



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Athlete Transfer Rules

1. Why did the WBSC decide to implement rules to regulate the transfer of the athletes?

In the dynamic world of international baseball/softball, player transfers represent not only strategic movements between clubs, but also complex processes legally regulated to ensure transparency, ethical practices in the transfer market, fairness and compliance with the national and international legislation established by relevant sporting and legal authorities.

These rules prevent clubs from unilaterally recruiting players already under contract with another club, as well as players who have terminated their contracts allegedly without just cause.

The WBSC actively endeavours to ensure that all athletes can participate in tournaments and events, while respecting fundamental principles of human rights.

2. When is this framework applicable?

These rules will be in force starting January 1, 2025. All international transfers must be declared from this date and these rules must be followed.

3. Who requires a new ITC?

An ITC is required for all transfers of athletes between clubs affiliated with different National Federations (NFs) in different countries. For transfers between NFs within the same continent, the Continental Association (CA) shall handle the process. For transfers involving NFs from different continents, the WBSC will issue the certificate. This requirement does not apply to WBSC associated members, minors or national transfers.

4. What is the timeline for delivering an International Transfer Certificate (ITC)?

An ITC will be delivered within seven (7) business days, provided the request is complete.

5. Does the athlete initiate it, or is it initiated by the receiving club?



The receiving club (New Club) is responsible for initiating the process, but the receiving NF (New NF) must submit the request to the WBSC or the WBSC CA.

6. Where to submit an application?

Applications for an ITC will be submitted through the Athlete Management System within MyWBSC. The explanation regarding the application can be found in the WBSC Manual ([HERE](#)).

Templates for the required documents for the application can be found [here](#).

7. What role does each National Federation play in the approval process?

The Former NF must approve the transfer. Without this approval the ITC cannot be issued. They must also confirm that there are no ongoing sanctions, disciplinary proceedings, or unresolved economic disputes involving the athlete. Communication and processing with the WBSC or WBSC CA must occur through the NFs; clubs should not contact the WBSC directly.

8. How do the Athlete Transfer Rules apply to high school/college players, exchange students or similar athletes?

The Athlete Transfer Rules apply only if the athlete is registered with a WBSC Affiliated Member (NF). If the athlete is not registered with a NF, the Athlete Transfer Rules will apply only once the athlete enters WBSC jurisdiction.

Example: A transfer of a college baseball athlete from USA, who is not registered with USA Baseball, to a Swiss club affiliated with the Swiss Baseball Softball Association will not be governed by the ATR. However, once these athletes begin playing for the Swiss club, they will be subject to the Athlete Transfer Rules if they later wish to transfer to another National Federation within the same continent (e.g., Austria) or outside it (e.g., New Zealand).

9. Is there any administrative fee to obtain an ITC?

Yes, the issuance of the ITC is conditional upon the New Club paying the fees set by the WBSC Executive Board (*Article 10 and Appendix 1 of the Athlete Transfer Rules*). The payment shall be made to the authority that will issue the ITC. After proof of



payment of the required fees, the competent authority will issue the ITC. The payment process is explained in the [WBSC Manual](#).

10. Is there any possibility of exemption regarding the administrative fee?

Yes, transfers might be exempted of fees if they correspond to the situations defined in Article 9.3.1 and Article 9.3.2 of the Athlete Transfer Rules.

11. Can I appeal a decision related to an athlete transfer?

Yes, any appeal related to the decision of international athlete transfer must be made to the WBSC Executive Board in accordance with Chapter 3 of the WBSC Disciplinary By-Laws.

Any appeal against the decision of the WBSC Executive Board must be submitted to the CAS.

12. What happens if these rules are not followed?

The WBSC can sanction clubs' members/individuals, NFs and CAs that fail to respect and enforce the provisions of the regulations in accordance with its Statutes and By-Laws.

13. What should I do if I have additional questions or need additional support regarding transfer?

If your questions concern a Continental Transfer, please contact your Continental Association, which will provide you with the contact details of the Continental Athlete Transfer Officer. If your questions concern an intercontinental transfer or the interpretation of the Athlete Transfer Rules, you should contact the following email address: athletetransfer@wbsc.org.