

ASSER
INSTITUTE



Centre for International & European Law

2026

**THE FIFA TRANSFER SYSTEM IN
THEORY AND PRACTICE**

September 30 – December 16



Overview of the programme

Football fans are obsessed with it; the media is constantly reporting on its breaking news: the football transfer system is one of the most exciting aspects of the beautiful game. Nonetheless, it is also a source of massive transfers of wealth between leagues, clubs, players, and agents. Yet, the legal mechanisms underpinning its functioning are rarely understood by fans, journalists, and many players who are subjected to it. Its existence depends on a peculiar transnational regulatory infrastructure, built around the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP). The RSTP sets the ground rules that are constituting the global transfer market, while FIFA's Football Tribunal resolves the disputes which arise from them. A complex ecosystem of professionals has emerged around this transfer system, with agents, lawyers, clubs and federation officials making it work.

For the first time, the Asser Institute will offer an online course from September to December 2026, aimed at equipping its participants with the necessary knowledge and know-how to effectively navigate the FIFA transfer system. The course will cover the following key issues:

- **History and foundations of the FIFA Transfer System**
- **The RSTP and the termination of contracts with or without just cause**
- **The rights of players under the RSTP**
- **The RSTP's rule concerning training compensation and solidarity**
- **The regulation of the 'dark sides' of the transfer system (minor transfers, third-party ownership/influence, bridge transfers)**
- **The functioning of the FIFA Tribunal and CAS in resolving disputes stemming from the RSTP**
- **The compatibility of the FIFA RSTP with EU law**

The substance will also cover the latest changes to the RSTP introduced by FIFA in June 2026, which are due to come into force in 2027. The course will consist primarily of in-depth academic lectures on the rules and processes underlying the operation of the RSTP, and a final roundtable with a range of practitioners to discuss the future of the transfer system. The lectures will be delivered live (the recordings will be available afterwards to the participants who may have missed them) and will allow for direct engagement with the participants.

This online course is open to everyone interested in acquiring a deep understanding of football's transfer system as a regulatory phenomenon. It is particularly suited to advanced students and young professionals eager to work within the transfer systems, be it to support regulators or advise players and/or clubs.



The course's coordinator and main lecturer will be Dr Antoine Duval, Senior Researcher at the Asser Institute and a leading scholar in the field of transnational sports law. Duval has written extensively on the transfer system for academic publications and professionals and is regularly consulted by journalists on the subject. He has extensive knowledge of the institutions, rules and processes constituting the FIFA transfer system and of the role of EU law in (re)shaping the RSTP into its latest form.

Sessions

Wednesday - 30 September - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 1: History and foundations of the FIFA Transfer System

This first lecture will focus on putting the FIFA transfer system into its historical context and on reflecting on its main pillars. The aim will be to situate the current RSTP in the long-term trajectory of football's regulation, as well as to reflect critically about the purposes it fulfils.

Tuesday - 6 October - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 2: The RSTP and FIFA's administrative control over the transnational movement of players

The second lecture will be focused on the administrative infrastructure (e.g. the Player Passport, the ITC, the registration periods, the FIFA TMS, the FIFA Clearing House) put in place by FIFA to control the movement of players and funds transnationally. The operation of the FIFA transfer system is entirely dependent on the operation of this infrastructure, and it is crucial to fully grasp its different processes and functions.

The player on the pitch: [Jacques Blondin](#) (Spira Legal)

Wednesday - 14 October - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 3: The RSTP and the termination of contracts (I) – What is just cause?

The third and fourth lecture will turn to the core of the FIFA transfer system: the RSTP's regulation of the termination of contracts between players and clubs. First, the focus will be on the RSTP's definition of just cause and its interpretation by the FIFA Tribunal and the CAS. When does a player (or a club) have just cause to terminate their contract with their club (or player)? This is a crucial question, as it conditions the imposition of a vast range of consequences discussed in the next lecture.

The player on the pitch: [Loïc Alves](#) (UEFA)



Wednesday - 21 October - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 4: The RSTP and the termination of contracts (II) – What are the consequences of a termination of contract without just cause?

The fourth lecture will outline the range of consequences foreseen by the RSTP in the event of a termination of a player contract without just cause. These consequences extend from the obligation to pay a compensation to a range of sporting sanctions. They are a key pillar of the existence of the FIFA transfer system, as they constitute the financial and sporting risks which are worth paying a transfer fee to prevent from materializing. The 2027 reform will substantively reshape these consequences and the conditions that control their application.

The player on the pitch: [Loïc Alves](#) (UEFA)

Wednesday – 4 November - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 5: The rights of players under the RSTP

The fifth lecture will be dedicated to the specific rights granted to players by the RSTP. These include their rights regarding overdue payables (unpaid salaries or bonuses), their newly acquired right to a share of the transfer fee, the minimum contractual rights enshrined in the RSTP, and the specific set of rights enjoyed by female players. We will as well touch upon the rights derived from the case law of the FIFA Football Tribunal (including cases involving abusive demotions, training in isolation, deregistration, unfair dismissal when injured, abusive disciplinary procedures and sanctions).

The player on the pitch: [Alexandra Gómez Bruinewoud](#) (FIFPro)

Wednesday - 11 November - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 6: The RSTP as a mechanism of redistribution to training clubs: Training compensation and the solidarity mechanism

The sixth lecture will discuss the role of the FIFA transfer system in compensating clubs for their training of players. We will zoom in on the two mechanisms included in the RSTP: the training compensation and the solidarity mechanism, aimed at ensuring that resources trickle down to the clubs in which successful players have trained. We will also discuss the general redistributive function of the transfer market and its operation as a channel to distribute funds from rich clubs and leagues to less wealthy ones.

The player on the pitch: [Roy Vermeer](#) (Vermeer Sports law)



Wednesday - 18 November - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 7: The dark side of the transfer market: Minor transfers, Third-party ownership and agents

This lecture will turn to the way in which FIFA aims to regulate a range of negative externalities linked to the existence of the transfer market. In particular, we will study the rules introduced by FIFA to prevent the trafficking of minors (by regulating academies, trials, minor movement), bridge transfers, third-party ownership, and abusive relationships with agents. We will also discuss how they have been implemented in practice by FIFA and interpreted in disputes by the FIFA Tribunal and the CAS.

The player on the pitch: [Chris Dalby](#) ([Sports and Crime Briefing](#))

Wednesday - 2 December - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 8: The enforcement of the RSTP: The role of the FIFA Football Tribunal and the CAS

The eighth lecture will be dedicated to the enforcement of the FIFA RSTP and in particular the operation of the FIFA Tribunal (and on appeal of the CAS). We will also discuss the role of FIFA (through the competence of the disciplinary committee) in ensuring compliance within the football community with the decisions of the FIFA Tribunal and the CAS.

The player on the pitch: [Frans de Weger](#) is founding partner of BMDW Advocaten

Wednesday - 9 December - 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Lecture 9: The FIFA transfer system and EU law: uneasy bedfellows

The final lecture will look at the intersection between EU law and FIFA's transfer system. From the Bosman ruling onwards, EU law has played a key role in shaping and re-shaping the transfer system. In fact, the fundamental reform of the RSTP 2027 is a response to the criticisms raised recently by the CJEU in the Diarra ruling. Understanding the interaction between EU law and the FIFA transfer system is key to grasping its direction of travel and the potential challenges ahead.

The player on the pitch: [Jean-Louis Dupont](#) is Partner at Dupont-Hissel

Wednesday - 16 December - 16:00 – 17:30 CET

Christmas roundtable: What future for the FIFA transfer system?

We will close the course with a roundtable with practitioners to reflect on the future of the FIFA transfer system. Will the 2027 RSTP be deemed compatible with EU law by the CJEU if challenged? Will it change the way the transfer market operates in practice? Will it strengthen the position of players vis-à-vis clubs? What should FIFA and the social partners focus on in the future to improve the system and limit its negative externalities? The participants will also get a chance to raise the questions they consider pertinent during an extensive Q&A.



About the speakers

Confirmed roundtable speakers:

- Loïc Alves (UEFA)
- Jean-Louis Dupont (Dupont-Hissel)
- Frans de Weger (BMDW and FIFA DRC)
- Representative of the EFC

The coordinator of the course:

- Antoine Duval (Senior Researcher, Asser Institute)

The (dream) team of players/practitioners:

- [Loïc Alves](#) is Senior Players' Status Expert at UEFA. Before joining UEFA in 2025 he was Legal Counsel at FIFPro from 2019 to 2025. Loïc took part in the negotiations leading to the adoption of the latest reform of the RSTP.
- [Jacques Blondin](#) is Partner at SP.IN Law (Spira Legal) and was Head of FIFA TMS and Regulatory Enforcement from 2019 to 2024.
- [Chris Dalby](#) is an investigative journalist, author and organized-crime analyst and the publisher of the [Sports and Crime Briefing](#) on Substack.
- [Jean-Louis Dupont](#) is Partner at Dupont-Hissel. He famously represented both Jean-Marc Bosman and Lassana Diarra before the Court of Justice of the European Union. Jean-Louis is a leading practitioner at the intersection between EU law and sport and has been reshaping through litigation the transfer system since the 1990s.
- [Alexandra Gómez Bruinewoud](#) is Senior Legal Counsel at FIFPro and a judge of the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber. Alexandra played a pivotal role in all the recent major legal reforms of the RSTP on behalf of FIFPro.
- [Frans de Weger](#) is founding partner of BMDW Advocaten and the Chair of the Dutch Association for Sport and Law. Frans is the Chair of the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC), which is competent to deal with disputes involving the application of the RSTP, since 2021. He is the author of a well-known book on the [jurisprudence of the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber](#).



- [Roy Vermeer](#) leads the firm VermeerSports Law. Before that he was Legal Director at FIFPro (2016 to 2025) and a Judge at the FIFA DRC (2017 to 2025). Previously, Roy also worked for FIFA and UEFA as legal counsel.