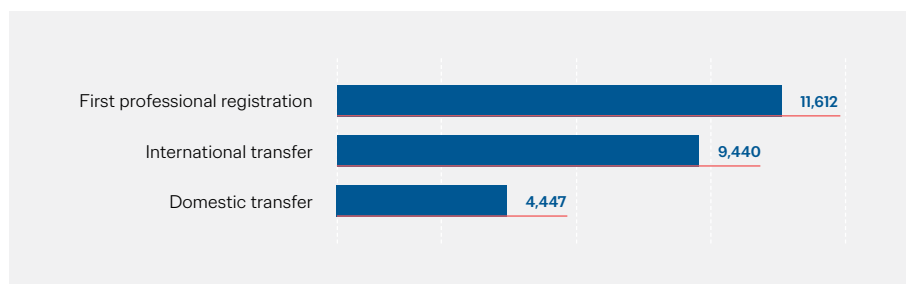


Figure 10: EPPs generated in 2025/2026 by type of trigger event

3.3 Mediation

FIFA also provides parties with access to mediation within the scope of disputes lodged before the FT. Since 2023, the FIFA Mediation Project has enabled parties to amicably resolve their disputes with the assistance of an independent mediator. The service is voluntary, strictly confidential and free of charge, and is conducted by highly skilled mediators (listed in the annexe) in accordance with article 26 of the Procedural Rules and the [FIFA Mediation Guidelines](#).

Since the beginning of this project, parties have become more open to exploring an amicable solution through mediation. The number of cases submitted to mediation has doubled since the last reporting period, rising from 25 in 2024/2025 to 51 in 2025/2026. This consistently upward trajectory reflects a growing awareness and acceptance of mediation as a viable alternative to formal adjudication.

The number of successful outcomes has also increased considerably, and mediation was successful in 28 cases during the 2025/2026 period.

Overall, the 2025/2026 figures confirm that mediation is no longer merely an emerging tool within proceedings before the FT, but rather an established and effective means of dispute resolution. The significant rise in both the number of cases submitted to mediation and the number of successful outcomes demonstrates that more parties are willing to engage constructively in the process and that mediation can deliver tangible results. FIFA will therefore continue to strengthen and promote this mechanism, with a view to increasing participation and offering football stakeholders a practical and cost-free alternative to formal adjudication while maintaining or even mending the relationship between the parties.

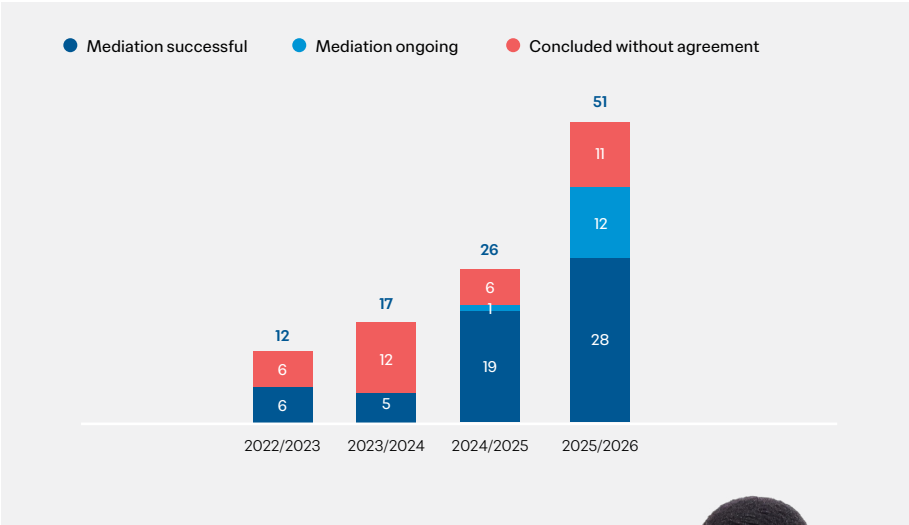


Figure 11: Mediation cases initiated by outcome/status





4.

Regulatory applications

4.1 International Transfer Certificate disputes

The simplified ITC procedure introduced at the end of 2024, following the approval of the Interim Regulatory Framework by the Bureau of the Council on 22 December 2024 (cf. FIFA circular no. 1917), has now fully replaced the former dispute-based mechanism for international transfers. Under article 11 of Annexe 3 to the RSTP, an ITC request can no longer be rejected by the player's former association. Instead, the former association must issue the ITC within 72 hours, failing which the new association may proceed with the registration directly in TMS. FIFA's intervention is now limited to exceptional circumstances, and the player's registration can no longer be rejected on the basis of a contractual dispute. Accordingly, the ITC dispute category, which appeared in earlier editions of this report, is no longer relevant to the FT's caseload, and the dispute statistics presented below concern contractual disputes only.

4.2 Validation exceptions for International Transfer Certificates

Every international transfer must take place within a registration period (colloquially known as a "transfer window") set by the Member Association and entered in TMS. Subject to article 6 paragraph 3 of the RSTP, if a Member Association requests an ITC outside of a transfer window, or if the club that wishes to register the player is serving a registration ban imposed by a FIFA decision, TMS will automatically prevent this registration from being duly executed by triggering what is called a "validation exception".

For the avoidance of doubt, a validation exception occurs whenever:

- the player is less than 18 years old and the corresponding minor application has not yet been accepted;
- a club serving a registration ban enters a transfer instruction related to the engagement of a player;
- the new club and/or the former club has exceeded the loan limitations (cf. art. 10 of the RSTP); or
- the association of the engaging club requests a player's ITC outside of the registration period defined in TMS; and in circumstances in which the exceptions set out in article 6 paragraph 3 of the RSTP are not applicable.

In the 2025/2026 period, a total of 2,119 ITC requests triggered a validation exception through the automated TMS mechanism. In 949 of those cases, an intervention by the D&RA was requested to override a validation exception. Transfers outside of the applicable registration period remained the main reason for such requests, accounting for 56% of the total. Notably, the proportion of cases in which the registration period had closed while a minor application was still pending increased significantly, from 18% in the 2024/2025 period to more than to 34% in 2025/2026.

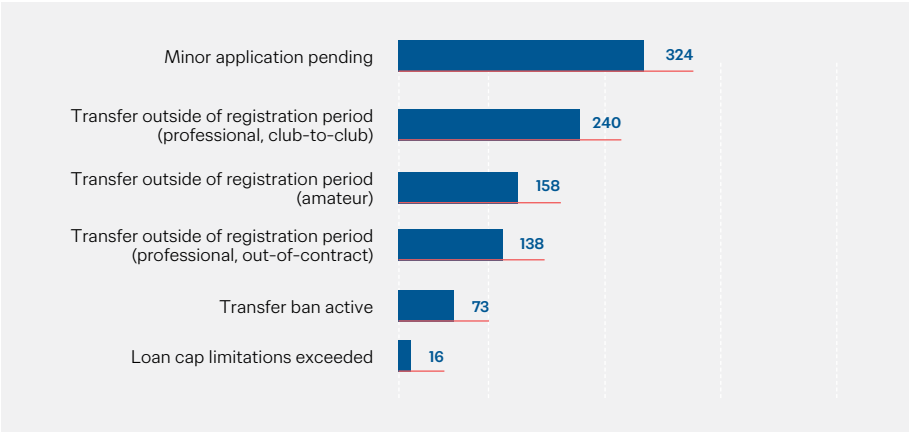


Figure 12: Intervention requests received by the D&RA in 2025/2026 by type of validation exception

The number of transfers with validation exceptions that were authorised by the D&RA in 2025/2026 decreased by more than 25%, with a total of 752 cases of this nature. This decline should be viewed in the context of the overall reduction in validation-exception activity during the reporting period, with the number of transfers triggering a validation exception also decreasing considerably.

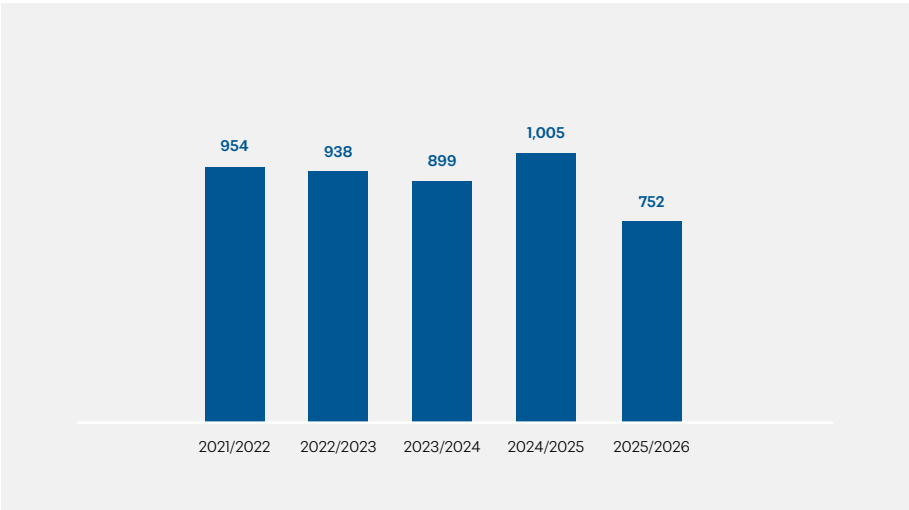


Figure 13: Authorisations of transfers with validation exceptions by the D&RA

4.3 Applications for the registration of minors

In addition to its exclusive role in all transfers related to 11-a-side football, TMS also plays a major part in monitoring and authorising the international movements of minor players (cf. art. 30 of the Procedural Rules). The term “minor” is defined as any player who has not yet reached the age of 18 (cf. definition 11 of the RSTP). As a general rule, international transfers and first registrations of players whose nationality is other than the one where the football association operates are only permitted if the player is over the age of 18 (cf. art. 19 par. 1 and art. 19 par. 3 of the RSTP). However, there are exceptions to this rule. The following list of exceptions is exhaustive:

- a) The player’s parents have moved to the country where the player wants to register, for reasons not linked to football (cf. art. 19 par. 2 a) of the RSTP);
- b) The player is aged between 16 and 18 and is moving within the territory of the EU/EEA or between two associations within the same country and the new club satisfies certain conditions (cf. art. 19 par. 2 b) of the RSTP);
- c) Both the player’s domicile and the new club are within 50km of their common border and the distance between the two is no greater than 100km (cf. art. 19 par. 2 c) of the RSTP);
- d) The player is moving due to humanitarian reasons without their parents and could not be expected to return to their country of origin (cf. art. 19 par. 2 d) of the RSTP);
- e) The player is moving temporarily without their parents for academic reasons in order to undertake an exchange programme, and the duration of the player’s registration will not exceed one year (cf. art. 19 par. 2 e) of the RSTP); or
- f) The player has lived continuously for at least the last five years in the country in which they wish to be registered (cf. art. 19 pars 3 and 4 c) of the RSTP).

When the engaging association receives a case that falls under any of the exceptions listed above, and wishes to register a minor whose nationality is other than the one of the country in which that association operates, it must submit an application to the PSC through TMS in one of the following two instances (cf. art. 19 par. 4 of the RSTP):

1. International transfer: a minor of any nationality who has previously been registered with a club affiliated to one association and now wishes to be registered with a club affiliated to another association.
2. First registration: a minor who has never previously been registered with a club and is not a national of the country in which they wish to be registered for the first time.

In view of the substantial volume of first registrations and international transfers of minors at amateur level, the PSC may, upon request, grant certain Member Associations a limited minor exemption (LME). Any such LME is limited exclusively to purely amateur clubs seeking to register players exclusively as amateurs and is subject to predefined conditions, limitations and periodic reporting obligations. Each request submitted by a Member Association is thoroughly examined and assessed on a case-by-case basis. The LME framework is explained in further detail in a new section introduced in this year's report. The number of applications for the registration of minor players submitted and adjudicated by the PSC reached an all-time high for the fifth consecutive reporting period, with 17,293 applications submitted in 2025/2026. Although this represents a more moderate increase of 4.3% compared with the 16,581 applications received in 2024/2025, it continues a remarkable longer-term expansion in the volume of minor applications. By comparison, the inaugural Football Tribunal Report recorded 9,019 applications in 2021/2022, while the historical data presented in the reports extends back to 3,914 applications in 2017/2018. The 17,293 applications received in 2025/2026 therefore represent almost twice the volume recorded in the first report five years ago, and more than four times the earliest figure in the historical series. The composition of these applications has also progressively shifted towards first registrations: these accounted for 59.6% of applications in 2021/2022, rising to 64.2% in 2022/2023, 70.3% in 2023/2024 and 71.8% in 2024/2025. This trend remained stable in 2025/2026, when 71.2% of applications concerned the first registration of a minor as a player and the remaining 28.8% related to international transfers of minors between two associations.



Figure 14: Applications submitted for the registration of minors by type

The total number of resolved minor applications also reached a record high of 17,270 in 2025/2026. Despite the higher volume, the proportion of applications accepted by the PSC remained virtually unchanged at 86.5%, with a very slight increase to 4.3% being rejected by the PSC, and a slight decrease to 8.8% being cancelled – due to incomplete or incorrect submissions by the relevant association – and the remaining 0.4% being declared inadmissible as the cases in question had already been decided by the PSC in prior submissions.

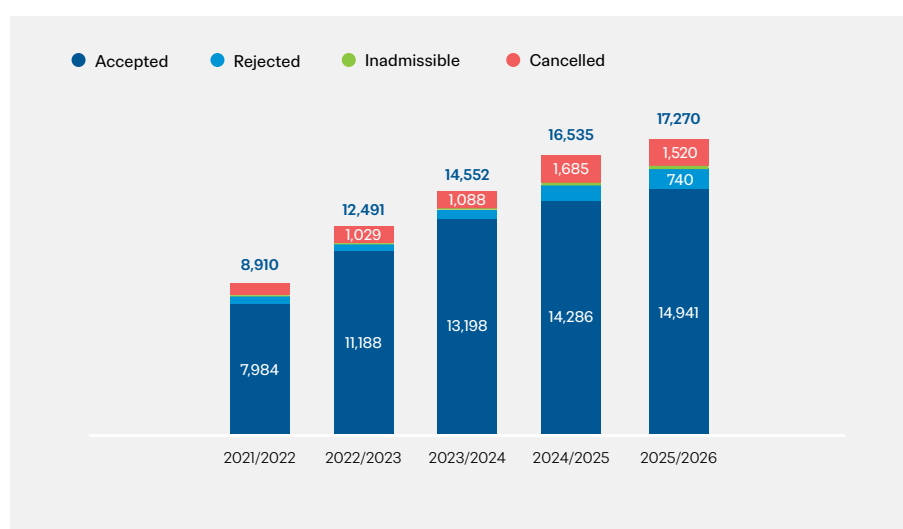


Figure 15: Resolved applications for the registration of minors by outcome

As previously mentioned, there are six grounds on which an exception may be granted. Additionally, a category exists to ensure the appropriate protection of minor players and their families. This category pertains to a minor moving with their parents for humanitarian reasons, which formally falls within exception a) mentioned above, i.e. a minor moving due to their parents emigrating to the country in question for reasons other than football (cf. FIFA circular no. 1635). Consistent with the historical trend reflected in previous editions, the most frequently invoked exception remained that provided for under article 19 paragraph 2 a) of the RSTP, concerning minors whose parents have moved to the country of the new association for reasons unrelated to football. In 2025/2026, 9,298 decided-upon applications concerned this exception, representing 59% of the total and its highest share in any edition of the Football Tribunal Report. The five-year rule remained the second most frequently invoked ground, accounting for 3,104 decisions (19.7%). Together, these two grounds represented almost four out of every five decided-upon applications. A notable change occurred further down the distribution: the border exception became the third most frequently invoked ground, with 1,086 decisions, overtaking applications based on humanitarian reasons without the player's parents, which decreased from 1,373 in 2024/2025 to 993 in 2025/2026. The remaining grounds each accounted for less than 4% of all decided-upon applications.

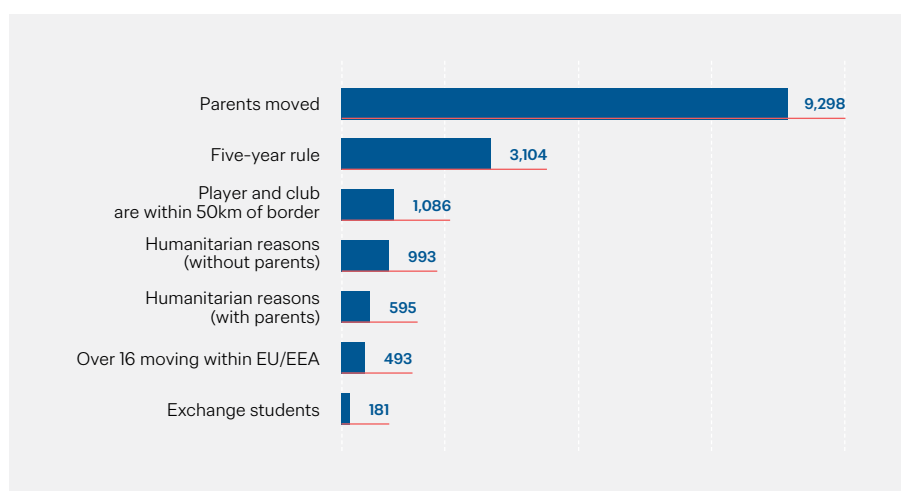


Figure 16: Decisions on applications for the registration of minors by the type of exception applied for in 2025/2026

Players aged 16 accounted for the greatest number of applications. This can be attributed to two factors: firstly, a considerable number of applications are related exclusively to those minors who have already reached the age of 16 (see exception b) above), and secondly, at 16 years of age a minor player is often eligible to sign their first professional contract. In fact, more than 60% of the 329 decided-upon applications for players to be registered as professionals related to players aged, or about to turn, 16.

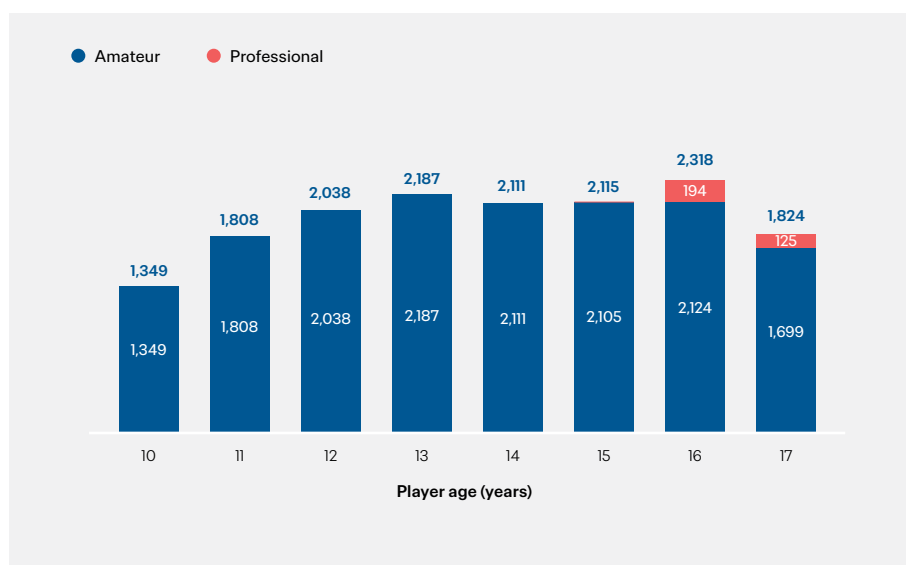


Figure 17: Decisions on applications for the registration of minors by player age at submission and player status at new club in 2025/2026



A total of 109 Member Associations submitted the applications that were decided upon in 2025/2026. The top five associations were led by Spain with a total of 2,632 applications, 89% of which were accepted, followed by Portugal with 1,860 applications (98.1% accepted), and Qatar with 858 applications and an acceptance rate of 98.7%.

The 2025/2026 figures also show notable differences in acceptance rates among the Member Associations that submitted the highest number of applications. Spain again recorded the largest caseload, with 2,632 decided-upon applications, of which 89.0% were accepted. This broadly mirrors the 89.6% acceptance rate recorded in 2024/2025 and remains markedly below the rates of the other four associations with the highest number of applications, all of which exceeded 98%. These differences reflect the individual circumstances and supporting documentation of the applications submitted rather than the volume of applications itself. Each application is assessed independently against the requirements of article 19 of the RSTP, and authorisation is granted only where the applicable exception and its corresponding conditions have been established.

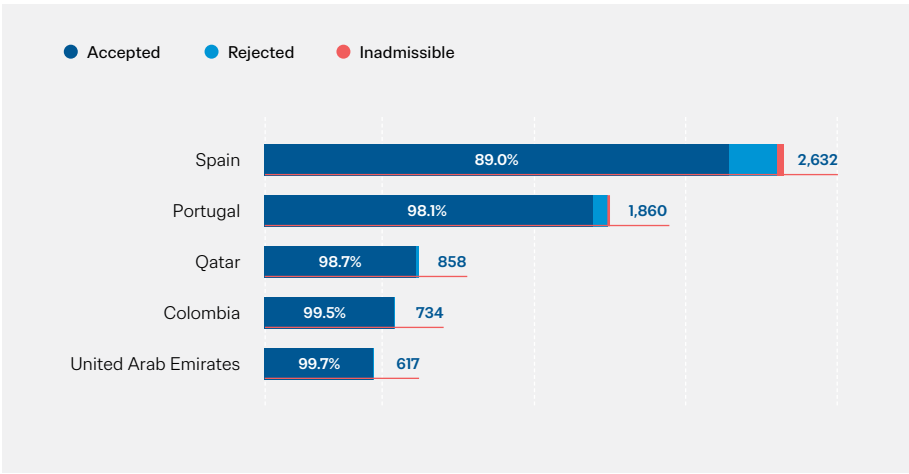


Figure 18: Top five Member Associations by number of applications decided upon and outcome in 2025/2026

Processing times improved in 2025/2026 despite the higher volume of applications. A total of 15,750 decisions on applications for a minor registration were delivered during the reporting period, 6.1% more than in the previous period, while the average time required to deliver a decision decreased from 8.9 to 7.5 days in 2025/2026. This represents a reduction of 1.4 days, or almost 16%, and reverses some of the increase recorded in the previous reporting period. The figures therefore show that the PSC was able to absorb a growing caseload while, at the same time, reducing the average time needed to resolve each application.

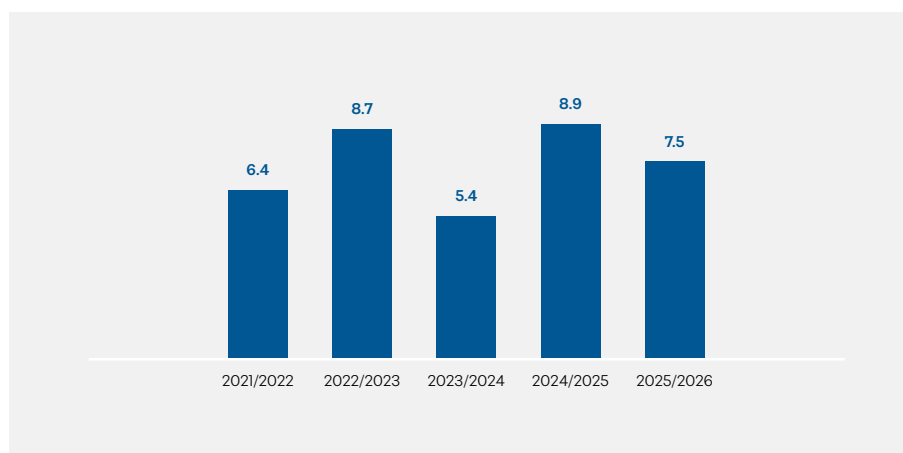


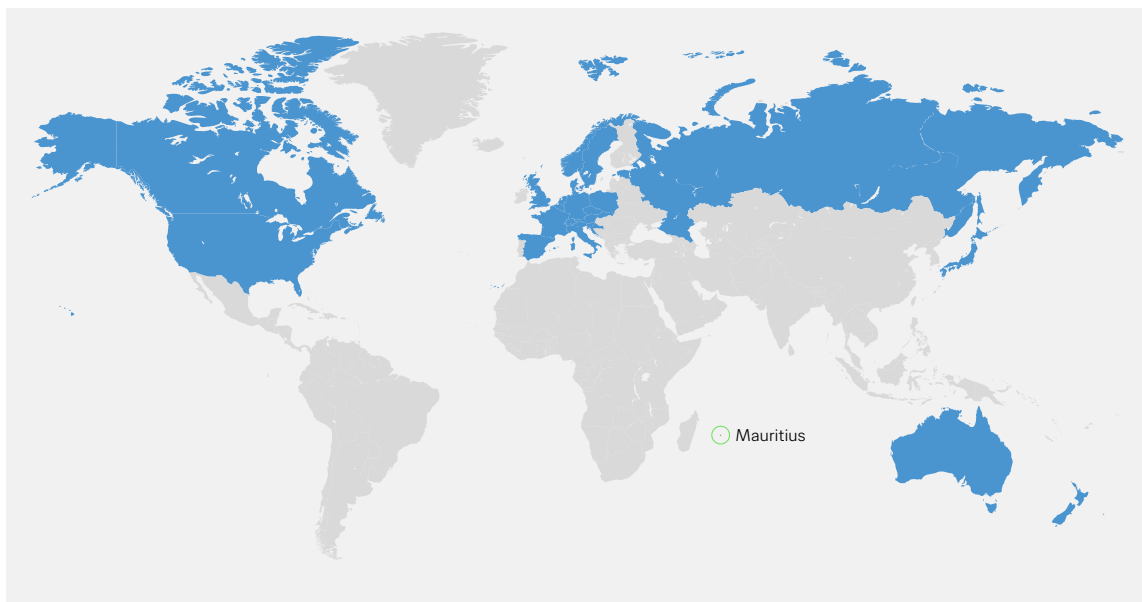
Figure 19: Average duration (in days) for the delivery of a decision on an application for a minor registration

4.4 Limited minor exemptions

As its name suggests, a limited minor exemption (LME) exempts a Member Association, subject to the conditions established by the PSC, from the obligation to submit an individual minor application to FIFA via TMS for certain registrations (cf. art. 19 par. 7 of the RSTP and FIFA circular nos 1209 and 1576). The scope of an LME is limited exclusively to players who are to be registered as amateurs with purely amateur clubs. Each request for an LME is assessed individually by the PSC, taking into account the circumstances of the Member Association concerned and the safeguards proposed for the registration of minors.

Member Associations benefiting from an LME remain subject to specific conditions and reporting obligations. In particular, they are required to provide FIFA with periodic reports through TMS concerning the minor registrations processed under the exemption. Individual registrations carried out within the scope of an LME are therefore assessed by the relevant Member Association in accordance with the terms of the exemption, rather than through individual applications submitted to the PSC. Consequently, those registrations are not included in the minor-application figures presented in the preceding section.

During the 2025/2026 reporting period, 27 Member Associations held an active LME. Of these, 15 submitted requests to renew their existing LME following its expiry or approaching expiry. Renewal requests from Austria (ÖFB), Switzerland (SFV/ASF), Luxembourg (FLF), Germany (DFB), Czechia (FACR), Scotland (SFA), Belgium (RBFA), Italy (FIGC), the United States of America (USSF), Poland (PZPN) and Spain (RFEF) were assessed and granted by the PSC. At the relevant cut-off date, the renewal requests submitted by France (FFF), Croatia (HNS), Estonia (EFA) and Denmark (DBU) remained under review or pending a final decision. In addition, Mauritius (MFA) was the only Member Association to submit a request for a new LME during the reporting period, which likewise remained under review at the cut-off date.



Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Wales, Mauritius (new LME).

Figure 20: MAs with active LMEs during the 2025/2026 period

The assessment of an LME renewal request involves a detailed review of the Member Association's registration activity and the operation of the exemption during the relevant period. In connection with the 16 renewal or new requests received during the 2025/2026 period, the FIFA general secretariat, via the D&RA, reviewed data relating to 113,897 minor-player registrations. Germany (DFB) accounted for the largest volume reviewed, with 32,769 registrations, followed by France (FFF; 19,422), Spain (RFEF; 18,200), Switzerland (SFV/ASF; 17,637) and Austria (ÖFB; 10,041).

Member Association	Minor-player registrations
Germany (DFB)	32,769
France (FFF)	19,422
Spain (RFEF)	18,200
Switzerland (SFV/ASF)	17,637
Austria (ÖFB)	10,041

Figure 21: Top five MAs with the most minor-player registrations reviewed during the 2025/2026 period

It is important to clarify that, although the registration data referred to above was reviewed by the FIFA general secretariat, via the D&RA, during the 2025/2026 reporting period, the underlying registrations did not necessarily take place exclusively during that same period. Each LME assessment generally examines the registration activity covered by the Member Association's most recent reporting cycle, which may extend over approximately 24 months. Accordingly, the figures presented above reflect the volume of registrations reviewed by FIFA during 2025/2026, rather than the total number of registrations carried out under LMEs during that reporting period. Similarly, Member Associations whose LMEs remained active throughout 2025/2026 but were not due for renewal during the reporting period may also have processed a substantial number of minor registrations under their respective exemptions. Those registrations are not included in the figures above and will generally be reviewed by FIFA when the relevant LME is next assessed or renewed.

4.5 Eligibility decisions

Determining whether a player is eligible to represent a particular Member Association is, in the first instance, the responsibility of the association intending to call up and field a particular player. While holding a permanent nationality that is not dependant on residence is the starting point, the RGAS contain specific rules addressing players who hold a nationality that may entitle them to represent more than one association, players who acquire a new nationality, as well as stateless individuals (cf. arts 7-9 of the RGAS). The FIFA general secretariat, via the D&RA, supports Member Associations in applying these rules by providing guidance with regard to the interpretation and correct implementation of the RGAS and, where appropriate, assessing the eligibility of individual players. In particular, it replies to general questions in connection with the eligibility rules, but also to specific enquiries (mostly from Member Associations) related to the eligibility of a particular player to play for the representative teams of a specific Member Association. Certain cases may nevertheless require a formal decision by the PSC (particularly those related to the exception laid down in art. 8 par. 1 d) ii. of the RGAS as well as to stateless individuals) in order for the player to become eligible to represent another association in the future.

On this note, the 2025/2026 period saw a marked increase in the use of this mechanism. A total of 162 eligibility requests were submitted by 63 different Member Associations, representing an increase of 35% compared with 2024/2025 and the highest number recorded since the Football Tribunal Report was first published. This increase coincided with the decisive phase of qualification for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and the subsequent preparation of player pools for the tournament.

In particular, Thailand (FA Thailand) submitted the highest number of eligibility requests with 12, followed by Jordan (JFA) and the United Arab Emirates (UAEFA) with ten each, and Timor-Leste (FFTL) and Australia (FA) with eight each.

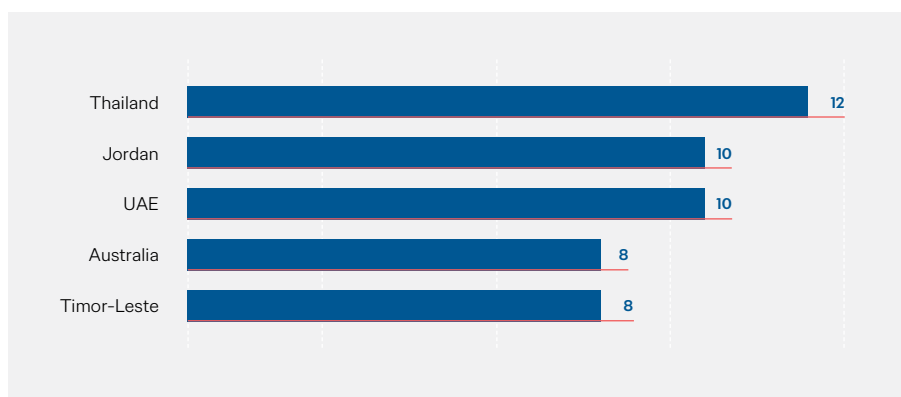


Figure 22: Top five associations by number of eligibility requests in 2025/2026

The outcome of these requests also illustrates the particular nature of the eligibility mechanism. Of the 151 requests resolved during the reporting period, the vast majority were concluded through an assessment by the FIFA administration, via the D&RA, considering that eligibility requests, as a principle, do not require a formal decision by the PSC. Eligibility to play for a national team was confirmed by the FIFA general secretariat in 102 requests. Eligibility was not confirmed in a further 21 requests. A decision was required and passed by the PSC in four cases, with three requests accepted and one rejected. The remaining 24 cases were closed for other reasons, mainly in cases where a request for additional information or documentation remained unanswered by the relevant Member Association.

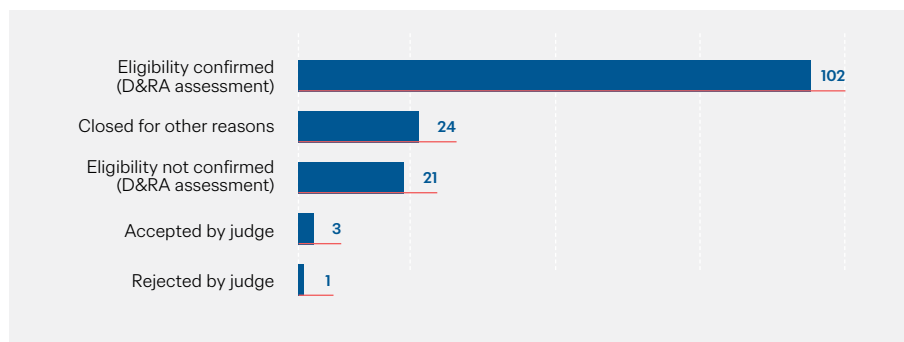


Figure 23: Resolved eligibility cases by outcome in 2025/2026

4.6 Changes of association

A change of association addresses a different situation. As a general principle, a player who has already participated in a match (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category or any type of football for one association may not play an international match for a representative team of another association (cf. art. 6 par. 3 of the RGAS). Article 10 of the RGAS provides an exhaustive set of exceptions to this principle in circumstances considered to warrant a change. Where the relevant requirements are met, a player may request, only once, to change the association they are eligible to represent, with the request being submitted to the PSC for a decision.

Requests for changes of association increased significantly in 2025/2026. The D&RA received 186 requests from 76 different Member Associations, an increase of 38.8% compared with the previous reporting period and the highest figure recorded in the Football Tribunal Report series. The connection with the FIFA World Cup 2026 cycle is particularly visible among the most active associations. Morocco (FRMF) submitted 13 requests, followed by Suriname (SVB) with 11, Albania (FSHF) with seven, Kosovo (FFK) with six, and Congo DR (FECOFA), Bosnia and Herzegovina (NFSBiH) and Curaçao (FFK), each with five. Each of these associations either qualified for the FIFA World Cup 2026 or remained in contention until the final stages of qualification.

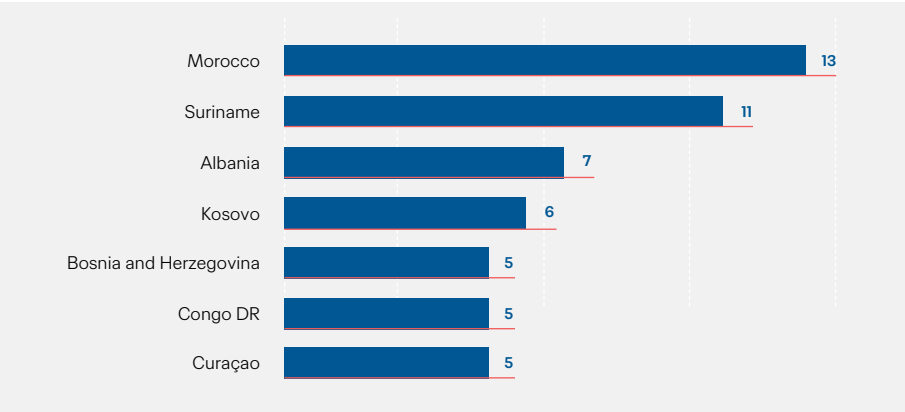


Figure 24: Top associations by number of change-of-association requests in 2025/2026

A total of 175 change-of-association cases were resolved during the reporting period. Unlike eligibility requests, the vast majority required formal adjudication by the PSC: 159 cases resulted in a decision, with 155 changes of association resolved favourably and only four rejected, while 16 were closed for other reasons, mainly where the FIFA administration’s request for additional information or documentation remained unanswered.

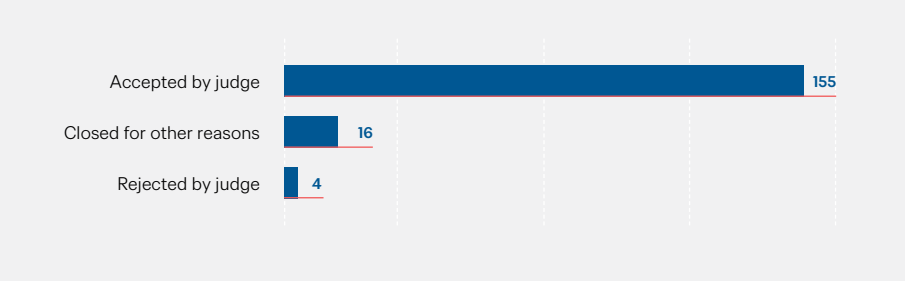


Figure 25: Resolved change-of-association cases by outcome in 2025/2026

4.7 FIFA World Cup 2026™ cycle: eligibility and change of association

The significant increase in eligibility and change-of-association requests during 2025/2026 warrants consideration in the wider context of the representative-team calendar. Taken together, 348 eligibility and change-of-association requests were submitted during the reporting period, compared with 254 in 2024/2025, an increase of 37%. This marked a clear departure from the comparatively stable volumes recorded in previous editions of this report and coincided with the decisive stages of qualification for the FIFA World Cup 2026™ and the subsequent preparation of Participating Member Associations for the tournament. The expanded format of the FIFA World Cup 2026, with 48 participating teams compared with 32 at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, also provided a greater number of Member Associations with a realistic pathway to the final competition and, consequently, a greater incentive to identify and clarify the status of all players potentially eligible to represent them.

Against this background, the following analysis examines three aspects of the trend: how the volume of requests evolved according to a Member Association's progress in the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualification cycle; which Member Associations submitted the highest number of eligibility and change-of-association requests; and their distribution across the six confederations.

In the first analysis presented, the evolution of requests over time provides a correlation with the FIFA World Cup 2026 cycle. Eligibility and change-of-association activity increased as the qualification process intensified, particularly among Member Associations that remained competitively engaged. Those that ultimately qualified for the tournament recorded a pronounced increase in the average number of requests as qualification progressed, while a similar pattern can be observed among associations that remained in contention until the latter stages. While the approaching FIFA World Cup 2026 appears to have contributed significantly to this trend, other factors may also have contributed, including the greater availability of public information on the eligibility rules, growing awareness among Member Associations of the procedures available to clarify or change a player's representative-team eligibility, and the broader participation of Member Associations in the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualification process.

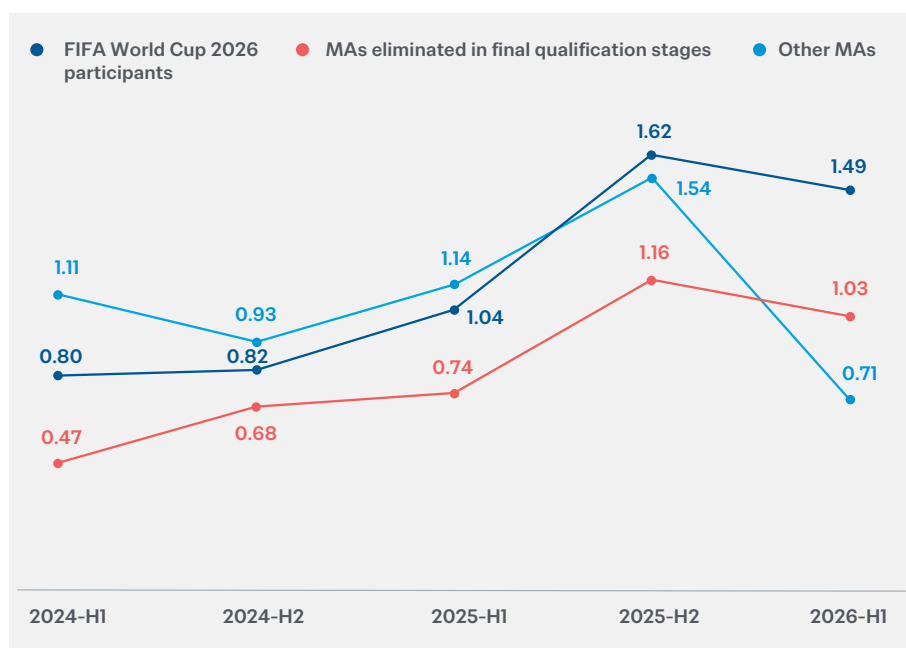


Figure 26: Average number of eligibility and change-of-association requests per Member Association by participation status in the FIFA World Cup 2026

The highest volumes of requests were concentrated among a relatively limited group of Member Associations. Since the cycle following the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Indonesia (PSSI) has submitted the highest combined number of eligibility and change-of-association requests, followed by Morocco (FRMF), Thailand (FA Thailand) and Suriname (SVB). The composition of the leading group is particularly noteworthy, as it spans several confederations and includes Member Associations with markedly different trajectories in the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualification process. Among the Member Associations shown on the next page, four ultimately qualified for the final competition (Morocco, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Australia and Croatia), three remained in contention until the latter stages of qualification (Suriname, United Arab Emirates and Albania), and three were eliminated at an earlier stage (Indonesia, Thailand and Syria). The figures therefore illustrate that particularly active use of the eligibility and change-of-association procedures was not confined to Member Associations that ultimately qualified for the final competition, but was also evident among those seeking to clarify the eligibility of additional players for their representative teams while they remained in contention for qualification.

Association	Number of requests
Indonesia	31
Morocco	29
Thailand	24
Suriname	21
United Arab Emirates	19
Bosnia and Herzegovina	17
Australia	15
Russia	14
Syria	14
Albania	14
Croatia	14

Figure 27: Top associations by number of eligibility and change-of-association requests since 2024

Viewed at confederation level, the same activity is distributed unevenly. AFC Member Associations recorded the highest average number of eligibility and change-of-association requests since the beginning of the FIFA World Cup 2026 cycle, followed by UEFA, while the averages for Concacaf, CONMEBOL and CAF were comparatively closer. The OFC recorded the lowest average. The comparison provides a broader geographical perspective on the use of the eligibility and change-of-association procedures and shows that the level of activity varied considerably across the six confederations. These differences may also reflect, among other factors, the different eligibility-verification practices applied in competitions across the confederations.

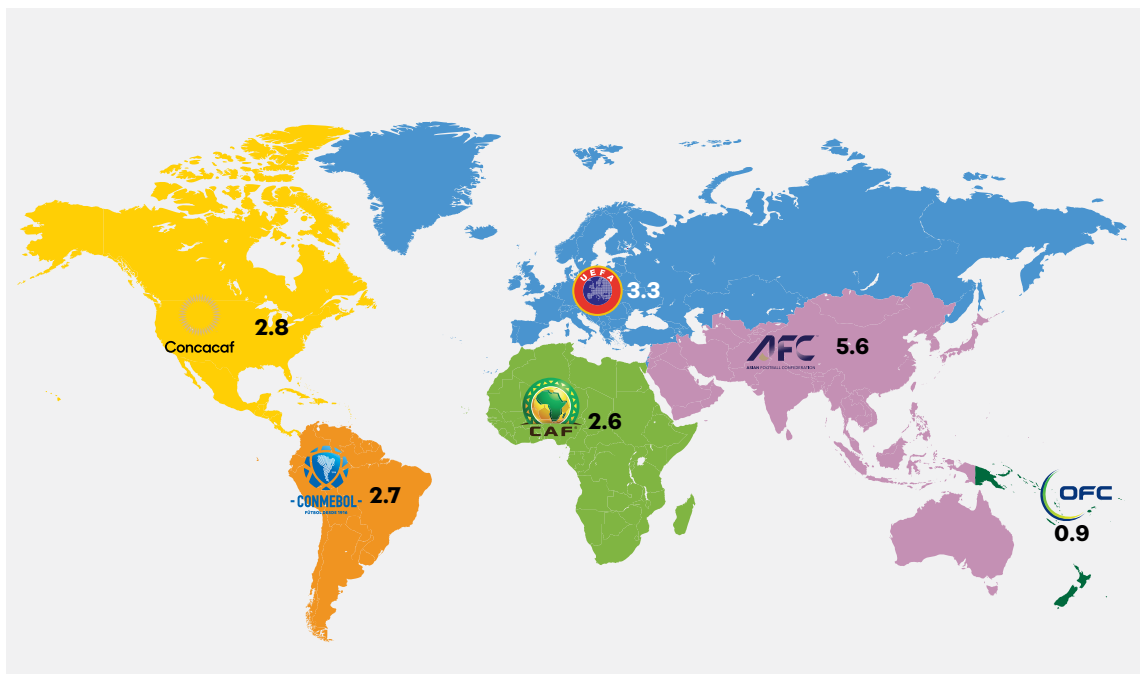
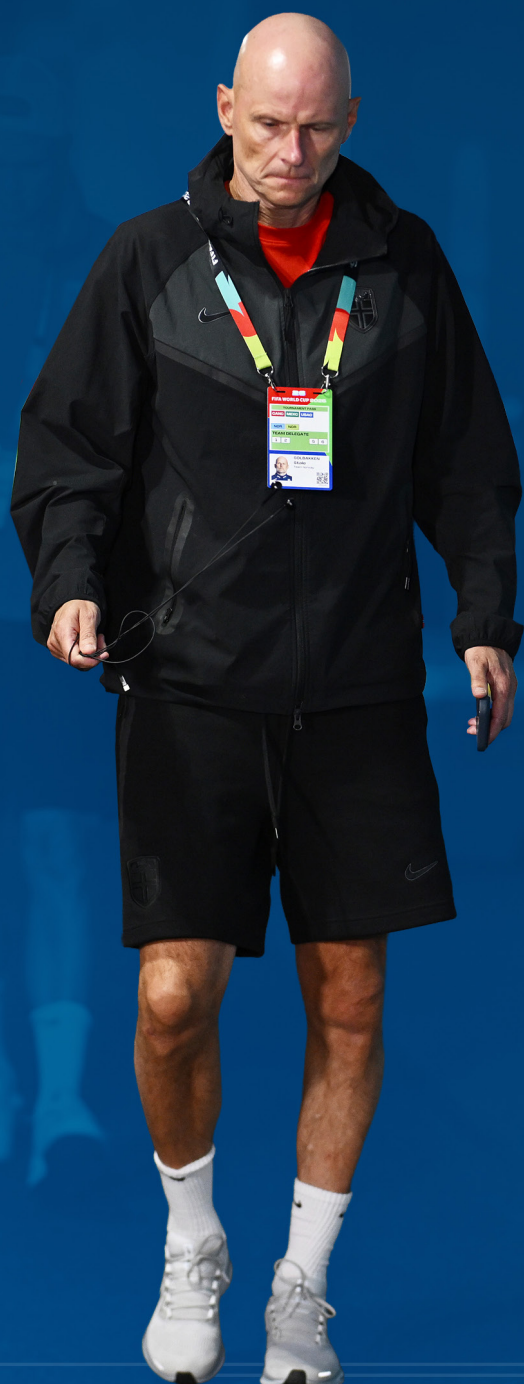


Figure 28: Average number of eligibility and change-of-association requests per association since 2024, by confederation



5.

National
Dispute
Resolution
Chambers

Following the implementation of the NDRC framework and in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, incorporating the new National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations, the FT has continued to receive a great deal of interest and enquiries concerning the recognition process, often resulting in formal applications from Member Associations for recognition.

The NDRC regulatory framework provides clarity and legal certainty with regard to the jurisdiction, structure, applicable requirements and possibility of formal recognition by FIFA of existing NDRCs.

In accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, if a Member Association wishes for its NDRC to be formally recognised by FIFA, it must submit a written application for recognition to FIFA via the Legal Portal.

The DRC will, in principle, grant recognition of an NDRC for a four-year period, if the NDRC fulfils all of the relevant established requirements. Any decision of the DRC in connection with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles is final and binding and not subject to any appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport. However, in cases of rejection, Member Associations can resubmit their applications.

During the relevant reporting period since the framework was implemented, the FT received 24 applications. In the 2025/2026 reporting period, two more NDRCs were recognised by the DRC, bringing the list of recognised NDRCs to a total of 11.

Association	Name of NDRC	NDRC regulations	Date of recognition	Date of expiration
Belgium	Arbitral Commission for Dispute Resolution	Royal Belgian Football Association NDRC Regulations, July 2024 edition	01.01.2025	31.12.2028
Croatia	Court of Arbitration of the Croatian Football Federation (HNS)	Rules of Procedure of the Court of Arbitration of the HNS, October 2024 edition	22.01.2025	21.01.2029
England	English football's NDRCs include the Player Related Dispute Commission, Managers' Arbitration Tribunal and FA Rule K Arbitration	League Statutes and Collective Bargaining Agreement, August 2024 edition	01.01.2025	31.12.2028

France	Legal Commission of the French Professional Football League	The LFP Statutes and Regulations and Professional Football Charter, July 2024 edition	07.01.2025	06.01.2029
Indonesia	NDRC Indonesia	Regulations of the NDRC Indonesia, December 2024 edition	06.01.2025	05.01.2029
Mexico	Conciliation and Resolution of Disputes Commission	Regulations of the Conciliation and Resolution of Disputes Commission	03.02.2025	02.02.2029
Montenegro	Arbitration Court of the Football Association of Montenegro (FSCG)	Regulations on the Work of the Arbitration Court of the FSCG, December 2025 edition	29.01.2026	28.01.2030
Panama	National Dispute Resolution Chamber of the Panamanian Football Association (FPF)	National Dispute Resolution Chamber Regulations of the FPF	24.04.2025	23.04.2029
Republic of Ireland	Dispute Resolution Chamber of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI)	NDRC Regulations, January 2021 edition	01.01.2025	31.12.2028
Ukraine	The Ukrainian Association of Football (UAF) Dispute Resolution Chamber	Regulations of the UAF Dispute Resolution Chamber, January 2025 edition	31.01.2025	30.01.2029
Venezuela	Dispute Resolution Chamber of the Venezuelan Football Association (CRD-FVF)	CRD-FVF Regulations, May 2025 edition	07.11.2025	06.11.2029

Figure 29: List of FIFA-recognised NDRCs

Annexe 1

Composition of the Football Tribunal (judges and mediators) during the reporting period

1. Players' Status Chamber

In accordance with article 4 paragraph 4 of the Procedural Rules, the PSC is composed of the following members, appointed at the proposal of Member Associations, confederations, players, clubs and leagues.

Chairperson	
Javier Vijande Penas	Argentina
Deputy chairperson	
Sarah Ochwada	Kenya
Members	
Loïc Alves	France
Jesús Arroyo	Spain
Lamin Kaba Bajo	The Gambia
Juan Baldovino	Peru
Gursimran Brar	India
Natalia Chiriac	Moldova
Grégory Durand	France
Louis Everard	Netherlands
Rizky Fatmala	Indonesia
Stephen Felix	Vanuatu
Thulaganyo Gaoshubelwe	South Africa
Tomás González Cueto	Spain
Castellar Modesto Guimarães Neto	Brazil
Kristy Hill	New Zealand
Angélica Islas	Mexico
Julie Jørgensen	Denmark

Members

Luis Kanonnikoff	Paraguay
Ursuline Kouyaté	Côte d'Ivoire
Yoichiro Kuriyama	Japan
Christina LaBrie	United States
Pegie Leys	Belgium
Moran Meiri	Israel
Farah Mohammed	New Zealand
Francisco José Policarpo Baptista	Angola
Ghanem Saleh	Jordan
Brent Sancho	Trinidad and Tobago
Oleg Zadubrovskiy	Russia

2. Dispute Resolution Chamber

In accordance with article 4 paragraph 3 of the Procedural Rules, the DRC is composed of the following members, with player representatives appointed at the proposal of players' associations, and club representatives appointed at the proposal of Member Associations, clubs and leagues.

Chairperson

Frans de Weger	Netherlands
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Deputy chairpersons

Clifford J. Hendel	United States
Martín Auletta	Argentina
Livia Silva Kägi	Brazil

Player representatives

Stijn Boeykens	Belgium
Angela Collins	Australia
Michele Colucci	Italy
Gonzalo de Medinilla	Spain
Sihon Gaudi	Malta
Alexandra Gómez Bruinewoud	Uruguay

Player representatives

Carlos González Puche	Colombia
Tomislav Kasalo	Croatia
Peter Lukasek	Slovakia
Stella Maris Juncos	Argentina
Jon Newman	United States
Stefano Sartori	Italy
Khadija Timera	Senegal
Johan van Gaalen	South Africa
Roy Vermeer	Netherlands

Club representatives

Dana Mohamed Al Noaimi	Qatar
Khalid Awad Althebity	Saudi Arabia
Calum Beattie	Scotland
Elvis Chetty	Seychelles
Philippe Diallo	France
Andre dos Santos Megale	Brazil
Jorge Gutiérrez	Costa Rica
Youcef Hammouda	Algeria
Iñigo Riestra	Mexico
Alejandro Atilio Taraborrelli	Argentina
Laurel Vaurasi	Fiji
Oleg Zadubrovskiy	Russia

3. Agents Chamber

In accordance with article 4 paragraph 5 of the Procedural Rules, the AC is composed of the following members, appointed at the proposal of Member Associations, confederations, players, clubs, leagues and football agents.

Chairperson	
Brianna Quinn	Australia/Switzerland
Deputy chairperson	
Pierfilippo Capello	Italy
Members	
Damián Andrés Dupiellet	Argentina
Andrés Tamayo	Colombia
Mark Boetekees	Netherlands
Kengo Harima	Japan
Jürgen Paepke	Germany
Shady Medhat Iskandar	United Arab Emirates
Salvador Gomar Fayos	Spain
Laura McCallum	Scotland
Emma Elizabeth Álvarez Dimas	El Salvador
Regina Sampaio	Brazil
Gonçalo Nuno Alves de Almeida	Portugal
Gastón Tealdi	Uruguay
William McAuliffe	Republic of Ireland
Rafael Trevisán	Argentina
Fernando Manuel Soria	Argentina
Gideon Atu Izang	Nigeria
Judith Zebedayo Nyasebwa	Tanzania
Angelina Liverko	Uzbekistan
María José López González	Spain
Joaquim Evangelista	Portugal
Mario Flores Chemor	Mexico
Simon Cliff	England
Davor Radić	Croatia
Oberto Petricca	Italy

4. Mediators

In accordance with article 26 paragraph 2 of the Procedural Rules, the list of FIFA Mediators during the reporting period included the following members.

Members	
Beverley A. Agbakoba-Onyejianya	Nigeria
Malek Badri	Tunisia
Joost Batelaan	Netherlands
Jeffrey Benz	United States
Yuliya Bogdanova	Ukraine
Carol Couse	England
Enrico Errol D. Angeles	Philippines
Paul Godin	Canada
Luis Manuel Gómez Naranjo	Venezuela
Joshua A. Gordon	United States
Mehdi Guennoun	Morocco
Jorge Ibarrola	Switzerland
Eva Immerheiser	Germany
José E. Jozami	Argentina
Francisco Rubio Sánchez	Spain
Marisa Santana	Spain
Jiten Singh	Fiji
Nicolás Solines	Ecuador
Jacqueline Waihenya	Kenya
Alexander Zotov	Russia

Annexe 2

Useful resources for the proceedings before the FT

- [Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players – July 2025 edition](#)
- [Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players – January 2027 edition](#)
- [Commentary on the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players – 2023 edition](#)
- [Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal – January 2025 edition](#)
- [Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal – January 2026 edition](#)
- [Procedural Rules Governing the Football Tribunal – January 2027 edition](#)
- [Guide to Submitting Claims before the Football Tribunal](#)
- [Guide to Submitting a Minor Application](#)
- [Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes \(RGAS\)](#)
- [Commentary on the Rules Governing Eligibility to Play for Representative Teams](#)
- [Guide to Submitting a Request for Eligibility or a Change of Association](#)
- [FIFA Legal Portal Help Centre](#)
- [FIFA TMS Help Centre](#)
- [National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles](#)
- [Explanatory Notes on the New Regulatory Framework for National Dispute Resolution Chambers](#)

Disclaimer

Regarding any potential technical references included in this report, please be advised that in the event of any contradiction between this report and the actual text of the relevant regulations, the latter always prevails. Equally, this report cannot alter any existing jurisprudence of the competent decision-making bodies and is without prejudice to any decision which these bodies might be called upon to pass in the future. The information contained in this report is based on data provided directly by football stakeholders in TMS and the Legal Portal. FIFA assumes no responsibility for the accuracy, completeness and reliability of this information. Due to the nature of the TMS and Legal Portal databases, the presence of pending cases, the potential cancellation of transfers, and data corrections, numbers may differ from one report to another. In the event of any contradiction between this report and other FIFA publications, the most recent always prevails. All information contained herein is exclusively owned by FIFA, except where stated otherwise. In graphs showing rankings, ties were broken at random.



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