



To all national football associations,
and confederations

Circular no. 23

Temporary amendment to Law 3 – extension

Zurich, 28 May 2021

SEC/2021-C382/bru

The International Football Association Board

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Dear Sir or Madam,

At an ordinary meeting held remotely today, The IFAB Board of Directors (BoD) agreed to a further extension of the **temporary amendment to Law 3 – The Players** following representations from several key stakeholders from across the football community.

As already outlined in circular nos 19 (8 May 2020), 20 (15 July 2020), 21 (18 December 2020) and 22 (17 March 2021), the main reason for the temporary amendment (giving top-level competitions the option of allowing teams to use up to five substitutes in matches) is the impact of COVID-19 on football and, in particular, the often condensed and congested match calendars, which affect the welfare of players.

The IFAB's ongoing review, which has included stakeholder feedback and an analysis of the impact of the global pandemic on competition calendars, has again shown that the reasons for the temporary amendment remain valid.

Therefore, the BoD has **extended the temporary amendment for all top-level competitions scheduled to be completed by 31 December 2022.**

We would like to point out that, if a competition takes the option to apply the temporary amendment, it must be applied in full and may not be modified.

Thank you for your attention and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or enquiries.

We hope you stay safe and healthy.

Yours sincerely,

The IFAB



Lukas Brud
Secretary

cc: FIFA