

**FIFA<sup>®</sup>**

**Explanatory Notes on the  
New Regulatory Framework for National  
Dispute Resolution Chambers**

January 2024

## 1. Introduction

As part of FIFA's commitment to constantly adapting the regulatory framework to the current reality of football and the transfer system, this document aims to provide additional guidance to member associations and their stakeholders in relation to the revised regulatory framework for national dispute resolution chambers, which was recently approved by the FIFA Council at its meeting on 17 December 2023.

In keeping with the spirit of cooperation, both the direction and outcome of this revision process are largely thanks to the close collaboration over the last few months between FIFA and the global football stakeholders, whose expertise and commitment have been pivotal in the adoption of the relevant regulatory framework for national dispute resolution chambers.

## 2. Context

### A. What is a national dispute resolution chamber?

The Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) have long recognised that instead of submitting employment-related disputes to FIFA or seeking redress before a civil court, parties may opt to submit such disputes to a national dispute resolution system, provided that it meets the minimum and fundamental procedural requirements. A national dispute resolution system for disputes between employees and employers is known as a national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC).

For many years, FIFA circular no. 1010 of 20 December 2005 defined these minimum procedural standards. In 2007, FIFA enacted the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations which served as guidelines for member associations when establishing an NDRC.

The 2023 edition of the [FIFA Commentary on the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players](#), Chapter IX, pages 452-455, explains the minimum standards as per circular no. 1010 of 20 December 2005.

### B. The need for revision

Despite the existing framework and documentation, many legal uncertainties still surrounded the concept of NDRCs, including their jurisdiction, applicable requirements, possible recognition, etc. In particular, neither FIFA circular no. 1010, the RSTP, nor any other official FIFA document, defined what a recognised NDRC was or whether there was a process to obtain *general* recognition of compliance with FIFA requirements.

Nonetheless, this regulatory framework remained unchanged for almost two decades. It has therefore become increasingly evident that it had become outdated and that it no longer served the current needs of all football stakeholders. It was therefore clear that it was necessary to revise and modernise the rules surrounding NDRCs.

For example, under the previous regulatory framework, the Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) of the Football Tribunal could, only in the context of a specific employment-related dispute, determine whether an NDRC was compliant with the principles required by FIFA and whether jurisdiction could therefore be conferred on the relevant NDRC. This occurred, in other words, always and only on an individual, case-by-case basis.

This created legal uncertainty concerning the jurisdiction of each NDRC, but also with regard to the requirements for the relevant NDRC to have jurisdiction. It further created unnecessary disputes about the same NDRC, sometimes even in parallel cases.

### **3. Purpose of the revised framework for NDRCs**

The new regulatory framework is being modernised and has the key objective of providing clarity and the necessary legal certainty with regard to jurisdiction, structure, applicable requirements and a possible formal, permanent recognition by FIFA of NDRCs.

### **4. New regulatory framework: key elements**

The updated regulatory framework consists of the following:

- National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles – January 2024 edition;
- Revision of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations; and
- Amendments to the RSTP concerning NDRCs.

NB: The regulatory framework no longer consists of FIFA circular no. 1010 of 20 December 2005 and the 2007 National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations.

### **5. National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles and the revised National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations**

#### **A. Objective and scope of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles**

FIFA supports and promotes the creation and operation of NDRCs, provided that they meet procedural standards to protect all involved parties.

NDRCs offer a structure that is football-oriented and more aligned with the realities of modern football with the aim of providing a swift, effective and cheaper dispute assessment and resolution system at domestic level.

With the aim of providing clarity and legal certainty, the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles establish the following:

- the standards required by FIFA for a national dispute resolution system for disputes between employees and employers to be recognised; and

- the details and mechanics of the recognition process for NDRCs to be recognised by FIFA.

## **B. Required standards for a national dispute resolution system to be recognised by FIFA**

To be recognised by FIFA, a national dispute resolution system for disputes between employees and employers must fulfil the following requirements. The system must:

- (i) be established by the member association as a national dispute resolution chamber, or under an equivalent name; member associations are, therefore, free to adopt a different name for their respective decision-making body;
- (ii) be mentioned and recognised as an official decision-making body in the statutes of the relevant member association;
- (iii) comply with the requirements set out in the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles and the revised National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations, which are included as an Annexe to the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles; and
- (iv) publish all regulations and procedural rules applicable to the NDRC, and all decisions of the NDRC; however, this can be subject to legitimate requests of redactions or confidentiality.

### **I. Specific criteria**

An NDRC must meet all fundamental procedural standards to protect all involved parties, in particular, the principle of equal representation between employers and employees.

Similarly, an NDRC must adhere to following key elements in order to obtain formal recognition by FIFA.

#### **(a) Jurisdiction of the NDRC**

The NDRC must be competent to hear disputes related to, or arising out of, the contractual relationship between employees and employers. The term “competence” is used to describe the *jurisdiction* of the NDRC.

In this context, it is important to note that the terms “employee(s)” and “employer” refer, on the one hand, to players and coaches (as employees) and, on the other hand, to clubs (as employers), even if in some jurisdictions, the legal qualification of the respective contractual relationship may be different than that of a labour or employment contract.

It is worth highlighting that an NDRC may also adjudicate on other matters not related to the contractual relationship between employees and employers, subject

to the competence of FIFA in general and in accordance with the applicable FIFA regulations.

For example, in accordance with article 22 paragraphs 1 a) and c) of the RSTP, FIFA retains exclusive jurisdiction over disputes between clubs and players in relation to the maintenance of contractual stability where there has been an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) request and a claim from an interested party in relation to the request, in particular regarding the issuance of the ITC, sporting sanctions or compensation for breach of contract, as well as employment-related disputes of an international dimension between a member association and a coach.

### **(b) The aspect of “national dimension” v. “international dimension”**

In order to incentivise the finding of appropriate solution in “national” cases, the NDRC must, as a general rule, be competent to hear disputes of a national dimension related to, or arising out of, the contractual relationship between employees and employers.

Considering that FIFA’s jurisdiction is focused on disputes with an international dimension, the NDRC may accept jurisdiction of disputes with an international dimension only if the relevant employment contract contains an express clause that confers exclusive jurisdiction to the NDRC or if the exclusive jurisdiction of the NDRC is provided by a collective bargaining agreement established at national level.

However, for cases with an international dimension, if one party invites the NDRC to adjudicate on a dispute, and the other party does not contest the NDRC’s jurisdiction, the NDRC may adjudicate such matter even in the absence of an exclusive jurisdiction clause for disputes arising out of (or in connection with) the respective employment contract.

The 2023 edition of the [FIFA Commentary on the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players](#), Chapter IX, pages 444-446, explains in more detail the aspect of internationality of such contractual disputes.

### **(c) The composition of the NDRC – the principles of the appointment process of members of the NDRC**

An essential requirement for an NDRC to obtain recognition is that its composition must guarantee independence and impartiality, as well as respect the principle of equal representation between employees and employers.

It is important to emphasise that individuals representing employees and employers are not tasked with advocating for the interests of the conflicting parties. Instead, their role is to function as *impartial adjudicators*, while possessing a thorough understanding of the unique needs and demands of the respective stakeholders that appointed them.

The appointment process of members of the NDRC must observe the principles below.

(i) With respect to the appointment of employee representatives to the NDRC

- The National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles establish that the employee representatives must be appointed following a proposal by a national players' association affiliated to FIFPRO, if such a players' association exists at national level.
- Only if there is no national players' association affiliated to FIFPRO in the country concerned, may the employee representatives be appointed following a proposal by another player representative organisation.
  - Nevertheless, to ensure the proper representation of employees in this scenario, the respective member association has the burden of proving to the comfortable satisfaction of the DRC that such representative body truly, genuinely and independently represents the will and interests of players at national level. The criteria that may be taken into account to verify the nature and function of such an employee representative organisation are, for example, its composition, the way its members are appointed or elected, when it was created, its financing, the activities it carries out, or any other factor which may indicate, or not, whether the organisation actually represent the will and interests of players in a true, genuine and independent manner.
- Only if no national players' association affiliated to FIFPRO and no alternative player representative organisation that truly, genuinely and independently represents the will and interests of players at national level exist in the country concerned may the employee representatives be appointed based on a selection process agreed by FIFA and FIFPRO.

(ii) With respect to the appointment of employer representatives to the NDRC

- The National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles establish that the employer representatives must be appointed following a proposal by a national employer representative organisation, for example, a league or a national club representative organisation.
- If there is no such employer representative organisation in the country concerned, the employer representatives must be appointed

by the clubs via a process organised by the relevant member association.

(iii) With respect to the appointment of the chairperson and deputy chairperson(s) of the NDRC

- Due to the importance of the role of the chairperson and deputy chairperson(s) of the NDRC, the individuals appointed to those roles must be chosen by agreement between the stakeholders involved in the appointment of the employee and employer representatives of the NDRC.
  - As an example, the chairperson and deputy chairperson(s) of an NDRC must be appointed based on a consensus between the national players' association affiliated to FIFPRO (if such players' association exists at national level), on the one hand, and the employer representative organisation (if such association exists at national level), on the other.

(iv) Permissible deviations from the appointment process of members to the NDRC

Deviations from the principles regarding the appointment process as described above are permissible only if:

- the requirement of parity and equal representation between employers and employees is fully met; this entails that the NDRC must always consist of equal numbers of employee and employer representatives, and that employees and employers must always have equal influence on the appointment of the (independent) chairperson and deputy chairperson(s); and
- under the condition that any representative organisation of employers or employees truly, genuinely and independently represents the will and interests of its respective stakeholders.

**(d) Individuals appointed to the NDRC must not hold any other position within the relevant member association**

In order to ensure independence, the members appointed to the NDRC should not hold any other position within the relevant member association, which is understood to mean any executive position within the member association or as part of its administration. However, members appointed to the NDRC may hold a position in a committee of the member association.

Additionally, in order to ensure impartiality, members appointed to the NDRC may not represent players, coaches or clubs in any other dispute before the NDRC.

**(e) The member association must adopt procedural rules to govern the organisation, composition and functions of the NDRC which guarantee fair proceedings**

In order to provide legal certainty with respect to the way the NDRC operates, the member association has the obligation to adopt procedural rules that establish the organisation, composition and functions of its NDRC.

To ensure the NDRC's correct operation and to guarantee fair proceedings, the respective procedural rules must contain provisions that respect fundamental principles of procedural law and, as such, cover the following principles and rights.

- The principle of parity must apply when constituting the tribunal.
- The parties must have the right to an independent and impartial tribunal.
- The principle of a fair hearing and right to be heard must be observed.
- The right to contentious proceedings must be respected.
  - This means that the parties must be given the opportunity to present their cases, to view the relevant files and to reply to the arguments and claims made by the opposing side.
- The parties have a right to equal treatment by the tribunal.
- The parties are entitled to receive a written decision.
- The parties to the NDRC have the right to confidentiality.
- The principle of access to justice must be respected.
  - In order to respect the principle of access to justice, no advance of costs shall be payable to lodge claims related to, or arising out of, the contractual relationship between employees and employers, and these disputes before the NDRC shall be free of charge.
  - For the avoidance of doubt, should an NDRC also adjudicates on other matters (not related to the contractual relationship between employees and employers), other rules regarding costs may be adopted for such matters.

**C. Permissible deviations from the requirements established by FIFA**

Collective bargaining agreements validly negotiated by employers' and employees' representatives at domestic level in accordance with national law are to be considered legally binding and recognised. Therefore, a dispute resolution system in a member association may deviate from the requirements established by FIFA based on a collective bargaining agreement. The DRC will consider that the terms of such an agreement prevail.

If mandatory national law dictates deviations from FIFA's established requirements for recognition of an NDRC in order for the NDRC to comply with national law, the DRC will be tasked to evaluate whether the composition of the NDRC can still adhere to the principles of independence, impartiality and equal representation between employees and employers, in order to grant recognition. In other words, the DRC may refuse to recognise an NDRC if deviations from FIFA's requirements are imposed because of national law.

**D. The revised National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations**

**I. Objective of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations**

The primary purpose of the revised National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations is to aid member associations in formulating procedural rules for the NDRC.

As such, the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations constitute a generic sample of applicable provisions that govern the structure, composition, and operations of an NDRC, and which generally meet the procedural requirements as per the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles. In other words, if a FIFA member association decides to adopt rules which exactly follow the structure and content of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations, it is highly likely that the respective NDRC meets the FIFA requirements to be recognised. As such, the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations shall serve as a tool to facilitate the creation and operation of NDRCs at national level.

The revised National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations have been included as an Annexe to the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles.

## **II. Standards set by the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations**

To clarify, an NDRC is not obliged to adopt the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations word for word. Nonetheless, the procedural rules of an NDRC must adhere to the standards outlined in the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations, unless a valid deviation has been agreed on in a collective bargaining agreement.

In cases where mandatory national law dictates deviations from the outlined standards, the DRC will, as mentioned, have to evaluate whether the criteria for recognition, as specified in the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, have been met.

## **III. Member associations have the flexibility to define the exact regulatory or procedural framework of an NDRC in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations**

A number of provisions in the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations provide member associations with some leeway to define the exact regulatory or procedural framework of an NDRC. In this manner, a member association is given the flexibility to adopt a regulatory framework for its NDRC that fits its needs and reflects the local reality while still complying with the standards outlined.

The provisions with some flexibility are mentioned in the introductory section of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations. The introductory remarks of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations provide additional and appropriate guidance, and for any further doubts or queries, the FIFA administration can always be contacted.

## **E. NDRC recognition process**

### **I. NDRC applications for recognition via the Legal Portal**

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

In this regard, member associations are invited to access the Legal Portal directly with the registration email address assigned to them by FIFA and that can be found in the “Contacts” tab in TMS, or with the email otherwise indicated by the member association. Only one user per member association or legal representative (if applicable) can be recorded in the system.

If a member association has chosen not to use the email indicated in TMS, they must inform FIFA proactively. Otherwise, and to the member association’s detriment, the ability to access the application file within the Legal Portal will be restricted. Should member associations wish to change their user (i.e. the registration email) in the Legal Portal, a request must be filed with the FIFA administration via the FIFA Legal Portal Helpdesk.

Moreover, in case of any technical problem or difficulty accessing the Legal Portal, member associations should contact the FIFA Legal Portal Helpdesk. This equally applies if a member association is uncertain of their email registration in the Legal Portal.

Communications pertaining to an NDRC application for recognition will exclusively be sent via the Legal Portal in English, Spanish or French, while documentation in any other language must be accompanied by a translation into one of these three languages.

The applications, including all relevant annexes, must be uploaded onto the Legal Portal in PDF format or in one of the other supported file types. Communication via any other means, including email, will be disregarded.

Upon receipt, FIFA may request additional information and/or documentation in order to supplement the initial request. Member associations must then submit their response, along with the requested information and/or documentation via the Legal Portal within the time frame established by the FIFA administration. It is important to recall that in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, member associations have the obligation to fully cooperate with FIFA and to provide all requested information and documentation. Failure to do so may result in an application being rejected or considered to be withdrawn and, as appropriate, to disciplinary sanctions.

Member associations must regularly review their respective accounts in the Legal Portal and pay particular attention to any changes in the status of applications. Should member associations fail to comply with a request of FIFA and, for example, not submit requested documents within a stipulated time frame, an application may be deemed incomplete, and the file may be closed. A new application may be submitted.

## **II. Member associations must prove that their NDRC complies with the requirements established by FIFA**

In accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, the burden lies with the member association to demonstrate that their NDRC, including its procedural rules, meet the necessary requirements for recognition.

## **III. The DRC and applications for NDRC recognition**

### **(a) Competence of the DRC**

The DRC is the FIFA decision-making body that has jurisdiction to determine applications for NDRC recognition.

FIFA will review the documentation provided in an application for NDRC recognition and after completing its review, it may propose amendments to the regulatory framework or submit the application to the DRC of the Football Tribunal for its decision.

### **(b) The adjudication process by the DRC**

Applications for NDRC recognition will be adjudicated by the DRC in the presence of at least three members, which must include the chairperson or deputy chairperson(s).

As usual, the DRC will be composed of an equal number of representatives from both clubs and players in order to ensure parity.

### **(c) Decisions of the DRC**

The DRC will, in principle, grant recognition of an NDRC for a four-year period, only if the NDRC fulfils all the relevant established requirements.

The DRC might also request the member association to modify its regulatory framework before reaching a decision, or it may impose specific conditions as a prerequisite for its decision.

Any decision of the DRC in connection with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles is final and binding. Therefore, the relevant decision of the DRC is not subject to any appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

## **IV. Resubmission of an application for recognition**

In the event that recognition is not initially granted to an NDRC, the member association can submit a new application for recognition, following the same process outlined for an initial application.

If changes to the regulatory framework were implemented after the rejection of the DRC, the member association must indicate these modifications in the resubmitted application to facilitate a swift review.

Planned amendments to a recognised regulatory framework must be submitted to FIFA before taking effect. FIFA will subsequently evaluate whether a new recognition process is necessary.

## **F. Process for the renewal of recognition**

After the end of the four-year period or if the member association intends to modify the FIFA-approved regulatory framework, the member association must apply for the renewal of recognition of an NDRC.

The application process for renewal of recognition of an NDRC follows the same process as the initial application for recognition.

In cases where no changes have been made to a previously FIFA-approved regulatory framework, member associations should explicitly mention this in their renewal application, expediting the renewal process.

The DRC has competence to deal with applications for the renewal of recognition of an NDRC. If the NDRC continues to meet all the relevant requirements established by FIFA, the DRC will generally approve the renewal of recognition for another four-year period. However, the DRC may also stipulate that the member association adjust its regulatory framework before a decision is adopted, or it may impose conditions, as deemed necessary.

## **G. The revocation of recognition – disciplinary tools**

With the objective of ensuring compliance, disciplinary tools have been embedded in the new regulatory framework for NDRCs. FIFA has the authority and responsibility to continually assess whether an approved NDRC and its corresponding regulatory framework adhere to the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles.

In this context, FIFA will oversee adherence to the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles and, if there is a potential breach, will refer the matter to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee or, when applicable, to the independent Ethics Committee. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee possesses the authority to impose sanctions on member associations found to be in violation of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

If FIFA determines that an NDRC that was previously recognised no longer meets the requirements established, it may request the relevant member association to make the necessary amendments to its regulatory framework within a specified time frame. Moreover, FIFA may provisionally suspend recognition if a preliminary analysis suggests that the national regulatory framework fails to comply with the mandatory standards.

In cases where FIFA concludes that a recognised NDRC, despite requests for regulatory framework adjustments, still does not comply with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, the following may occur:

- the matter may be referred to the DRC;
- the referral to the DRC may be published; and
- if necessary, the case may be forwarded to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

If the matter is brought before the DRC, it may revoke the recognition of an NDRC if the national regulatory framework fails to comply with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles. Additionally, the DRC may mandate the member association to amend its regulatory framework before making a decision or, subject to its decision, to impose conditions.

#### **H. The public list of recognised NDRCs**

To provide transparency and legal certainty, FIFA will publish the list of NDRCs that have been recognised, along with the corresponding period of recognition.

NDRCs whose recognition has expired or has been provisionally suspended or revoked will be removed from the list accordingly.

### **6. The effects of recognition of an NDRC and the amendments and additions to the RSTP concern the new regulatory framework for NDRCs**

#### **A. The former regulatory framework**

As previously indicated, the RSTP acknowledges that parties, instead of bringing employment-related disputes to FIFA or pursuing remedies through a civil court, have the option to refer such disputes to an NDRC, provided that the NDRC meets essential procedural criteria.

Therefore, under the previous framework for NDRCs, in certain disputes, FIFA's deciding bodies had to ascertain the existence of an NDRC that meets specific criteria since it could potentially assume jurisdiction instead of FIFA.

Under the former framework, for FIFA to cede its jurisdiction to an NDRC, certain conditions had to be met.

- The contract between the player/coach and the club had to contain a clear, written and exclusive arbitration clause, specifying the national body responsible for resolving any potential disputes.
- The challenge to the jurisdiction of FIFA had to be raised during the proceedings.

- The respective national body had to respect the principle of equal representation of players/coaches and clubs and adhere to the minimum standards outlined in FIFA circular no. 1010 dated 20 December 2005, to ensure its independence as an entity that guaranteed fair proceedings.
  - It is important to highlight that the party disputing FIFA's jurisdiction was responsible for presenting evidence that the national body did, in fact, satisfy the requirements outlined in circular no. 1010.

As mentioned, the evaluation of the above-mentioned conditions occurred on a case-by-case basis, exclusively in relation to the specific employment-related dispute presented to FIFA.

The 2023 edition of the [FIFA Commentary on the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players](#), Chapter IX, pages 450-457, explains in detail the relationship to national decision-making bodies.

## **B. The revised regulatory framework**

Considering that the approach under the former regulatory framework generated legal ambiguity regarding the jurisdiction of each NDRC, which resulted in uncertainty about the applicable requirements for the relevant NDRC to exercise jurisdiction and gave rise to unnecessary disputes involving the same NDRC, the new regulatory framework aims to address this problem by formally and permanently recognising an NDRC.

Along these lines, any NDRC that receives recognition in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles will be formally acknowledged for the purposes outlined in article 22 paragraphs 1 b) and c) of the RSTP. This will be the effect of recognition of an NDRC under the revised regulatory framework.

In this context, the amendments and additions to the RSTP recently approved by the FIFA Council relate to the requirements under which FIFA may cede its jurisdiction in light of an existing and recognised NDRC.

Therefore, under the updated framework for NDRCs, for FIFA to cede its jurisdiction of employment-related disputes between a club and a player/coach of an international dimension in favour of an NDRC, the following conditions must be met.

- The contract between the player/coach and the club, or a collective bargaining agreement applicable to the parties, must contain a clear, written and exclusive jurisdiction clause, specifying that any potential dispute is to be decided by the NDRC, or a national dispute resolution body operating under an equivalent name.
- The challenge to the jurisdiction of FIFA must be raised during the proceedings.
- The NDRC, or the national dispute resolution body operating under an equivalent name, must have been officially recognised by FIFA in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles.

## 7. The entry into force of new regulatory framework

In order to provide an appropriate transition period between the applicable regulatory frameworks and considering the new requirements that need to be fulfilled, the following is envisaged.

First, FIFA introduces a transition period which can be summarised as follows:

- **1 February 2024:** the possibility of initiating the recognition process for an NDRC begins
- **1 June 2024:** until such date, all member associations with operational NDRCs must submit a request for recognition
- **1 January 2025:** the new regulatory system, including the possibility for the DRC to cede its jurisdiction and accept the jurisdiction of an NDRC, enters into effect

Accordingly, the respective provisions of the new regulatory framework enter into force as follows:

Articles 1 to 3 and 6 to 10 of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, which concern the NDRC recognition process, will apply from 1 February 2024.

Member associations currently operating a national dispute resolution system must file a formal recognition request for their NDRC request by 1 June 2024.

This will enable member associations to submit their requests for recognition after getting familiar with the new regulatory framework. It will also allow the FIFA administration to properly review the corresponding requests for recognition and the DRC to adjudicate and to properly decide on those requests before the full effects of recognition of an NDRC apply.

The remaining articles of the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles, pertaining to the effects of recognition, as well as the renewal and revocation of recognition, will be applicable from 1 January 2025. In other words, the new regulatory framework will enter into force in full from 1 January 2025.

If a member association currently operating a national dispute resolution system fails to submit a formal recognition request for their NDRC request by 1 June 2024 as mentioned above, the respective national dispute resolution system shall be considered to not be recognised by FIFA as of 1 January 2025.

Similarly, it is important to take into account that any NDRC that has been granted recognition will be considered formally recognised for the purposes of article 22 paragraphs 1 b) and c) of the RSTP of the new regulatory framework as of 1 January 2025.

Consequently, a transitional measure has been included in article 25 paragraph 1 c), so the new regulatory framework under which FIFA may decline its jurisdiction of employment-related disputes between a club and a player/coach of an international dimension in favour of an NDRC that has been recognised in accordance with the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Recognition Principles will apply only to cases brought to FIFA as from 1 January 2025.

Consequently, the National Dispute Resolution Chamber Standard Regulations approved by the FIFA Executive Committee on 29 October 2007 and FIFA circular no. 1010 of 20 December 2005 will be annulled as of said date.

Accordingly, any case brought to FIFA before 1 January 2025 will still be assessed according to the former regulatory framework, in particular whether the case falls under FIFA or NDRC jurisdiction.