# FIFA Introduces Enhanced Maternity and Family Leave Policies for Female Footballers and Coaches



FIFA has updated its maternity and family leave protocols for female footballers and coaches. Effective from June 1, 2024, these regulations include a minimum of 14 weeks of paid maternity leave for both players and coaches. Adoption leave is also introduced, offering eight weeks of paid absence for adoptive parents with children under two years, reducing to four weeks for children aged two to four, and two weeks for those older than four.

The changes allow clubs to register new players outside the usual transfer windows to replace those on maternity, adoption, or family leave. Players can also request absence from training or matches for menstrual health reasons while receiving full pay.

These updates were approved by the FIFA council in May 2024 and build on the 2020 reforms, which initially applied these conditions only to players. Feedback from national player unions and FIFPro influenced these changes. This move is seen as a significant step toward supporting the well-being of female athletes, addressing challenges they face during pregnancy and parenthood.