

TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1838

Zurich, 31 March 2023

FIFA Talent Development Scheme: operational lifecycle for the 2023-2026 period

Dear Sir or Madam,

FIFA is pleased to share with you the FIFA Talent Development Scheme (TDS) Regulations, as approved by the FIFA Council at its most recent meeting in Kigali on 14 March 2023, as well as to open the call for applications to all participating member associations (MAS) to take part in the programme.

TDS operational lifecycle for the 2023-2026 period

To provide every MA with the necessary resources and structure in the field of talent development, the TDS offers a suite of services based on the following four key pillars:

1. *Expertise*: bespoke guidance delivered by leading specialists to help each MA devise a state-of-the-art and tailor-made talent development programme
2. *Training & education*: provision of education programmes delivered on-site (FIFA Talent Coach Programme, FIFA Academies Programme, educational workshops) and online (FIFA Training Centre) to share knowledge and insights
3. *Knowledge exchange*: on-site and online workshops, facilitated by FIFA specialists, to enable MAs to address common challenges and share best practices
4. *Funding*: dedicated resources to support the implementation of the above activities and promote a long-term collaboration

The execution of the first three pillars will be delivered by leading specialists (high-performance specialists and/or regional technical consultants) to guide, advise and support each MA in the creation of a specific and strategic long-term development plan.

Eligibility and application

To apply to participate in the TDS operational lifecycle 2023-2026, each MA shall submit an annual request using the dedicated TDS application process provided by FIFA. This will include:

- Confirmation that the MA has an appropriate technical department in place, which shall be in charge of the TDS plan and include at least three full-time staff members

- Submission of a revised strategic long-term plan for technical development with key targets and actions linked to the MA's strategic objectives and, where applicable, how this is linked to and aligned with existing talent development schemes already operational within the MA or the respective confederation
- Acceptance of full compliance with the TDS regulations
- Completion of the enclosed application form, including the declaration of commitment, to be sent to the TDS management team at FIFA at tds@fifa.org (for the attention of Prisca Steinegger from the FIFA High Performance Programme Department)

There will be two windows per year in which to submit applications for the TDS operational lifecycle, which in 2023 will close on **31 May** and **30 September**. In each of the following years of the 2023-2026 period, the closing dates will be 31 March and 31 August. Any TDS funds not allocated by 31 December 2026 will automatically be transferred to the Football Development Fund to provide indefinite and exclusive support to FIFA Forward 3.0 beneficiaries.

In line with article 7 of the TDS regulations, the Global Football Development Panel (a panel within the FIFA administration) shall decide whether to approve or reject an MA's request for funding within a period of 60 days from receipt of the complete application endorsed by the FIFA general secretariat.

Funding

An annual contribution of USD 50,000 shall be granted, in principle, to every MA that participates in the TDS operational lifecycle and that complies with the criteria and requirements outlined in the enclosed TDS regulations.

In addition to the annual contribution, MAs participating in the TDS operational lifecycle may submit an application for funding under one or more of the annual bespoke FIFA talent programmes below and/or to support specific projects related to their strategic long-term development plan:

- FIFA Talent Coach Programme, which provides for the engagement of a FIFA-trained talent coach on a 12-month basis during the TDS operational lifecycle.
- FIFA Academies Programme, which allocates funding on an annual basis to be used exclusively for the establishment and operation of academies. This programme will be available as of 2024.
- Specific talent development projects that support the implementation of an MA's strategic long-term development plan.

A dedicated team of FIFA high-performance specialists and account managers will support every participating MA throughout the creation, iteration and implementation of their strategic long-term development plan, including the process of applying for funding through the TDS.

We are therefore pleased to open the call for applications. FIFA is looking forward to supporting MAs in the abovementioned activities during the 2023-2026 period by offering the insight of leading experts in the field of high performance to help lay the foundations for a comprehensive talent development strategy for the future.

If you have any questions regarding the TDS operational lifecycle for the 2023-2026 period, please do not hesitate to contact Prisca Steinegger from the FIFA High Performance Programme Department at tds@fifa.org.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

Encl.: Talent Development Scheme regulations
Talent Development Scheme application forms
Talent Development Scheme leaflet

cc. FIFA Council
Confederations