

**QUOTA FOR FOREIGN FOOTBALL PLAYERS ALLOWED TO PLAY IN A CLUB
A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS AT NATIONAL LEVEL
(Updated to 30 of May 2008)**

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I. EUROPE

N.B. FOR EU MEMBER STATES REFERENCE IS MADE ONLY TO NON EU-PLAYERS

AUSTRIA:

- No quota for non EU-players. Nevertheless with regard to the national league, clubs needs to have at least 10 players eligible to play for the National team on the roster in order to get money from TV.

BELGIUM:

- No quota for non EU-players. But Gentlemen's Agreement between clubs in first category: 4 of the 18 home grown players (2007/2008), 5 in 2008/2009 and 6 in 2009/2010.

N.B. Minimum salary: Gross Amount of 65.400 euros + Holiday Fee (1 extra monthly wage + 1 match bonus) + pension fund

BELARUS:

Visshaja Liga (First Category):

- 5 foreigners, but only 4 to be fielded

Pervaja Liga (Second Category)

- No limits

BULGARIA:

A PFG (First Category):

- up to 5 Non-EU players may be contracted and all of them may be fielded

B PFG (Second Category):

- non EU-players may not be contracted

No limits only for EU players.

This is according to article 22.2. of the Regulations of the Bulgarian Football Union on the Competition Rights of the Football Players for the season 2007/2008

CZECH REPUBLIC:

- For 1st and 2nd league- and for professionals: no quota for non EU-players, but only 3 to be fielded.

CROATIA:

- No quota for foreigners, but only 4 to be fielded

DENMARK:

-No quota for non EU-players, but only 3 to be fielded from outside Europe. Respect of the Cotonou judgement, meaning that “outside Europe” is defined as outside the cover ridge of the EU/EEA and the AVS countries (at this time approximately 78 countries).

ENGLAND:

- No quota for non EU-players,
(suggestion made in May 2008 that players should be able to pass a basic examination in the use of English language but this is merely a proposal and is not subject to legislation)!

FINLAND:

- No quota for non EU-players, but only 3 to be fielded

FRANCE:

- *Ligue 1 Orange* (First Category):
Max 4 non EU-players
- *Ligue 2 Orange* (Second Category):
Max 2 non EU-players
- *Ligue National* (Third category):
Max 2 non EU-players

GERMANY:

Bundesliga (First Category):

- No quota for non EU-players
- The teams of the first and second Bundesliga need to have a max. of 12 players who hold the German nationality.
- In 2007/2008 there have to be a min. of 6 home grown players in the teams, in 2008/2009 a min. of 8 home-grown players.

Bundesliga 2. (Second Category):

- No quota for non EU-players
- Teams entering the competition need to have 2 home grown-players in the first year. In the second year the teams need to have 4 home grown players on the participating list of which 1 has to be formed by the club (1+3). In the third year there has to be 7 home grown players of which 3 has to be formed by the club (3+4) and in the fourth there has to be 8 home grown players of whom 4 have to be formed by the club.
- Teams entering in 2007/2008 are obliged to follow the 1+3 rule from the first year of participation.
- Teams entering in 2008/2009 are obliged to follow the 3+4 rule in the first year and 4+4 rule in the second year of participation.
- Teams entering in 2009/2010 are obliged to follow the 4+4 rule in the first year of participation.

3. Liga and Regionalliga (Third category):

- Max 3 non EU-players

New (as of July 1st 2008):

Bundesliga 3. (Third Category):

- Max 3 non EU-players

New (as of July 1st 2008):

Regionalliga (Fourth category):

- Max 3 non EU-players

HELLAS/GREECE:

- For the clubs of the Superleague (1st Division): 5 non-EU players
- For the clubs of the B' Ethniki (2nd Division): 3 non-EU players can be fielded now, but from the season 2008-9 and onwards it will be 2 non EU Players

HUNGARY:

- No quota for non EU-players, but only 5 to be fielded in first category, and only 3 in second category.

ICELAND:

Deild Karla (First Category):

- No quota for non EU-players, but only 3 to be fielded

(Second Category):

- No quota for non EU-players, but only 3 to be fielded

IRELAND

- No quota for non EU-players

ISRAEL:

Ligat Ha'AI (First Category):

- Max 5 foreigners.

Ha'Liga Ha'Leumit (Second Category):

- Max 3 foreigners.

As to youth players, and subject of course to the fulfilment of the FIFA regulations requirements on Protection of Minors, a club can register up to 2 foreign players.

ITALY:

Serie A (first category)

- Max 5 non EU-players

Serie B (second category)

- Max 1 non EU-player

Serie C (Third Category)

- No EU player

NORD IRELAND:

- No quota for non EU-players

NORWAY:

- Professional Leagues teams are allowed to have 11 foreign players, regardless EU or not. A condition will be that you among the remaining 14 national players have min 2 home-grown players. There are no restrictions in regards how many foreign players who can be fielded in a match.

POLAND:

Orange Ekstraklasa (First Category):

- No quota for non -EU players

II Liga (Second Category)

- No quota for non EU-players/foreigners

PORTUGAL:

- No quota for non EU-players

ROMANIA:

Divizia A (First Category):

- A maximum of 5 players with foreign nationality can be fielded.

Divizia B (Second Category):

- A maximum of 3 players with foreign nationality can be fielded.

RUSSIA:

Premier Liga (First Category):

- No quota for foreigners, but only 7 to be fielded

Pervyy Divizion (Second Category)

- No quota for foreigners, but only 3 to be fielded

SCOTLAND:

- No quota for non EU-players although they have to go through a government and football process to get a Work Permit. The government may change the system in the near future to include the fact that the player must speak English.

SERBIA:

- No quota for non EU-players

SLOVACK REPUBLIC:

- No quota for non EU-players, but only 4 to be fielded

SPAIN:

Primera Division (First Category):

- 3 players licensed, 3 players can be fielded.

Liga BBVA (Second Category):

- 2 players licensed, 2 players can be fielded.

Segunda Division B (Third category):

- No foreign players allowed. Only teams which relegates are allowed to hold their foreign players until their contract ends.

SWEDEN:

- No quota for non EU-players, but only 3 to be fielded

SWITZERLAND:

Axpo Super League (First Category):

- Only 5 "non EU-players" (as EU-players are players considered which have a nationality of a state which on 1 April 2006 were EU-Member state or EFTA-Member state) can be fielded; there is no restriction to put more than 5 players on the match card of a game.

- the total amount of players which can be registered for a club is limited to 25 players (irrespective of nationality) (for this figure home ground trained players under 21 do not count) (from the 25 players irrespective of nationality 17 can be not "home ground trained players", that means 8 players have to be "home ground trained players");

- there are no restriction for so called "national players" ("national players" are: i) players with the Swiss nationality, ii) foreign players of a state which on 1 April 2006 were EU-Member states or EFTA-Member states, iii) all home ground trained players ("home ground trained players" are players that irrespective of their nationality between their age of 15 - 21 were playing for three complete seasons or over a period of 36 month for a registered club of the Swiss Football Association).

Challenge League (Second Category):

- Only 3 "non EU-players" (as EU-players are players considered which have a nationality of a state which on 1 April 2006 were EU-Member state or EFTA-Member state) can be fielded; there is no restriction to put more than 3 players on the match card of a game.

- the total amount of players which can be registered for a club is limited to 21 players (irrespective of nationality) (for this figure "home ground trained players" under 21 do not count) (from the 21 players irrespective of nationality 13 can be not "home ground trained players", that means 8 players have to be "home ground trained players"););

- there are no restriction for so called "national players" ("national players" are: i) players with the Swiss nationality, ii) foreign players of a state which on 1 April 2006 were EU-Member state or EFTA-Member state, iii) all "home ground trained players" ("home ground trained players" are players that irrespective of their nationality between their age of 15 - 21 were playing for three complete seasons or over a period of 36 month for a registered club of the Swiss Football Association).

Swisscom Cup:

- the same rules as above; depending on the category of the club (Challenge League or Super League)

THE NETHERLANDS

- No quota for non EU-players. *But* 18-19 years old players should have a gross salary of at least 202.500 euros; 20 years old and older players must have a gross salary of at least 405.000 euros.

TURKEY

- For Turkcell Super League 8 foreign players but only 6 can be fielded.
- For Bank Asya First League 2 foreign players under the age of 21

UKRAINE:

- *Vyscha Liha* (First Category):
- No quota for foreigners, but only 7 to be fielded

- Persha Liha (Second Category):
- No quota for foreigners, but only 3 to be fielded

WALES:

- No quota for non EU-players

II. AFRICA

CAMEROON

Maximum 5 foreign players, with the exclusion of players coming from the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), i.e. Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo and Equatorial Guinea. Players' from these countries are not considered as foreigners.

EGYPT

- max 3 foreign players

SOUTH AFRICA:

- max 5 foreign players

III. OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA:

- max 4 foreigners

IV. ASIA

CHINA

- As a general rule max 5 foreign players
- max 4 foreign players for the *Chinese Football Association Super League* (CSL) and the *China League* (CL), but only 3 to be fielded

QATAR

- First division (10 clubs): Max 6 foreign players (among those 6, 2 should come from GCC countries).
- Second division (6 clubs): Max 2 foreign players; a third one can be registered under particular circumstances.

V. AMERICA

ARGENTINA

- Max 4 foreign players

BRAZIL

- Max 3 foreign players (See CBF regulations: <http://cbfnews.uol.com.br/legislacao/>)

CHILE

- Max 7 foreign players

MEXICO

- First category: max 5 foreign players; the five can be fielded.

PERU

- Max 6 foreign players

USA

- Top league's rules limit the number of foreigners on each team to 8. However, if a foreigner obtains permanent resident status under US immigration law, that person does not count as a foreigner.