



FIBA

We Are Basketball

International Transfers of Players

New changes as of 1 February 2022

Contents

Clubs and Players Duplicates	3
Current situation.....	3
Changes as of 1 February 2022	3
Best practices.....	3
FIBA-Licensed Agents.....	5
Current situation.....	5
Changes as of 1 February 2022	5
Best practices.....	5
LOC Disagreement	6
Current situation.....	6
Changes as of 1 February 2022	6
Best practices.....	7
Other Topics Discussed	7

In 2019 FIBA launched the FIBA Management and Administration Platform (MAP), providing to all 212 National Federations (NFs) a highly performing digital tool that allows them to request, issue, and monitor their international transfers with unprecedented speed, accuracy, and transparency. Since the creation of the new platform, more than 25'000 Letters of Clearance (LOC) have been processed and approved by FIBA.

Almost three years later, this growth of international activity and the new tools at our disposal have allowed FIBA to better understand and analyse certain weaknesses of the transfer system, and to receive feedback from the basketball stakeholders for necessary improvements.

With the above in mind, a new MAP version has been developed and will be released on 1 February 2022. This document summarises the changes that were discussed in the Webinar that took place on 24 January 2022.

Clubs and Players Duplicates

Current situation

Before MAP, NFs were able to request and issue LOCs via email, copying FIBA in their last exchange. With that information, FIBA was able to update its internal platform to monitor all International Transfers. While NFs were providing the information, it was FIBA's role to introduce it in the system and to ensure that players' and clubs' duplicates were not created.

With the creation of MAP, all NFs were given access to the system, allowing them to create new players and clubs. It has been brought to our attention that many NFs do not search for existing players or clubs but rather create new names/profiles. This has created an environment where Clubs have different entities associated with it, or players appear several times in MAP with different identification numbers.

The FIBA transfers department updated the LOCs and has allowed such transfers in the past. However, this situation has grown to an unsustainable point, where some clubs have even benefited from illegal transfers (using a different entity name).

Changes as of 1 February 2022

As of 1 February, all requests that create duplicates in the system will be rejected. In case of rejection for this reason, the NF requesting the LOC will have to start the process again, with the consequent administrative fee to be paid and the restart of the 6-day-deadline.

At the same time, FIBA will continue searching for existing duplicates and merging them. Furthermore, a strategy to minimise club duplicates will be put in place as of 2022/23 season. FIBA will contact all NFs for their list of clubs and name changes from the previous season.

Finally, we strongly believe that teamwork is more effective than anything else. Therefore, we kindly ask all NFs to contact transfers@fiba.basketball if they find a club or a player duplicate in MAP. By working all together we will be able to create a better environment that will help all stakeholders.

Best practices

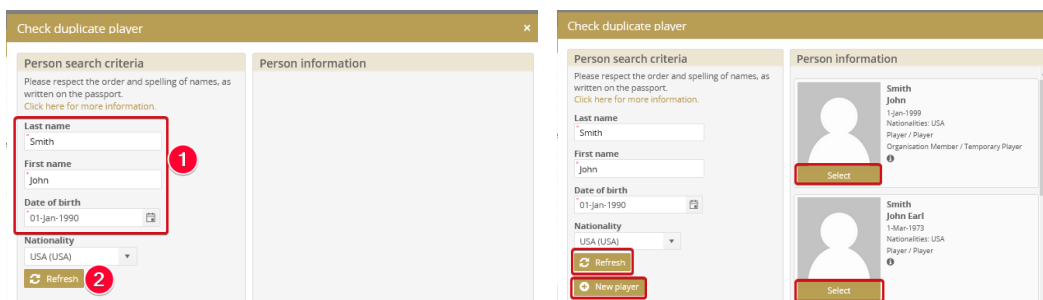
Before creating a new player, or a new club, it is important to use the searching tool to make sure that this player or club do not exist already. Once confirmed that they do not exist in the system, NFs can create new ones. Please refer to the MAP Guidelines for more information regarding how to search and how to create players and clubs.

Searching for players & Creating new ones

NFs must search for players using their passport. Please keep in mind that some players may have different nationalities with their names spelled differently; thus, they could exist with similar but different names/spelling. We strongly advice to:

1. Use the entire name and date of birth for the first search. Perhaps the system provides you already with a player.

2. If this search does not provide any good result, then we strongly advice to shorten the fields. For example, use only the 3-4 first letters of the first name and the family name and see what the system suggests.
3. You can also remove some of the fields. For example, use the first name with the date of birth only, use the first name and last name (3-4 letters) without providing the date of birth, etc. It might be the case that the player exists already, but that he/she was introduced wrong in the first place.
4. If using 3-4 combinations do not provide good results, then you can assume that the player does not exist, and you can create a new one.



If you create a new player, please:

- Refer to the information provided in the player's passport.
- Do not use capital letters to introduce the entire name. Just use a capital letter for the first letter and then use lowercase.
- Introduce as much information as possible, such as place of birth.
- If you have a portrait picture, you can also upload it to differentiate the player even further and help others in the future.

A "New" flag will be displayed near to Person # in case a new player is created. At this stage, FIBA may refuse your request if the information introduced is wrong, if details are missing, or if you created a duplicate.

Searching for clubs & Creating new ones

Basketball clubs change their names very often due to sponsorship right. It is important that you use different combinations in the searching tool before creating a new one. As a general rule, if you are searching for a first division club, it should exist already in the system. If you cannot find it, please try searching with a different combination of fields.



We strongly advice to:

1. Use the entire name. Perhaps the system provides you already with a club.
2. If this search does not provide any good result, then please shorten the name. For example, use only the 3-4 first letters of the club, the city, or the sponsor.
3. If using 3-4 combinations do not provide good results, then you can assume that the club does not exist, and you can create a new one.

If you create a new club, please do not use capital letters to introduce the entire name. Just use a capital letter for the first letter and then use lowercase.

A "New" flag will be displayed near to Person # in case a new player is created. At this stage, FIBA may refuse your request if the information introduced is wrong, if details are missing, or if you created a duplicate.

If, at any time, you discover a player or a club duplicate, please contact transfers@fiba.basketball for its merging.

FIBA-Licensed Agents

Current situation

According to FIBA Internal Regulations:

- **Book 3-65-b.** "A request for a letter of clearance (...) must comply with all requirements set out in the FIBA Information System, such as to provide... the name and license number of the FIBA player's agent(s) involved in the transfer, where applicable."
- **Book 3-295.** "In the context of international transfers, clubs and Players shall not use the services of any agent who is not a FIBA-Licensed Agent, and shall not be involved in any international transfer if they are aware or should reasonably have been aware that another party is using the services of any agent who is not a FIBA-Licensed Agent."
- **Book 3-296.** "(...) For the avoidance of doubt, any violations of the provisions of this Chapter are subject to sanctions..."
- **Book 3-297.** "(...) The National Member Federation shall provide the name(s) of the agent(s) to FIBA when requesting the letter of clearance. FIBA-Licensed Agents, clubs, Players, and National Federations are obliged, upon request by FIBA, to provide additional information to FIBA regarding any contractual arrangements as to services rendered by agents (...)."

Unfortunately, many NFs are not following these rules, which puts in danger the proper representation of all basketball players.

Changes as of 1 February 2022

FIBA has tried for many years to apply the regulations without sanctioning NFs. As of 1 February 2022, FIBA will apply the Internal Regulations thoroughly and investigate each international transfer providing inaccurate agent information. At the same time, FIBA will monitor the activity of agents and make sure that also all FIBA-Licensed Agents follow FIBA Regulations. This situation will add a big workload to FIBA's Transfers Department; therefore, we kindly request the collaboration of all stakeholders to guarantee the best interests of all basketball players.

While FIBA will start the investigations as of 1 February 2022, a grace period of 5 months will be given to allow better understanding of the process. Therefore, sanctions will not apply until July 2022.

Best practices

The National Federation requesting the LOC (NFR) has the obligation to provide the proper information of the agent.

As a general rule, and always according to FIBA Internal Regulations, a non-FIBA-Licensed Agent should never be involved in an International Transfers. Therefore, all NFRs receiving a request where a non-FIBA-Licensed Agent is representing the player should block the transfer and communicate with all parties to make sure that the player receives the assistance of a FIBA-Licensed Agent.

The below table summarises what is expected from all NFRs (green) and what should be avoided and may be subject to sanctions (red).

	PLAYER HAS NO FIBA-LICENSED AGENT	PLAYER HAS A NON FIBA-LICENSED AGENT	PLAYER HAS A FIBA-LICENSED AGENT	
NO FIBA-LICENSED AGENT ON LOC		TRANSFER'S REQUEST SHOULD BE BLOCKED BY THE NFR		
NON FIBA-LICENSED AGENT ON LOC	TRANSFER'S REQUEST SHOULD BE BLOCKED BY THE NFR	TRANSFER'S REQUEST SHOULD BE BLOCKED BY THE NFR	TRANSFER'S REQUEST SHOULD BE BLOCKED BY THE NFR	
FIBA-LICENSED AGENT ON LOC		TRANSFER'S REQUEST SHOULD BE BLOCKED BY THE NFR	SAME FIBA-LICENSED AGENT	DIFFERENT FIBA-LICENSED AGENT

NFs should receive the proper evidence from the clubs, instead of relying on online information. NFs are obliged to provide additional information regarding any contractual arrangements upon request by FIBA.

LOC Disagreement

Current situation

According to FIBA Internal Regulations:

- **Book 3-68.** "FIBA shall perform an initial review of any reply received from a National Member Federation of origin that disagrees with the request for a letter of clearance. If the reply appears prima facie complete, FIBA shall transfer the reply to the requesting National Member Federation. The requesting National Member Federation must notify FIBA through the FIBA Information System within three (3) days from the day on which such the reply was transmitted by FIBA to the requesting National Member Federation whether it disputes the reply of the National Member Federation of origin."

While FIBA Internal Regulations establish that all disagreement disputes must be notified by the NFR (only) through MAP and within three days, in practice different stakeholders (clubs and agents) have been contacting FIBA and disputing disagreements by other means (email or phone). Furthermore, these disputes have been received more than three days after FIBA transmitted the disagreement to the NFR.

Changes as of 1 February 2022

This situation violates FIBA Internal Regulations and puts in danger the whole transfer system. Therefore, as of 1 February 2022, FIBA will apply the regulations thoroughly:

- Disputes must be submitted by NFs only
- Disputes must be submitted through MAP only
- Disputes must be submitted within three (3) days only – Please note that failing to provide an answer within three (3) days, the disagreement will be automatically acknowledged.

Best practices

We strongly advise all NFRs to be in close contact with clubs and to provide the disagreement decision as soon as possible to guarantee that they have enough time to dispute the disagreement. We also request all NFRs to inform clubs and agents about the application of these existing rules and ask them to avoid contacting FIBA for this matter.

Other Topics Discussed

- **MAP Accounts**
There are some NFs with several MAP Accounts having access to the International Transfers. FIBA has identified few accounts associated to email addresses that do not work anymore. We kindly request all NFs to revise the list of employees having access to MAP and to inform FIBA if some accounts can be deleted.
It is very important to limit the access to this very sensitive information, especially if the person left the NF. While the NF could have blocked the email address, those persons could still access MAP using that email address as username.
- **LOCs pending**
There are some LOCs that are still pending since 2018. FIBA strongly believes that those international transfers will never take place. However, those requests still appear in the system as pending which could delay any new international transfer for that specific player.
FIBA kindly requests all NFs to filter those pending LOCs, and to cancel them if possible.
- **Proper communication between NFs**
FIBA has received several complaints regarding some malpractices from some NFs. Apparently, there are some NFs that are delaying their replies as a retaliation from past delayed LOCs.
We remind all NFs that MAP was put in place to help them request, issue, and monitor their international transfers with unprecedented speed, accuracy, and transparency. However, this is impossible without the collaboration of all parties. We kindly request everyone to help each other to guarantee a good environment where all NFs can benefit from this electronic tool. We also ask NFs to contact transfers@fiba.basketball for any complaint on this matter.
- **FIBA assistance before 6-day-deadline**
Working with all NFs during so many years has allowed FIBA Transfers Department to create some bonds with some persons in charge of International Transfers within NFs. FIBA is extremely proud and happy and hopes to continue working with all of you in such good conditions.
However, some NFs are using this relationship to put pressure on FIBA before the 6-day-deadline, asking FIBA Transfers Department to put pressure on other NFs to get their LOCs faster. We remind all NFs that FIBA cannot intervene in an International Transfer before the 6-day-deadline and that there are “reminder” buttons in MAP for that purpose. We kindly request all NFs to abide by the rules and stop putting unnecessary pressure.