

Player Status – What you need to know

In Malta players can be categorised under 1 of 3 statuses:

- i. Amateur
- ii. Part-time Professional
- iii. Full-time Professional

It is extremely important that players know what status they are registered under, since this affects their rights and obligations.

Amateur players are those who do not earn a salary to play football. They may be given money for expenses incurred, but they do not make a profit off of football. Currently, amateur players are not afforded many protections. Should a player be injured, it is at the club's discretion whether to cover the costs or not.

Both **part-time** and **full-time professional** players must have an employment contract that specifies their salary, rights and obligations. The distinction between the two is important for tax purposes, as well as to establish the level of commitment that should be expected. For example, a part-time player cannot be expected to be available for training during hours in which he is at school or at his main place of work.

In some circumstances a player may be under the impression that he is registered under a particular status, and he is in fact registered under another. This can bring about legal complications.

EXAMPLE 1: A player signs an employment contract as a professional player. The Club fails to register the contract and lists the player as an amateur instead. The player is not paid, and when he tries to file a claim to recover his outstanding salaries, he finds out his status has been listed as 'amateur'.

EXAMPLE 2: A player signs an employment contract as a professional player. He believes he is being engaged as a part-time player, but he is instead listed as a full-time player. The Club starts expecting him to attend training in the morning. This is not possible since he has another principal employment at that time.

For the reasons mentioned above, it is important that players follow up with MFA to verify that they have been registered under the correct status. MFPA can help players with this. Members who want to verify their status can either send us an email on info@maltafpa.com or a whatsapp text on 79398055 requesting a 'status update'. Our officers will liaise with the federation and get back to the player at the earliest.