

Pursuant to Article 43 of the Statutes, the *HNS* Executive Committee adopted at the session held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 the

**REGULATIONS  
ON  
THE STATUS OF PLAYERS AND  
REGISTRATIONS**

<i>TABLE OF CONTENTS</i>	<i>PAGE</i>
1. <i>General Provisions</i>	4
2. <i>Definitions of Terms</i>	4
3. <i>Reporting and Registration of Clubs</i>	6
4. <i>Reporting and Registration of Players and Registers</i>	8
5. <i>Registration Bodies</i>	11
6. <i>Registration Related Documents</i>	12
7. <i>Right to Transfer between Clubs and Procedure</i>	17
8. <i>Registration Periods</i>	19
9. <i>Verification and Publication of Registration</i>	20
10. <i>Eligibility to Play</i>	21
11. <i>Contracts – Types and Conclusion</i>	23
12. <i>Termination of Contracts and Maintenance of Contractual Stability</i>	26
13. <i>No Third-Party Influence</i>	29
14. <i>Transfer Agreements</i>	29
15. <i>Intermediaries in Player Transfers</i>	29
16. <i>Loan of Professional Players</i>	30
17. <i>Registration of Players Transferring from the Clubs Affiliated to Other National Associations</i>	31
18. <i>Reacquisition of Amateur Status and Termination of Activity</i>	33
19. <i>Training Compensation and Solidarity Mechanism</i>	33
20. <i>Dispute Resolution</i>	34
21. <i>Obligation of Clubs to Comply With Their Financial Obligations</i>	35
22. <i>Obligation to Release Players to Association National Teams</i>	35
23. <i>Legal Remedies</i>	36

<i>24. Irregularities of the Player Registration Process</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>25. Time Limits</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>26. Re-registration</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>27. Transitional and Final Provisions</i>	<i>39</i>

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 1**

1. These Regulations lay down the procedure governing the registration of clubs and players, the procedure governing the transfer of players between clubs, the status of players, the terms and conditions of the contracts between clubs and players, eligibility to appear for a club, the general terms and conditions of the training and development program compensation, as well as other elements crucial for the status of players and the registration of clubs and players.
2. For the purpose of these Regulations, unless otherwise provided herein, the terms referring to a player and football player are applicable to both genders.

### **Definitions of Terms**

#### **Article 2**

For the purpose of these Regulations, the terms set out below are defined as follows:

1. Club is an organization or a company registered to perform activities involving the participation in football competitions and to teach football skills.
  - a) Football club is a club participating in the competitions played in accordance with the Laws of the Game and for which exclusively male players appear at senior level.
  - b) Women's football club is a club participating in the competitions played in accordance with the Laws of the Game and with which exclusively a female player may be registered.
  - c) Futsal club is a club participating in the competitions played in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game.
  - d) Recreation football club, including veterans' football club, is a club which is not obliged to participate in permanent competitions and which is established for the purpose of the sporting and recreation needs of its members.
  - e) Beach soccer club is a club playing in accordance with the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.
2. Player is a football player registered with a club belonging to a FIFA member football association.
  - a) Professional is a player who has a written contract with a club registered with a competent body of a football organization and is paid more for his footballing activity than the expenses he effectively incurs.
  - b) Amateur is a player who does not have a written contract with a club and is not paid more for his footballing activity than the expenses he effectively incurs.
3. Registration body is the body of the Croatian Football Federation (*HNS*), county football association (*ŽNS*) or football centre (*NS*) responsible for the registration of clubs and players.
4. Loan is a provisional registration of a professional with another club on the basis of a loan agreement between a parent club, a club that has accepted a player on a loan basis and a player.
5. Parent club is a club provisionally loaning a player to another club.

6. Clearance from the Register is a document whereby a player is deregistered from the register of players pertinent for a certain registration area (*ŽNS* or *NS*).
7. Sports ID card is a document to be possessed by every player and serving for proof of his identity and registration with a certain club.
8. Publication of registration includes data published in COMET and then also in the *HNS* or/and *ŽNS* official journal stating that a certain club has been registered or that a certain player has been registered with a club.
9. Publication of contract or of contract termination agreement includes data published in COMET and then also in the *HNS* or/and *ŽNS* official journal stating that a contract has been entered by and between a club and a player or that such contract has been terminated.
10. Verification is a process where *HNS* is confirming the registration of clubs, players and contracts between clubs and players executed by *ŽNS* or *NS*.
11. Re-registration is a process of a renewed registration of all amateur players with their current clubs for the purpose of updating the registers of active amateur players maintained by individual clubs.
12. *COMET HNS* is a web-based data information system enabling the processes of registration of clubs and players, registration of contracts between clubs and players and contracts between clubs on player transfers, all in compliance with the principles of the model applied at the international level via FIFA Transfer Matching System.
13. FIFA Transfer Matching System (FIFA TMS) is a web-based data information system with the primary objective of simplifying the process of international player transfers as well as improving transparency and the flow of information.
14. Final decision or another act is a decision or another act against which no legal remedy has been lodged within a prescribed time-limit, against which no legal remedy has been permitted or against which a legal remedy has been rejected or not accepted for consideration.
15. Organised football is an association football organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations and associations, or authorised by them.
16. Official match is a match played within the framework of organised football, but not including friendly and trial matches.
17. Public match is an official match and a friendly match controlled by a registered referee, during which a written record is kept and which is open for public.
18. Season is the period starting with the first official match of the relevant competition and ending with the last official match of the relevant competition.
19. Player foreign national is a player who is not a national of the Republic of Croatia or of any of the European Union or European Economic Area member state, unless otherwise provided for in these Regulations.

20. Mailing receipt is the confirmation that a player has requested from the club a release notice via registered post or that he has delivered such request directly to the club.
21. Transfer is the process of transferring a player from the club with which he was registered to the club with which he will be registered.
22. International transfer is the process of transferring a player from the club with which he was registered to the club with which he will be registered, where the clubs affiliated to different national football associations are involved.
23. Protected period is a period of three entire seasons or three years, whichever comes first, following the entry into force of a contract between a club and a player, where such contract is concluded prior to the 28<sup>th</sup> birthday of the professional, or two entire seasons or two years, whichever comes first, following the entry into force of a contract between a club and a player, where such contract is concluded after the 28<sup>th</sup> birthday of the professional.
24. Third party is a party other than the player being transferred, the two clubs transferring a player from one to the other, or any previous club, with which the player has been registered.

## **REPORTING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS**

### **Article 3**

1. The provisions governing the registration lay down the conditions and the process of registration, and the eligibility of players to appear in matches.
2. The registrations are carried out using uniform forms and according to the instruction how to keep records of registered clubs and players, separately for:
  - Football clubs;
  - Futsal clubs;
  - Women's football clubs;
  - Recreation football clubs;
  - Beach soccer clubs.

The forms and the instruction shall be issued by the Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations.

### **Article 4**

1. A recreation football club (*RNK*), a women's football club (*ŽNK*), a futsal club (*MNK*), a beach soccer club (*KNP*) and a football club (*NK*) may become a *HNS* member if it complies with the following requirements:
  - a) to submit to the competent county football association or authorised football centre the application for the admission into membership, assuming the obligation to act in accordance with the Statutes, Regulations and decisions of *HNS* and its organizations and bodies,
  - b) to submit the decision on registration with the Register of Associations or the decision on registration with the Commercial Court's Register of Companies and the decision on registration with the Register of Sports Activities,
  - c) to attach a copy of the Statutes,
  - d) to pay the admission and membership fees as established by *ŽNS*,

- e) to register at least 15 players; a futsal club and a beach soccer club are to register 10 players,
  - f) to have its own or contractually arranged football pitch.
2. The Statutes of a club must be in compliance with the *HNS* Statutes and the Statutes of the competent *ŽNS*. *ŽNS* shall not register a club if its Statutes are not in compliance with the Statutes of *HNS* and the Statutes of relevant *ŽNS*.
  3. A club shall be registered under a certain name. A club may change its name. When registered in COMET, a club is assigned both national and FIFA ID.
  4. *ŽNS* shall not register a club if it takes the name of the club from the same place and which has been already registered under such name. A different prefix before the principal name does not mean that the name is different.
  5. To change a name, it is required to:
    - a) submit the application to the competent *ŽNS*,
    - b) submit the decision on the change of the name made by a competent state authority.
  6. As an exception, a new name of a club may be provisionally registered for a period of one month if a club has not submitted all required documents referred to in paragraph 5 of this Article and this has been justified because of the requirements of a competition. When a club has submitted all documents, a provisional registration becomes a permanent one. During the time a provisional registration of a new name has been in effect, the players may appear with the sports ID cards bearing the old name.
  7. The decision to change the name of a club shall be published in the official journal of the competent *ŽNS* and *HNS*.
  8. A registered club may during the time set out in a sponsorship agreement use together with its own name also the name of the sponsor. In that case, the sponsor's name along with the club's name shall be reported to the body responsible for the competition, and the name supplement shall not be separately registered under the provisions of these Regulations.
  9. The clubs may be joined together if they are from the same county association under the conditions laid down in these Regulations. If one of such clubs retains its legal personality, the dissolution of another club shall be reported; in case a new name of a shared club is taken and new organisation or sporting company is established, they shall report the registration of a new club and the dissolution of joined clubs.
  10. The club shall, in the case referred to in paragraph 9 of this Article, notify within 8 days following the date of clubs' assembly the body responsible for registration of its name and shall submit the list of players remaining registered with the club.

## **Article 5**

1. A club becomes a member of *ŽNS* and, indirectly, of *HNS*, on the basis of the final decision on the club registration made either by *ŽNS* or its football centre.

2. ŽNS shall publish each registration of a newly established club in COMET within the period of ten days following the decision on such club's admission into membership and within the period of further five days it shall also publish such registration in its official journal and the HNS official journal.
3. Following the publication of the registration, a club shall participate in the first subsequent official competition.

#### **Article 6**

1. A club shall no longer be a member of ŽNS and HNS on the basis of the decision on termination of membership which may be made upon its own request, due to its dissolution or on the basis of the striking-off the club from the Register of Associations or the Register of the Commercial Court.
2. The decision referred to in the previous paragraph shall be made by ŽNS executive body or body authorised by it, and such decision shall be published in the official journals of ŽNS and HNS.
3. If a club withdraws from an official competition with one of the teams or all of them, it shall notify accordingly the body responsible for such competition within eight days following the date of such decision. The body responsible for such competition shall publish the club's decision on withdrawal in the official journals of ŽNS and HNS.

### **REPORTING AND REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

#### **General Terms and Conditions**

#### **Article 7**

1. Only registered players are eligible to participate in organised football. By the act of signing the application for registration, a player agrees to abide by the HNS and ŽNS Statutes, other regulations of the football organisation, and the statutes and other regulations of FIFA and UEFA.
2. Any player above the age of six years may be reported and registered with a club as a player, under the terms and conditions contained in these Regulations.
3. All registrations of clubs and players must be administered via the information system COMET. The registrations not administered via the system COMET are null and void and will not be published in the ŽNS or HNS official journals.
4. At the time of the first registration, each player shall be assigned both national and FIFA ID.
5. Professional players may only be registered during one of the two registration periods. As an exception to this rule, a professional whose contract has expired prior to the end of a registration period or has been terminated by mutual agreement and such professional will enter into a contract with a new club or where a contract has been terminated at the expense of a club on the basis of the decision of a FIFA's body or of the body of the national football association responsible for the dispute resolution between players and clubs, may be



registered outside a registration period. In this connection, due consideration must be given to the sporting integrity of a competition.

*HNS* clubs' professional players who are being released on loan to clubs of the Third Division of the Croatian Football League, may be registered also after the end of the summer registration period, until 14 October, and after the end of the winter registration period respectively, until 28 February.

6. During the entire season, with the exception of the periods between 15<sup>th</sup> October and 17<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> June, the following players may be registered:

- amateur players who participate in the Third Division of the Croatian Football League and exclusively in amateur divisions,
- *CFF* clubs' amateur players who in the season in which they register with another club are not above the age of 16 years.

Amateur players who register for the first time with a football association (a first registration) may be registered during the entire season, with the exception of the period between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup> June.

Amateur players who following the process of re-registration remain not re-registered and in that season they are not above the age of 16 years may be registered also during the period between 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March.

7. Players may be registered with a maximum of three clubs during one season. During this period, the player is eligible to play official matches for two clubs only.

As an exception to this rule, a player moving between a club belonging to the association whose season is overlapping with the *HNS* season (i.e. start of the season in summer/autumn as opposed to winter/spring) may be eligible to play in official matches for a third club during the relevant season, provided he has fully complied with his contractual obligations towards his previous clubs.

The appearance includes for the purpose of this paragraph also the matches in which a player is serving an automatic sanction in terms of a match suspension due to the cautions received or a match suspension.

8. A player may only be registered with one club in the same type of competition. A player may be registered at the same time with two clubs provided such clubs are not competing in the same competitions (football, futsal or beach soccer). Football and futsal clubs may belong to different national associations. A player under contract may register with a club participating in a different type of competition only if he obtains a written approval from the club with which he is under contract. If a player who is registered as an amateur in both types of football competitions concludes subsequently a contract with one of those clubs, he is obliged to obtain from that club a written approval in respect of the existing registration for the club competing in another type of competition. If a club does not give such an approval, such club may request the cancellation of a player's registration with the club competing in another type of competition.

9. Women's players may be registered with women's football clubs. A women's player may be registered with a football or a futsal club if such a club has a women's team participating in the women's football competitions. As an exception, women's players who in the relevant season are not above the age of 15 years may be registered also with a club and a futsal club which does not have a women's team and may play for such a club.

Male players may not be registered with a women's football club.

10. The number of players who are foreign nationals that may be registered with one club is not limited.
11. The Regulations of Football Competitions provide for the number of players who are foreign nationals that may appear in the matches of the *HNS* official competitions.
12. Players may be registered only if the club's application has been duly made via COMET to the body competent for registrations, and in the case of the player coming from abroad via FIFA TMS and/or *HNS* Office during the registration period (professionals) or during the period for registration (amateurs and exceptions in case of professionals).

### **Registration of veteran players**

#### **Article 8**

1. Every player reaching thirty three (33) years of age in a current season when he is registered may be registered as a veteran.
2. A professional may not be registered as a veteran until at least 30 days after his last match as a professional.
3. The register of veteran players is kept separately from the register of football and futsal players.
4. Veterans football player may not appear at the same time for another football club or women's football club.
5. Veteran players may be registered for the first time with a veterans club/team during the entire season and be transferred between clubs during the entire season, with the exclusion of the periods from 15<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> January and from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 14<sup>th</sup> June.
6. Professionals who end their careers upon expiry of their contracts and amateurs who terminate their activity at a nonveterans club/team shall remain registered at their last club for a period of 30 months.

### **Registration of Beach Soccer Players**

#### **Article 9**

1. The register of beach soccer players is kept separately from the register of football and futsal players.
2. Beach soccer players may be registered with a beach soccer club/team and transferred between clubs during the entire season.

### **Register of Minor Players Who Attend a Football School or an Academy**

#### **Article 10**

1. Football schools, academies and other organizations or companies providing minors with football training (hereinafter referred to as a football school) are obliged to report all minors being educated and trained by them to *ŽNS* upon whose territory they have a seat.
2. Clubs that operate a football school with legal, financial or de facto links to the club are obliged to report all minors being educated and trained by them, and

not registered with a club under these Regulations, to ŽNS upon whose territory they have a seat. Minors who are not Croatian nationals shall be also reported.

3. The register of minors who are training at football schools referred to in this Article comprises the names, places and dates of birth, nationalities of the minors and names of football schools.
4. Through the act of reporting, football schools, academies and players undertake to practise football in accordance with the FIFA Statutes, and to respect and promote the ethical principles of organised football.
5. The Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations of HNS shall provide the form to be used by football schools for the reporting of minors.
6. Any violations of the provisions of this Article will be sanctioned and a competent disciplinary body will open the proceedings against the person who has committed the offence.

### **Bodies Responsible for the Registration of Players**

#### **Article 11**

1. Registration of players is the responsibility of the competent body of ŽNS upon whose territory the seat of the club with which a player is registered and which is obliged to publish the registration in COMET and the official journal of ŽNS is located.
2. The competent executive body of ŽNS may for the purpose of registration nominate instead of a collegial body a commissioner for registration.
3. The Executive Committee shall decide which associations will register players in the HNS territory or which ŽNS will get a power of attorney for registration.

### **HNS Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations**

#### **Article 12**

The HNS Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations is responsible for the matters defined in accordance with these Regulations, and:

- prepares clubs and players registrations related materials to be published in the HNS official journal,
- proposes the format and the contents of the forms to be used for registration, record keeping, card, release notice, clearance from the register, and other clubs and players registration related documents.

#### **Article 13**

1. The HNS Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations consists of a President and two members, nominated by the HNS Executive Committee.
2. The Committee makes decisions at its meetings by a majority of votes.

3. The Committee is convened by the President; if the President is unable to attend, the Vice-President will deputise. The President chairs the meeting and signs the Committee's decisions.
4. The Committee's President decides independently all matters arising under these Regulations and referring to the verification and publication of registrations, and which are the responsibility of the Committee.
5. The Committee decides at its meetings on legal remedies in the matters where it is a second-instance body.

#### **Article 14**

1. The decision on a player and contract registration is made within the term of eight days following the receipt of the application and enclosed proofs for registration.
2. The club and the registration body are obliged to monitor whether a notification of registration has been made or not, correct or request a correction of a mistake and other omissions made in COMET or in the official journal.
3. A club may not suffer the consequences of the omissions made by the registration body or other responsible person if the club has instigated in writing all required proceedings determined herein within the term of 10 (ten) days from the expiration of the period during which the registration should have been entered into COMET.
4. When giving a written request for the correction of a technical omission or mistake to *ZNS*, the club is obliged to submit a copy to the *HNS* Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations if such club is subject to the notification in the *HNS* official journal.

#### **Registration Related Documents**

#### **Article 15**

1. For a player registration purposes, a club is obliged to submit via COMET system and electronic mail a full application and proofs for registration, comprising:
  - a) for a player who is reported for the first time:
    - 1) club's request together with the list of documents enclosed for registration purposes,
    - 2) the application signed by a player and mandated member of the club before whom the player signed the application validated by the club's seal, the digital format photograph of the player wearing the kit of the club and corresponding to the age for which a player is being registered,
    - 3) birth certificate or certificate of nationality, identity card, passport (certified photocopy to be admitted),
    - 4) proof of paid registration fee,
    - 5) players aged between 6 and 10 who are foreign nationals (including also the nationals of EU member states) or who are not residents in the Republic of Croatia or were born abroad but are Croatian nationals may instead of written approval of the *HNS* competent body enclose the statement of a parent or legal guardian confirming that this is the first registration of a player with a football

association. Such statement is made in the form prescribed by the Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations.

b) for a player transferring between clubs:

- 1) club's request together with the list of documents enclosed for registration purposes,
- 2) the application for registration signed by a player and mandated member of the club before whom the player signed the application validated by the club's seal,
- 3) former club's release notice or proof that the player requested it from the club during a registration period or outside such period in special cases,
- 4) clearance from the register if a player is changing the territory of the association competent for player's registration or proof that he requested it from the competent body,
- 5) card – existing or new - if a player is changing the territory of the body competent for player's registration, together with the photograph in digital format to correspond to the age for which the player is being registered,
- 6) proof that the contract has expired if a player had the contract with a former club, as well as the new contract with the club to which the player is transferring if such contract has been concluded,
- 7) proof that the contract has been terminated either by mutual agreement or due to the fault of the club if the player is based on that entitled to transfer to another club,
- 8) transfer agreement between a player's former and a player's new club if such agreement has been made,
- 9) approval for registration issued by the *HNS* Office in accordance with the relevant FIFA regulations, if a player is transferring from the club affiliated to another association,
- 10) two copies of player passport,
- 11) proof that the fee has been paid for such type of registration.

c) for a player to be loaned:

- 1) club's request for registration together with the list of documents enclosed for registration purposes,
- 2) the application for registration signed by a player and mandated member of the club before whom the player signed the application validated by the club's seal. If the player is from another *ŽNS*, one application is enclosed together with the photograph in digital format to correspond to the age for which the player is being registered,
- 3) a written agreement between the club and the player to be loaned, mandatorily specifying the period of loan,
- 4) existing sports ID card, new one, if the player is from the territory of another association,
- 5) proof that the fee has been paid for such type of registration,
- 6) two copies of player passport,
- 7) for players loaned by a foreign club, the approval of registration by the *HNS* Office.

d) it must be specified in the section OBSERVATION of the application for registration whether the player has been registered for another form of football competition (football, futsal or beach soccer), for which club, under which registration number and in which county football association or football centre.

2. If a submitted application has been incorrect or incomplete, the competent registration body will warn the applicant and give him the reasonable period of

time to remedy the defects. Such period of time may not exceed eight days. If within such period of time the defects have not been remedied, it will be deemed that the application has been withdrawn and the registration will not be completed and published.

3. The competent registration body has discretion to take account of any contractual amendments or additional agreements that have not been duly submitted to it.
4. The club registering a player shall for the registration purposes of the body responsible for registration upload in COMET the contract between the club and the player (including also all annexes to such contract), or an agreement on contract termination. Following the registration, the body responsible for registration shall submit the contract or the agreement to the Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations. Loan Agreement shall be submitted by the club loaning the player. Following the registration and verification, the club shall provide the player with the copy of contract or agreement.
5. All applications for registration of a minor player shall be signed by parents or legal guardian, and if a player is older than ten years, the application shall be signed also by a minor player.

#### **Article 16**

1. A player may approach a club for the purpose of registration exclusively by the act of signing the application for registration.
2. A player is obliged to give correct answers to all the questions comprised by the application and confirm them by his signature.
3. Club's authorised representative is obliged to enter into the application for registration correct information and attest by his signature and the club's seal that the player has signed in his own hand and on a certain date the application for registration.
4. For any provision of incorrect information, a player and a club, if established that they were or should have been aware of them, will be held liable under the provisions of the *HNS* Disciplinary Regulations, and in respect of the registration it will be proceeded in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.
5. A player may not withdraw from the application for registration or sign a new application for another club if he signed the application in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.
6. As an exception to the provision referred to in paragraph 5 of this Article, if a club for which a player has signed the application does not submit the materials for registration to the competent body within the term of eight days following the signature of the application, a player may sign new application for another club.
7. A player who wants to move to another club but has no release notice may request it in writing. If a release notice has been requested during the summer registration period until 31<sup>st</sup> July and by way of an exception, if it has been requested by the players who in that season are not above 16 years of age, in

the winter registration period until 1<sup>st</sup> February, provided there is no impediment provided for in these Regulations or other general acts of *HNS*, the club is obliged to issue the release notice to the player.

## **Release Notice**

### **Article 17**

1. A registered player who wants to move to another club must request a release notice; a club is obliged to issue a release notice to a player if the terms and conditions set out in these Regulations have been met or if a club has no contract concluded with that player.
2. The request for release notice will be made in writing and sent to the club by registered post or delivered directly, with the club's signed confirmation of receipt of such request.
3. A release notice will be valid until the last day of the first next registration period.
4. A player may not be registered for another club without a release notice, with the exception of cases specifically set out in these Regulations.
5. Once a release notice has been issued, a club may not dispute the validity of such release notice.
6. A club is obliged to enter full and all information in a release notice. Disciplinary proceedings will be instigated against the club and its responsible person who do not proceed according to this provision.
7. A release notice will be null and void if found to be issued without the date of issue and name of the player.
8. If a player appears for a club after the date stated in the release notice or the date when the player requested the release notice from the club, the release notice or mailing receipt will become null and void. If the validity of a release notice expires, the player may be registered if such player has not been registered with any club since the date of issue of the release notice.
9. A release notice is valid only if issued via COMET. A club shall deliver to a player along with a release notice also a sports ID card.

## **Card**

### **Article 18**

1. Every registered player has a sports ID card issued by the competent registration body.
2. If a player is transferring between clubs, he is obliged to deliver his card to the competent *ŽNS*.
3. If a card is lost or becomes unusable, the club is obliged to procure its duplicate. Such duplicate card is issued by the registration body, and during the

time between two meetings, it is issued by the *ŽNS* secretariat. Such duplicate must be validated at the next following meeting of the registration body.

4. Duplicate cards must be published in the *ŽNS* official journal, and for the clubs and players whose registrations are published at the *HNS* level also in the *HNS* official journal.

### **Clearance from the Register**

#### **Article 19**

1. When a player is moving to the club located on the territory of another registration body (another *ŽNS* or *NS*), such player is obliged to request in writing the clearance from the register of registered players or certificate that he has not been re-registered.
2. The request is to be made in the manner set out for the request for release notice, provided however that a player is obliged to state all the information required for the clearance from the register.
3. The competent registration body or association's secretariat is obliged to issue immediately, during the time between two meetings of the registration body, the clearance from the register or advise the claimant that there are obstacles for such clearance to be issued, namely in the following cases:
  - a) if a written request has been made during the registration period,
  - b) if a written request has been made outside the registration period, and the request has been accompanied by the release notice or mailing receipt proving that the release notice has been requested during the period in which the club is obliged to issue it.
4. If the association responsible for the registration does not issue the clearance from the register based on the submitted request or does not advise the claimant on the reasons thereof within the period of eight days, it will be deemed that it has removed the player from the list of its players and that there are no obstacles for the player to transfer to the new club.
5. The claimant is obliged to pay for the request to the competent association the fee to be established by the competent body of the association. If the *HNS* Executive Committee has not established the unique fee for the clearance from the register, and the claimant pays the amount below the established one, the competent body of the association is obliged to issue the clearance from the register and request the payment of the remaining balance to be paid by such claimant within the term of 15 days.
6. The competent body of *ŽNS* is obliged to publish in the period between 15<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June each year in the *ŽNS* and *HNS* official journals the number of its giro account and the fees to be in effect in the next season. If the fees remain unchanged, the decision in that respect must be published.
7. The *HNS* Executive Committee may make until 15<sup>th</sup> May the decision on the unique fee to be paid for clearance from the register and to be applied on the territory of the Republic of Croatia in the next season. If before the next season no such decision has been made, the fees applied during the previous season will remain in force.



8. If a player is transferring to the area of another national football association it is not required to issue a clearance from the register, and the clearance shall be made *ex officio* by the *HNS* Office.

#### **Article 20**

The registration body removes a player from the list of registered players of the association in the following cases:

- a) upon the player's request, to be accompanied by a release notice or proof that the player has requested it in writing from his former club during the summer registration period,
- b) upon the player's new club's request if the player has a release notice or has requested it during the registration period, or if his contract has been terminated by the *HNS* Court of Arbitration,
- c) upon the request of the player who has ended his football career or terminated his activity or upon the request of his last club, and the period of more than 30 months has elapsed from his last appearance for that club in an official match,
- d) *ex officio* if a player is moving abroad.

#### *Player Passport*

#### **Article 21**

1. A player passport is the document containing the relevant details of the player's career history since the season of his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. The player passport is filled out and validated by *ŽNS/NS* responsible for registration and is provided to the club with which the player is registered. The player passport shall indicate the clubs with which the player has been registered and the player status, a professional or an amateur, as well as the club's category with which the player has been registered.
2. If during the registration with a club a player changes his status (becomes a professional or an amateur), competent *ŽNS/NS* is obliged to state such change in the player passport via COMET system.

### **TRANSFER TO ANOTHER CLUB**

#### **Entitlement to Transfer to another Club**

#### **Article 22**

1. The player who has a release notice or mailing receipt in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations is entitled to transfer to another club in both registration periods. Amateurs who have release notices may transfer to another club also outside the registration period, in accordance with the provision of Article 7, paragraph 6 of these Regulations.
2. A club is obliged to issue at the written request of the player who meets the conditions his release notice and card immediately upon the receipt of the request, and not later than within the three-day period if the request has been made within the deadlines set under above Article 16, paragraph 7.

3. If a club does not issue a release notice within the term of three days without a justified cause, the proceedings will be instigated under the provisions of the *HNS* Disciplinary Regulations by the competent *ŽNS/NS* body.
4. If the *HNS* Office receives the request of a foreign football association to issue an international certificate, and the former club has not issued a release notice, the *HNS* Office shall, if all the conditions under paragraph 1 above have been met, require the club to issue a release notice within the term of three days. If the club fails to issue a release notice within such term, the *HNS* Office shall remove a player from the list of registered players and proceed with the procedure for issuing the international certificate.

### **Procedure Governing the Transfer during the Registration Period**

#### **Article 23**

If a player wants to transfer to another club and to register with another *HNS* club, he is obliged to make during the registration period the request in writing to his club to be issued release notice and card; such request is to be sent by registered post or made by personal delivery and accompanied by the club's written confirmation of the request's receipt.

### **Registration without Release Notice and Clearance from the Register**

#### **Article 24**

The player who acted during the registration period in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of these Regulations but did not receive his release notice although the club was not allowed to refuse to issue it under the provisions of these Regulations, will be registered without his release notice and all other documents referred to in Article 15 of these Regulations will be submitted, provided that the new club submits instead of the release notice the copy of the mailing receipt, and in case the territory of the association is also changed than also the clearance from the register or a copy of the request together with the proof that the player requested it in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations and paid the relevant fee for the clearance from the register.

### **Withdrawal from the Transfer to another Club**

#### **Article 25**

1. The player who has been issued the release notice from his club, and with the consent of the club for which he has signed the application for registration withdraws from the application before such registration has been published in COMET, may return to his former club and acquire the right to appear for that club from the moment the competent registration body confirms the withdrawal from the application for registration with another club and enters into COMET and into his card the date of such confirmation as the date of his right to appear for his former club.
2. In order that such decision may be enforced, the club will submit the card, the written statement of the player where he confirms that he withdraws from the application to another club and the written confirmation of the club for which the player signed the application that the club gives its consent in respect of the player's statement.

## **Article 26**

1. If the player who has been removed under the provisions of these Regulations from the list of registered players abandons his intention to register with another club may return to his former club or make the application for registration with another club.
2. In case a release notice has expired, the player is obliged to enclose to the clearance from the register the statement where he confirms that from the date when he has been removed from the list of registered players he has not been registered with any club.

## **Protected Players**

### **Article 27**

1. A club is obliged upon the written request of a player, during the entire year, to issue a release notice immediately upon the receipt of the request if the club has withdrawn from official competition in the current season.  
A club is not obliged to issue a release notice to the player who is eligible to appear for any team of the club competing in the current season.
2. In case the player had a contract, the termination of the contract by the player in case the conditions referred to under paragraph 1 above had been met should be regarded as the termination with just cause.
3. Registration of the player referred to in this Article may be made during the entire year, with the exception of the period between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup> June.
4. If such player does not get despite his justified request a release notice from the club, the registration process will be correspondingly subject to the provisions of Article 24 of these Regulations.

## **Fees**

### **Article 28**

For a clearance from the register, as well as for any objection and appeal lodged in respect of the registration, the proof that the fees have been paid is to be enclosed together with other documents.

## **REGISTRATION PERIODS**

### **Article 29**

1. Player registration periods are: summer registration period and winter registration period.
2. Summer registration period begins on 15<sup>th</sup> June and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> August each year, and winter registration period begins on 18<sup>th</sup> January and ends on 15<sup>th</sup> February each year. Summer registration period for futsal clubs begins on 15<sup>th</sup> July and ends on 30<sup>th</sup> September each year, and winter registration period begins on 7<sup>th</sup> January and ends on 3<sup>rd</sup> February each year.

3. The registration periods shall be entered into the FIFA Transfer Matching System at least twelve months before they come into force.

### **Article 30**

1. The application for registration of a player during the registration period together with the documents referred to in Article 16 shall be submitted by the club to the competent registration body not later than on the last day of the registration period. Registration must be completed within the period of eight days following the date of the submission of documents. Following the end of the registration period, within the term of 8 days only one meeting may be held.
2. If the registration body fails to make the decision within the term from paragraph 1 of this Article, the player and the club concerned may lodge an objection.

### **Verification of Registration**

#### **Article 31**

ŽNS or NS that has registered a player is obliged to submit to the HNS Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations via COMET system and electronic mail full original documentation based on which the registration has been made of a player transferring to the first and second tier club and the first tier women's football and futsal club i.e. of all players loaned from the clubs from said divisions or loaned to such clubs or who come from abroad. The Committee is obliged to decide on the same day the documents have been received, if received until 3 p.m., whether such registration will be confirmed, rejected or returned to the competent body to remedy the defects within the period of three days. In case of the registration being rejected, the Committee will make the decision whereby such registration will be also cancelled.

### **Publication of Registration**

#### **Article 32**

1. All registrations of players must be published. At the end of each working day where the registration related procedure has been performed, the body verifying the registration shall publish, using COMET, the clubs, players and contracts that have been registered that day.
2. All registrations published in ŽNS or NS, or those verified in HNS, shall be published once a week for the preceding week in the official journal of ŽNS/NS or HNS.

#### **Article 33**

1. Registrations of players and contracts of clubs playing in the first three tiers of the competitions of seniors, women's football and futsal first tiers, players who come from abroad, players loaned from the clubs playing in the above tiers or loaned to such clubs are mandatorily verified by HNS and published in COMET and in the HNS official journal. Any decisions on deregistration of the above players will be also published in the ŽNS and HNS official journals.
2. The competent player registration body referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is obliged to submit at the time of the first publication of the player registration

the excerpt from the minutes kept about the player registration. At the time of any subsequent registration, the registration body is obliged to submit, along with the material to be published, also the documents referred to in Article 16, paragraph 1, item b, sub-paragraphs 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9, item c, sub-paragraphs 3 and 6 and item d.

3. All technical errors and other omissions occurring at the time of the publication in COMET and in the official journal shall be remedied ex officio or upon the request. The request shall be made by the club or ŽNS and addressed by the body responsible for publication in order that the correct text may be published in the following issue.
4. Registration of player who is transferring to another club in the summer registration period will be published according to the tier of competition in which the player's new club will be playing in the next season.
5. ŽNS establishes, with the exception of COMET, how the registrations of players who are not comprised by the provisions of this Article are published. Such registrations may not be published contrary to the basic provisions of these Regulations.

## **ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY**

### **Article 34**

1. The time limit for a player to become eligible to play begins on the next day following the publication of registration in COMET. If the registration must be verified by HNS, the player becomes eligible to play as of the next day following the verification of registration. On the day following the publication of the registration or when applicable, verification of registration, the player is eligible to play under the conditions referred to in these Regulations and other general regulations of HNS if the player is registered at the time of registration period in the following cases:
  - 1) if being registered as a player who has not been re-registered, with the exception of a player referred to in Article 35, sub-paragraph 10 below,
  - 2) if being registered with another club with all required documents, with the exception of the cases referred to in Article 35 below,
  - 3) in case of the registration of a player who has been imposed the sanction of match suspension for a specified period by the competent disciplinary body, the time limit to become eligible to play begins following the expiration of suspension,
  - 4) in case of the registration of a player who has been imposed the sanction of match suspension for a specified number of matches, such player will be deemed eligible to play upon the expiration of suspension,
  - 5) if being registered with a new club as a player of the club that has been merged with another club and which has not registered him at that time,
  - 6) if a player has applied under the provisions of Article 25 above to the club with which he has been registered at the time of the publication of deregistration or to another club provided he has not transferred to any other club since the date of deregistration,
  - 7) if being registered as a player whose contract has been terminated by mutual agreement and who has then applied to another club, and if not in the process of reacquisition of amateur status,

- 8) in case of the registration of a professional who comes from abroad and a player who was registered with *HNS* as a professional and who wants to be registered as an amateur, such player becomes eligible to play in all public matches as an amateur following the expiration of the period of 30 days after his last match as a professional. Such player may sign a contract and acquire the status of a professional only in the next registration period,
  - 9) if being registered as a loaned player,
  - 10) if a player coming from abroad is being registered, it will be presumed that the registration period has been respected if the club and the player have submitted to the *HNS* Office and/or through FIFA TMS the application for approval of the registration of that player by the last day of the registration period (inclusive),
  - 11) if a player is being registered on the basis of the provisional certificate in accordance with the provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players,
  - 12) if being registered as a player who has been loaned and who returns from loan to his original club following the expiration or termination of the loan agreement,
  - 13) if being registered as a minor who came to the former club from abroad based on FIFA's approval or as authorised by FIFA, *HNS* Office, when the *HNS* Office grants the approval of further transfer to another club,
  - 14) if being registered as a minor aged between 6 and 10 who is a foreign national (including also the nationals of EU member states) or who is not a resident in the Republic of Croatia or was born abroad but is a Croatian national, with the statement of a parent or legal guardian confirming that this is the first registration.
2. If a player is being registered during the summer registration period with the club that has not finished competitions till the beginning of the registration period (for example, playoffs to stay in the same or to move to a higher division, final tournament, etc.), such player becomes eligible to play following the end of the competition of the club with which he has registered.
  3. If the conditions from Article 35 below have been met, such player becomes eligible to play on the basis of that Article.

### **Article 35**

If a player is being registered outside a registration period, such player becomes eligible to play on the next day following the publication of the registration through COMET. If the registration must be verified by *HNS*, the player becomes eligible to play as of the next day following the verification of registration. On the day following the publication of the registration or when applicable, verification of registration, the player is eligible to play under the conditions referred to in these Regulations and other general regulations of *HNS* in the following cases:

- 1) if a player is being registered for the first time with a club affiliated to an association, he may be registered during the entire year, with the exception of the period from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> June,
- 2) if a player is being registered as a professional whose contract has been terminated on the basis of the decision of the *HNS* Court of Arbitration, bodies of FIFA or national association competent to deal with disputes between players and clubs, and such player enters into the contract with the new club, he may be registered during the entire year, with the exception of the period from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> June,
- 3) if a player is being registered as a player whose contract has expired upon termination in accordance with the provisions of Articles 43, 44 and 45 below,

and he enters into the contract with the new club as a professional, he may be registered during the entire year, with the exception of the period from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> June,

- 4) if a player is being registered as a professional whose contract with the former club has expired or has been terminated by mutual agreement before the end of the registration period and who during the registration period has not found the new club, and enters with the new club into the professional football player contract or employment contract, he may be registered during the entire year, with the exception of the period from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> June,
- 5) if a player is being registered as a player of the club that has been based of the competent body's decision removed from the register of associations or commercial court's register of companies, he may be registered during the entire year, with the exception of the period from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> June,
- 6) if the registration with the new club has been cancelled based on the competent body's decision, a player will remain a member of the former club and is eligible to play with such club in the same manner as before, provided he has a valid contract and has not been de-registered by ŽNS (NS); if such player has been deregistered he is obliged to register again with the former club or another club under Article 34 above during the registration period,
- 7) if the registration has been corrected based on the competent body's decision, the term within which eligibility to play will be acquired begins from the initially published registration,
- 8) if a player is being registered as an amateur with the club competing in amateur competitions, with the exception of the periods from 15<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> January and from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> June,
- 9) if a player is being registered with the club withdrawing from competition, with the exception of the period from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> June,
- 10) if a player is being registered as an amateur who has not been re-registered and during the season in which he has been registered is not above the age of 16 years, with the exception of the periods from 15<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> January and from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 14<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Article 36**

Any appearance of an unregistered or not duly registered player in a match is irregular, and the consequences of and sanctions for such an appearance have been set forth in the Regulations of Football Competitions and Disciplinary Regulations of HNS.

## **CONTRACTS**

### **Types of Contracts**

### **Article 37**

1. A professional may conclude with a club:
  - a) a professional football player contract (hereinafter: a professional contract). Such contract may be concluded by a player who is above the age of sixteen (16) and who performs the independent sporting activity of participating in sporting competitions.
  - b) an employment contract. Such contract may be concluded by a player who is above the age of sixteen (16).
  - c) a player scholarship contract (hereinafter: a scholarship contract). Such contract may be concluded by a player who is above the age of twelve (12).

2. Contracts with minors may be concluded for the maximum term of three (3) years. Any clause referring to a longer period shall not be recognized.
3. The total length of an employment contract made for a fixed period of time between a club and a player may not exceed three years. Limited length of a contract does not apply to the first employment contract made for a fixed period of time between a player and a club.
4. The maximum length of a player scholarship contract concluded with a player who is above the age of 18 may be until the end of the season of his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.
5. As an exception to the provisions of paragraph 4 above, futsal and women's football players may conclude scholarship contracts with clubs also after the end of the season of their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday.
6. If a contract is concluded by a minor, such contract shall be mandatorily signed on behalf of such player by his parents or legal guardian; such contract shall be also signed by the player.
7. The minimum length of any contract referred to in this Article shall be from its effective date until the end of the season.
8. The validity of a contract may not be made subject to a medical examination or the grant of a work permit or business licence.

### **The Status of Player Related Eligibility to Play**

#### **Article 38**

1. In the First Division of the Croatian football league system only professionals and amateurs who have been registered with the club after they reached the age of twenty three (23) may appear for that club.  
As an exception, in the First Division amateurs under the age of twenty three (23) may appear in the following cases:
  - a) if under the age of twelve (12) they have been registered with the club for which they appear in the First Division;
  - b) if the club for which they appear in the First Division is the only club with which they have been registered;
  - c) if a contract has expired and a player has not transferred to another club;
  - d) if they transferred from a foreign club, provided they were registered with one or several foreign clubs for at least one season or one calendar year immediately before the arrival to the club playing in the First Division.
2. In the Second Division of the Croatian football league system, the Women's First League and the Futsal First League professionals and amateurs may appear.
3. In the Third Division of the Croatian football league system, amateurs and professionals may appear if they have scholarship contracts and professionals loaned from the clubs playing in the First and Second Divisions or professionals playing in other teams of the professional clubs of *HNS*.



4. In all other *HNS* leagues only amateurs and professionals playing in other teams of the professional clubs of *HNS* may appear.
5. The clubs playing in the Third Division of the Croatian football league system may conclude with the players scholarship contracts, provided that each club may have the maximum of five such contracts at the same time.
6. Professionals who appear for the second team of the professional club of *HNS* may appear in all tiers of competitions.
7. The players of the second team of a professional club of *HNS* are regularly registered with their clubs and are eligible to appear for the senior team and youth teams of that club in accordance with the provisions of the *HNS* Regulations of Football Competitions. The registration process and eligibility to play applied to the players who appear for the second team of a professional club are governed by the provisions of these Regulations.

## **Conclusion of Contracts**

### **Article 39**

1. Contracts, annexes to contracts and mutually agreed terminations of contracts come into effect and are binding upon the contracting parties as of the date of the signatures. If the eligibility to play has been conditioned upon the existence of a contract, a player becomes eligible to play as of the date of the publication of the contract through COMET, provided all other terms and conditions set forth in these Regulations have been met.
2. Competent registration bodies may verify only the contract initialled on each page and signed by all contracting parties.
3. The *HNS* Executive Committee establishes the contract standard form comprising the minimum set of conditions to be incorporated in a contract. Such decision shall be made not later than sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of registration period for each year and for all types of contracts.  
A club and a player may not provide for the terms and conditions that would be less favourable for a player than the ones comprised by the contract standard form and any such terms and conditions shall be null and void.
4. Club regulations referred to in the terms and conditions of a contract shall be in compliance with the *HNS* regulations.

### **Article 40**

1. Contracts, annexes to contracts and mutually agreed terminations of contracts are to be sent to the competent registration body through COMET i.e. are uploaded for registration within the term of eight days following their signature; they are to be submitted for verification within the term of further eight days to the *HNS* competent body. Upon the verification, contracts and agreements are to be published through COMET and in the *HNS* and *ŽNS* official journals.
2. A player whose contract expires on 30<sup>th</sup> June of one year may use that year's summer registration period from its start.

#### **Article 41**

1. A player may conclude a contract with the new club if his contract with his present club is due to expire within 6 (six) months, if his former contract has expired, has been terminated or cancelled.
2. If a player wants to sign a new contract within the term of six (6) months before the expiry of his current contract, in that period he may sign only one new contract.

#### **Article 42**

1. A club intending to register a professional must inform the player's current club in writing before entering into negotiations with him.
2. Any direct or indirect oral or written interference with a player soliciting him to breach the obligation referred to in paragraph 1 above may be subject to disciplinary sanctions imposed on the club, its responsible person, the player or pursuant to the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

### **Termination of Contracts and Maintenance of Contractual Stability**

#### **Article 43**

Contracts are terminated, unless otherwise specifically set forth herein, by the expiration of the time for which they have been made, by mutual agreement of the contracting parties, or if cancelled or terminated by the *HNS* competent body.

#### **Article 44**

1. A player may terminate his contract on the ground of sporting just cause by means of the written notice of termination sent to his club not later than in the fifteen (15) days following the last official match of the season of the club with which he is registered, provided he in the course of the season, appeared in fewer than ten per cent (10%) of the official matches (in this connection 10% of the total duration of all matches is counted) in home and European competitions. A player or a club terminating a contract must deliver the same notice, together with the proof of delivered notice of termination to another contracting party, to *ŽNS* or *NS* upon whose territory the club has its seat.
2. If a club is of opinion that certain special circumstances do not justify the termination with sporting just cause or that a player or his new club must pay compensation, the club may request within the term of eight days following the receipt of the request or notice of termination the *HNS* Court of Arbitration to decide whether or not the request is justified. It will be deemed that the player did not appear if he was included in the match written record but did not enter play. In case of such termination of contract, compensation will be paid; however, such compensation will not be paid if a player may prove that his former club has fully disregarded him in sporting terms because the club has not been interested in his services. In case of such termination of contract, no sporting sanctions will be imposed.

#### **Article 45**

1. As an exception to the provision of Article 43 above, a contract may be unilaterally terminated.
2. A contract may be terminated by either party without consequences of any kind (either payment of compensation or imposition of sporting sanctions) where there is just cause. Before the termination of contract, the creditor will grant a deadline of at least ten days for another party to comply with its contractual obligations. If another contracting party fails to comply with its obligations within such deadline, the creditor may terminate the contract in the manner described in paragraph 3 below.
3. A player or a club terminating a contract with just cause must deliver to another contracting party (a club or a player) the notice of unilateral termination and the grounds for termination.  
A player or a club terminating a contract must deliver the same notice, together with the proof of delivered notice of termination to another contracting party, to *ŽNS* or *NS* upon whose territory the club has its seat.
4. A contract cannot be unilaterally terminated without just cause during the course of a season.

#### **Article 46**

1. If one party terminates a contract in accordance with the provisions of Article 45 above, another party deeming that the contract has been terminated without just cause may within the term of three days following the receipt of the notice of termination of the contract, file a complaint with the *HNS* Court of Arbitration and seek it to determine whether the contract has been terminated without just cause.
2. If a complaint has been filed by the club with the *HNS* Court of Arbitration within the term referred to in paragraph 1 above, the process of player registration, if any, with another club will be suspended pending the award of the *HNS* Court of Arbitration.
3. The *HNS* Court of Arbitration is obliged to inform the registration body of *ŽNS/NS* competent for the club with which the contract has been terminated and the Committee for the Clubs and Players Registrations about any such complaint.
4. The *HNS* Court of Arbitration is obliged to make the award whether the contract has been terminated for justified cause or not and deliver it to the parties concerned within the term of 30 days after the date of the receipt of the complaint.

#### **Article 47**

1. If a contract is terminated without just cause:
  - a) in all cases, the party terminating the contract shall pay compensation. Unless otherwise provided for in the contract, compensation for termination shall be calculated with due consideration for the provisions of these Regulations governing the training compensation, the law of Croatia, the specificity of sport,

and any other objective criteria. These criteria shall include, in particular, the remuneration and other benefits due to the player under the existing contract and/or the new contract, the time remaining on the existing contract up to a maximum of five years, the fees and expenses paid or incurred by the former club and whether the termination of contract falls within a protected period.

- b) entitlement to compensation cannot be assigned to a third party. If a professional is required to pay compensation, the professional and his new club shall be jointly and severally liable for its payment. The amount may be stipulated in the contract or agreed between the parties. In the absence of any such agreement, the amount will be established by the *HNS* Court of Arbitration.
- c) in addition to the obligation to pay compensation, sporting sanctions may also be imposed on any player found to have terminated the contract without just cause during the protected period. The sanction shall be a four-month restriction on playing in official matches, with the exclusion of the matches of the national team, and in the case of aggravating circumstances, the restriction shall last six months.
- d) unilateral termination without just cause or sporting just cause after the protected period shall not result in sporting sanctions.
- e) in addition to the obligation to pay compensation, sporting sanctions shall be imposed on any club found to have terminated the contract or found to be inducing a termination of contract during the protected period. It shall be presumed, unless established to the contrary, that any club signing a professional who has terminated his contract without just cause has induced that professional to terminate the contract. The club shall be banned from registering any new players for two registration periods.
- f) any person in a football organisation who acts in a manner designed to induce a termination of contract between a professional and a club in order to facilitate the transfer of the player shall be sanctioned in accordance with the provisions of the *HNS* Disciplinary Regulations.

2) Failure to file a complaint for termination of contract without just cause within the term referred to in Article 47 herein shall be without prejudice to the rights a non-terminating party may have under this Article.

#### **Article 48**

- 1. If a club transfers after the end of the season to the amateur level of competitions, all contracts concluded between the club and its players shall be terminated.
- 2. If a club transfers to the Third Division of the Croatian football league system, the maximum of five player scholarship contracts shall remain in force. If there were more than five scholarship contracts, the club would decide which contracts would remain in force.

## **No Third-Party Influence and Ownership of Players' Economic Rights**

### **Article 49**

1. No club shall enter into a contract which enables the counter party, or any third party to acquire the ability to influence in employment and transfer-related matters its independence, its policies or the performance of its teams. Any non-compliance with this provision may be sanctioned in accordance with the provisions of the *HNS* Disciplinary Regulations.
2. If a professional enters into more than one contract covering the same period, and neither of them has been verified yet, the contract with the latest effective date shall remain in force, and the provisions set forth in Articles 45 to 47 above shall be correspondingly applied.
3. No club or player shall enter into a contract with a third party whereby a third party is being entitled to participate, either in full or in part, in compensation payable in relation to the future transfer of a player from one club to another, or is being assigned any rights in relation to a future transfer or transfer compensation.

## **Transfer Agreements**

### **Article 50**

1. A player transfer agreement concluded between the player's former club and his new club shall be mandatorily within the term of eight (8) days following its conclusion submitted (uploaded) through COMET by the former club to the Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations.
2. The records on transfer agreements are kept electronically through COMET and include name and surname, gender, nationality, date of birth, national and FIFA ID of the player, player's status, names, national and FIFA IDs of the clubs being the contracting parties, and information on all payments based on individual transfer agreements. The information referred to under this paragraph shall be entered the player's former club.
3. In case of an international transfer, the *HNS* club shall submit agreement and enter information referred to under above paragraph 2.

## **Intermediaries in Player Transfers**

### **Article 51**

If the services of an intermediary were used to conclude a transfer agreement between two clubs or between a player and a club, this shall be stated in the contract concerned, including the name, surname and signature of such intermediary and the party represented by such intermediary.

## **Loan of Professional Players**

### **Article 52**

1. A club may loan its professional player to another club in the same format of competition under the provisions of these Regulations.
2. A loan agreement is signed by both clubs and a player.
3. A club may accept the maximum of six players on a loan basis from the club competing at the same level of competition.

### **Article 53**

1. Loan agreements and loan termination agreements shall be delivered for the purposes of registration (uploaded) following their signatures, within the term of eight days, to the body competent for registration, through COMET, and within the term of further eight days they shall be delivered for verification to the competent body of *HNS*. Following the verification of registration the agreements shall be published through COMET and in the *HNS* and *ŽNS* official journals.
2. A loaned player becomes a temporary member of the club that has accepted him on loan and his temporary membership ceases upon the expiration of the loan period or termination of loan agreement. Upon the expiration of the loan period or the date of the publication of the termination of loan agreement in the *ŽNS* and *HNS* official journals, temporary membership of a player ceases in the club that has accepted him on loan.
3. Upon the republication of the player registration in a registration period, a player becomes eligible to appear for his parent club.
4. The player loan agreement remains in effect until its end date unless terminated or extended by the clubs and the player by mutual agreement or otherwise.
5. In terms of the registration process, loans are subject to the same rules as apply to the transfer of players, including the provisions on training compensation and the solidarity mechanism, unless otherwise set forth herein.

### **Article 54**

1. The registration of a player on loan, based on the application and required documents, is made by the competent association to which the club admitting a player on loan is affiliated.
2. The registration is published as a loan and is to be accompanied mandatorily by the end date of such loan.

### **Article 55**

1. The minimum loan period shall be the time between two registration periods. The same player may be loaned two times during one season.

2. The club that has accepted a player on a loan basis is not entitled to transfer or loan him to a third club without the written authorisation of the club that released the player on loan and the player concerned.

#### **Article 56**

The player loaned by a foreign club on the basis of the provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players shall enter into an agreement for the period of loan.

#### **Article 57**

If the clubs that have loaned players participate after the end of the official league championships in the qualifying matches played upon the expiry of players' loan periods, registration of such players shall remain effective until the end of the qualifying matches in which the club plays. The club that released the player on loan shall approve the loan extension in writing. Such approval shall be given before the expiry of the loan period. Certificate shall be enclosed to the sports ID card and provided to the match delegate.

#### **Register of Professional Players**

#### **Article 58**

The players registered with the clubs and who conclude contracts are registered with the special register maintained through COMET by the association competent for registration of players and the *HNS* Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations.

#### **Registration of Players Transferring from the Clubs Affiliated to Other National Associations**

#### **Article 59**

1. The registration of players transferring from the clubs affiliated to another national association is made in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
2. Any registration of the players transferring from the clubs affiliated to another national association is forbidden if such players are under the age of 18 (eighteen).
3. The club wishing to register the player transferring from the club affiliated to another national association shall deliver to the *HNS* Office via electronic mail and/or through FIFA TMS a relevant request form for the approval of an international transfer of the player and/or first registration of the player from abroad, together with all required documents. The relevant forms and procedure are established by the *HNS* Office.
4. The *HNS* Office establishes whether the conditions have been met to register the players transferring from the clubs affiliated to other national associations under the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, and notifies accordingly the competent *ŽNS/NS* body and the club or issues a relevant approval on the basis of which *ŽNS/NS* may then register a player.

5. In exceptional cases the registrations of minor players transferring from the clubs affiliated to other national associations are directly subject to the provisions on the protection of minors set forth in the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. Where FIFA has issued an approval to *HNS* to start the international transfer of a minor player transferring from another national association or has empowered *HNS* to register in certain cases minor players alone, the *HNS* Office issues appropriate approval on the basis of which *ŽNS/NS* may then register the player. Any further transfer until such players reach the age of 18 between *HNS* clubs shall be also conditioned upon the *HNS* Office's approval. The *HNS* Office shall not approve a registration of minors in case the regulations governing the protection of minors referred to in the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players are being evaded.

### **International Transfer Certificates**

#### **Article 60**

The players who are in accordance with the provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and these Regulations eligible to transfer to another club may on the basis of the International Transfer Certificate be registered with the club affiliated to another national association.

#### **Article 61**

International Transfer Certificates are issued in accordance with the provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players by the *HNS* Office.

#### **Article 62**

1. International Transfer Certificates are issued for the players who are over the age of 18, with the exception of special conditions referred to in the provisions on the protection of minors outlined in the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
2. To be issued and International Transfer Certificate, it is required to deliver to the *HNS* Office:
  - a) proof that the contract has been terminated (for professional players);
  - b) if the transfer agreement has been concluded between the player's former and new club, such agreement should be also provided;
  - c) for professional players to be loaned to a foreign club in accordance with the provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, it is required to provide also the loan agreement between the club releasing the player on loan, the club accepting the player on loan and the player, laying down the duration (the exact date of the loan end) and the terms and conditions of the loan;
  - d) other documents required by the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.
3. International Transfer Certificates of minors are governed directly by the relevant provisions of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.



## **Reacquisition of Amateur Status and Termination of Activity**

### **Article 63**

1. A player registered as a professional may not re-register as an amateur until at least 30 days after his last match as a professional.
2. Professionals who end their careers upon expiry of their contracts and amateurs who terminate their activity shall remain registered with their last club for a period of 30 months. This period begins on the day the player made his last appearance in an official match.

## **Training Compensation and Solidarity Mechanism**

### **Article 64**

1. When a player under contract concludes before the expiry of his contract a transfer agreement with another club on the basis of the agreement between those clubs, his former club is entitled to compensation and the amount of such compensation shall be established by mutual agreement of the clubs. Any agreement on the amount of compensation between the player or third persons and the player's future club shall be null and void.

A proportionate part (up to the total of 5%) of any compensation payable to the former club shall be distributed to the club (clubs) involved in the player's training and education, under the condition that the former club (clubs) is affiliated to a foreign national association, regardless of whether the transfer is between two *HNS* clubs or the player is transferring directly from the club affiliated to a foreign national association. This distribution shall reflect the number of years (calculated pro rata) the player was registered with the relevant clubs between the seasons of his 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> birthdays (solidarity mechanism), all in compliance with the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

The new club shall pay the established amount no later than 30 days after the player's registration.

It is the responsibility of the new club to calculate the amount of the solidarity contribution and to establish how such amount will be distributed in accordance with the player's career history.

If no connection between the player and any of the clubs involved in his training may be established or if such clubs do not present themselves within the period of twenty four (24) months following the date of player's registration with the club obliged to pay the solidarity contribution, such contribution is paid to the association (associations) to which the club(s) involved in the player's training is affiliated. The association (associations) is entitled to claim such contribution within the period of six (6) months after the expiry of the period of twenty four months following the date of player's registration.

2. When an amateur has transferred to another club without changing status, his former club is not entitled to contribution.
3. If an amateur would until the end of the season of his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday be registered as a professional, the clubs with which the player has previously been registered are entitled to training compensation from the new club for the period from the season of the player's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday to the season of his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. The compensation is

due if the player contract has been concluded at the latest until the end of the season of his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The new club is obliged to notify accordingly within the period of 15 (fifteen) days following the conclusion of the contract the club entitled to the player's training compensation.

4. The clubs with which the player has been registered as an amateur are entitled to claim from the club with which the player has concluded the first contract training compensation within twenty four (24) months following the date the player has acquired the status of professional. Such time limit begins on the day the conclusion of the contract was published in the *HNS* official journal. If such time limit of twenty four months has been missed, compensation shall be paid to the association to which the player's training club is affiliated.
5. Training compensation payable to the former club, if that club was involved in the player's training incurred until the end of the season in which the player reached the age of 21, is paid each time the player enters into the contract with the new club until the end of the season of his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday, regardless of whether the player had the status of an amateur or a professional in his former club. The club may claim training compensation for an individual player only once.
6. The amount of training compensation shall be established by the *HNS* Executive Committee.
7. If a professional acquires amateur status training compensation is not due. If a player reacquires professional status within 30 months of the reacquisition of amateur status, his new club shall pay training compensation in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.
8. As an exception, training compensation is not due to the club terminating unilaterally the player's contract without just cause or if the contract has been terminated against the club by the body competent for dispute resolution.
9. Payment of training compensation and solidarity contribution in case of the clubs affiliated to different national associations has been duly regulated by the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

#### **Article 65**

Non-payment of training compensation for the player transferring from one club to another is without prejudice to the player's right to join another club and to be registered with such club under the provisions of these Regulations.

#### **Dispute Resolution**

#### **Article 66**

1. The Court of Arbitration of the Croatian Football Federation has jurisdiction to adjudicate on player status related matters and property disputes arising in that respect among individual entities of *HNS* (club – club, player – club, club – individual *ŽNS*) in terms of the relevant provisions of the Statutes and other regulations of *HNS*, FIFA and UEFA regulations and the laws of the Republic of Croatia. The Court of Arbitration adjudicates also in disputes relating to the performance of employment contracts, professional player contracts and scholarship contracts entered into by the clubs and players.

2. The composition and operation of the Court of Arbitration are governed by the Rules of Procedure of the Court of Arbitration enacted by the *HNS* Executive Committee.
3. The status of the club that the player is leaving is established according to the level of competition at which the club participated in the last season, and the status of the club to which the player is transferring is established according to the level of competition at which the club will participate in the next season.
4. The club shall not later than 8 days before the start of a season provide to *HNS* its regulations relating to disciplinary offences of players and regulations on awards, and as amended from time to time. Non-performance by the clubs of this obligation may be sanctioned as provided for by the provisions of the *HNS* Disciplinary Regulations.

### **Obligation of Clubs to Comply With Their Financial Obligations**

#### **Article 67**

1. Clubs are required to comply with their financial obligations towards players and other clubs as per the terms stipulated in the contracts signed with their players and in the transfer agreements.
2. Any club found to have delayed its financial obligations for more than 30 days may be sanctioned in accordance with the provisions of the *HNS* Disciplinary Regulations. The creditor (player or club) may file the charges against the debtor club only if the creditor has put the debtor club in default in writing and has granted a deadline of at least ten days for the debtor club to comply with its financial obligation, and the debtor club failed to act accordingly.
3. The types of sanctions for the club found to have delayed its financial obligations as referred to in paragraph 1 above are set forth in the *HNS* Disciplinary Regulations.

### **OBLIGATION TO RELEASE PLAYERS TO ASSOCIATION NATIONAL TEAMS**

#### **Article 68**

1. Clubs are obliged to release their registered players to the representative teams of the country for which the player is eligible to play on the basis of his nationality if they are called up by the association concerned. Any agreement between a club and a player to the contrary is prohibited.
2. The release of players to the representative teams is mandatory for all matches played on the dates comprised by the coordinated international match calendar and for all matches for which the release of players is mandatory based on the special decision of the FIFA Council.
3. It is not compulsory to release players for the matches to be played on the dates outside the coordinated international match calendar.
4. Any other matter relating to the release of players to the representative teams shall be governed directly by the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

## LEGAL REMEDIES

### Article 69

1. All *HNS* clubs and players may make formal objections to any decision on registration to the competent *ZNS/NS* registration body. In case of the objection to verification and publication of registration, such objection is made to the *HNS* Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations.
2. The time limit for objecting is eight (8) days following the date of the publication of registration through COMET or eight (8) days following the date of issue of the release notice requested in a registration period. The objection shall be accompanied by the proof that the fee has been paid in the amount established by the *HNS* competent body, and such amount shall be refunded to the objecting party in case its objection has been admitted.

### Article 70

1. Objections must be made within the time limit. Any objection made upon the expiry of the time limit shall be rejected by means of a decision.
2. If the fee has not been paid for the objection, the body to which the objection has been made shall summon the objecting party to pay the fee within three days. In case of non-compliance with such time limit, the objection shall be rejected by means of a decision.
3. When the timeliness of an objection is being established, the date appearing on the postage stamp of the registered mail, and if the objection has been hand-delivered to the competent body, the date of the receipt of the objection shall be taken into consideration. Objections may not be made via e-mail.
4. Every objection must be supported by the required proofs that the objection has been justified.

### Article 71

1. The first-instance body is obliged to make objection related decision within eight (8) days following the receipt of objection and deliver the decision and the grounds of the decision in writing and immediately to interested parties.
2. If the competent player registration body establishes that there are grounds for the objection to be admitted, it shall immediately suspend registration, initiate the proceedings and make the decision within eight (8) days.
3. If the competent registration body does not make decision within the time limit referred to in paragraph 2 above, objecting party is entitled to lodge an appeal as if his objection were not admitted, provided the time limit to lodge an appeal begins five days from the last day of the time limit within which the first-instance body was obliged to make its decision.

### Article 72

1. Any decision on objection may be appealed within eight (8) days following the receipt of such decision to the competent appellate body via the first-instance body.

2. When the timeliness of an appeal is being assessed, the date appearing on the postage stamp of the registered mail or the date of the hand-delivery of an appeal to the competent body shall be taken into consideration.
3. The appeal shall be accompanied by the proof that the fee has been paid in the amount established by the *HNS* competent body; such amount shall be refunded to the appellant in case the appeal has been partially or fully upheld. If the fee has not been paid for the appeal, the body to which the appeal has been lodged shall summon the appellant to pay the fee within three days. In case of non-compliance with such time limit, the appeal shall be rejected by means of a decision.
4. The appeals shall be decided within eight (8) days following their receipt. The decisions and the grounds of such decisions shall be delivered to interested parties in writing.
5. The second-instance decision of the *HNS* Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations shall be final and no appeal may be lodged against it.

#### **Article 73**

1. In case where the *HNS* Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations has been deciding at first instance, an appeal may be lodged against its decision to the *HNS* Appeals Committee within three days following the receipt of the decision if the registration has been rejected or returned for the purpose of correcting defects.
2. The decision of the *HNS* Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations related to the verification of players' or contracts' registration may be appealed to the *HNS* Appeals Committee within three (3) days following the publication of registration verification through COMET or following the receipt of the decision where verification has been rejected.
3. The decision of the *HNS* Appeals Committee shall be final and no appeal may be lodged against it.

#### **Article 74**

1. If an objection or appeal have been upheld, a registration shall be:
  - a) cancelled if established that the player has not on the basis of the enclosed documents met the conditions for registration. For such registration it shall be presumed that it has never existed.
  - b) corrected if established that the player has met the conditions to be registered but that the relevant article of these Regulations has not been applied, with the eligibility to appear upon the initially published registration.
2. A registration may be also cancelled ex officio on the basis of the decision of the *HNS* Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations if irregularities have been subsequently found at the time of verification and publication of such registration. For such registration it shall be presumed that it has never existed.

3. The decision whereby a registration has been cancelled or corrected shall be published by the competent body in the *ŽNS* and *HNS* official journals.

## **IRREGULARITIES OF THE PLAYER REGISTRATION PROCESS**

### **Article 75**

1. When on the basis of timely objection or appeal, or ex officio, a player is found to have been registered with two or more clubs, the competent body shall cancel all irregularly published registrations and the correct registration shall remain in force.
2. If two or more clubs apply at the same time for registration of the same player, the competent body shall register the player with the club which first made the application provided the player was eligible at that time under the provisions of these Regulations to transfer to another club.
3. If a player is registered with the clubs affiliated to different competent registration bodies, the process and decisions shall be within the competence of the *HNS* Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations.
4. If the player has been subsequently found to have been registered and his registration has not been executed in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations and the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, the body which was the last to make the decision on such player's registration is obliged to cancel ex officio the said registration.

### **Article 76**

The player and the club, and the *ŽNS/NS* or *HNS* responsible person who have committed the offence relating to the player's registration shall be subject to the initiation of the disciplinary proceedings according to the provisions of the *HNS* Disciplinary Regulations.

## **TIME LIMITS**

### **Article 77**

If the last day of any time limit established in these Regulations (registration periods, time limits established for registration, time limits in effect for objections and appeals, etc.) falls on a non-working day of the *HNS* Office, all time limits shall be moved to the next working day.

## **RE-REGISTRATION**

### **Article 78**

1. For the purpose of keeping records of registered amateurs, re-registration of amateurs is made. Re-registration is made in accordance with the Decision on re-registration and acquisition of eligibility to appear in public matches, made by the *HNS* Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations and published in the *HNS* official journal.
2. Re-registration is made every year.

3. The executive body of *ŽNS* and *NS* authorised to register clubs and players, makes, within the *HNS* decision on re-registration, decision that the player registration body proceeds with re-registration of all players in its area. The decision on re-registration shall be published in the *ŽNS* or *NS* official journal.

## **TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 79**

The *HNS* Executive Committee or the Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations, and the *HNS* Office decide on the format and the contents of the forms and sports ID card to be used for club and player registration purposes.

### **Article 80**

The *HNS* official journal is published regularly on Wednesdays in electronic form, and its special issues when required.

### **Article 81**

Any amendments to these Regulations are made in the same manner and applying the same procedure as for these Regulations. The revised text of the Regulations is made and published by the *HNS* Regulations Committee.

### **Article 82**

1. Any matter not provided for in these Regulations, if related to the procedure, shall be governed in a subsidiary and appropriate manner by the provisions of the General Administrative Procedure Act.
2. Any matters relating to the status of player not provided for in these Regulations shall be decided by the Court of Arbitration of the Croatian Football Federation in accordance with the principles as established in the decisions of FIFA, UEFA and *HNS*.

### **Article 83**

1. These Regulations come into force on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and will be published in the *HNS* official journal.
2. As of the date on which these Regulations come into force, the Regulations on the Status of Players and Registrations adopted on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015, together with all subsequent amendments thereto shall cease to have effect.
3. Any proceedings instigated before the effective date of these Regulations shall be completed in accordance with the provisions set forth in the regulations in effect at the time such proceedings were instigated.

Number:

President

Zagreb, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Davor Šuker, m.p.