



Malta Football Association | Youth Players Grant Scheme Overview

The Malta FA Youth Players Grant Scheme Overview highlights your rights and obligations and tells you what you can expect from the Association and the host club/academy at each step of your scholarship.

- **The Malta FA**, hereinafter referred to as 'the Association', commits itself to respect the principles of the Youth Players Grant Scheme Overview and Regulations to facilitate, support and recognise your experience abroad.
 - **On your side**, hereinafter referred to as 'the player', commits to respect the rules and obligations of the Youth Players Grant Scheme.
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STEP I | Before your Scholarship Period

- Once you have been accepted to benefit from this scheme, you are entitled to receive guidance with regards to completing all necessary documentation required.

STEP II | During your Scholarship Period

- You should take **full advantage of the learning opportunities** available at the host club/academy, while respecting its rules and regulations, and endeavour to perform to the best of your ability in all relevant training sessions and competitions.
- Your host club/academy commits itself to treat you in the same way as its home students/players and you should make all the necessary **efforts to fit into your new environment**.
- You could benefit from networks of mentors and buddies where available at your host club/academy.
- Your host club or any intermediary will not ask you to pay for training, registration, or assessments during your scholarship period. Nevertheless, you may be charged a small fee on the same basis of local students for costs such as insurance, and the use of training-related equipment.

STEP III | After your Scholarship Period

- Your host club/academy will give you a **Traineeship Certificate** recognising your experience abroad.
- You shall undergo a second assessment to compare progress achieved prior and after your scholarship experience.
- You must perform a **presentation** to provide **feedback on your scholarship period** to the Association.
- You are encouraged to **share your scholarship experience** with your friends, fellow teammates, staff in your club and association etc. to let other people benefit from your experience.

If you encounter a problem:

- There are a number of people working in the Association whose role is to help players benefitting from such schemes. Depending on the nature of the problem and the time it occurs, the contact person or the responsible person at the Association will be able to help you. Their names and contact details are specified in the application form and scheme regulations.
- Use the formal appeal procedures in the Association if necessary.

Definitions:

- **Academy**
Training facility, recognised by the national association or governing body, set up to develop young footballers, to meet the club's specific standard.



Regulations 2021/2022

1. Introduction

Over the last decade, Malta has witnessed an increase in youth football players seeking professional career abroad. However, many of those players who pursued such an opportunity failed to settle at foreign clubs. Hence, the Association relaunched its youth players grant scheme in the 2019/2020 season, with the aim of facilitating this transition and increasing the chances of success when it comes to living and playing football abroad.

The scheme strives to help players cope with living abroad and at the same time take some of the financial burden.

2. Aims and Objectives

The key aims of this Youth Players Grant Scheme are:

- To encourage youth players in pursuing a professional football career abroad;
- To provide support for youth players during migratory transitions; and
- To support promising youth players in further developing their quality of football.

The scheme shall be operational between 1st July 2021 and 31st January 2022 on a first-come-first-served basis, until pot allocated is consumed. The capping for this scheme shall be that of five hundred Euros (€500) per month per player provided on basis of a season long (10 months) with a maximum capping of five thousand (€5,000) per athlete per season.

The total amount reserved for this grant scheme shall not exceed fifty thousand Euros (€50,000) annually to support all successful applicants.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible under this scheme, applicants shall be:

- Between the age of **sixteen (16) and nineteen (19) years of age (born between 08.06.2002 and 09.06.2005)** as per FIFA Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players (FIFA RSTP)ⁱ;

ⁱ For further information about the FIFA Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players (FIFA RSTP), go to the following link: <https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/regulations-on-the-status-and-transfer-of-players-june-2019.pdf?cloudid=ao68trzk4bbaezlipx9u>

- Be a Maltese citizen or have been granted permanent resident status, residing in Malta;



- In the pool of national team players at some point during their development, or minimum four (4) seasons with Maltese nursery, or player is registered as per FIFA Regulations on status and Transfer of Players (FIFA RSTP); and
- Host club/academy needs to be recognised by the national association or governing body but is still subject to the recognition and approval of the Malta FA Technical Centre.

4. Application Form

Interested candidates are invited to submit the application form and any other supplementary material via email to togeneralsecretary@mfa.com.mt. The application shall be submitted directly to the Association together with all other required documentation.

Documents to be sent along with the Application Form shall include the following:

- One (1) copy of letter of acceptance from the Club/Academy applied for – Letter of acceptance shall include:
 - The commencement date;
 - The end date; and
- One (1) copy of applicant's identity card (both sides); and
- Financial Identification form.

In the case that the player in question is **already playing abroad** he/she must submit three (3) recordings of games from the six (6) month period prior to the application.

5. Application Process

- i. Once enrolled with a club/academy, player has to complete the form and submit it together with the supporting documents to the Association. If a player has already benefitted from the Youth Players Grant Scheme, the Board can request further documentation including videos upon submission of the new application form.
- ii. The Association shall set up a Board composed of representatives from the technical centre and administration, to assess application received and is checked for eligibility.
- iii. The player's respective football club shall be asked for its recommendations in relation to the applicant's performance and potential and the said recommendation shall be taken into consideration by the Association.



- iv. Player shall be expected to undertake an assessment which would consist of a) A medical test, b.) A psychological assessment, and c). A strength and conditioning test.
- v. Interviews with prospective candidates shall be conducted by the Board.
- vi. Board shall evaluate the application and assessment results, as well as any additional reports from the Malta FA Technical Centre and shall request further documentation (including videos) and decide whether to apportion full, partial or reject the application.
- vii. If application is approved, the Association would issue a confirmation letter.

6. Grants

The Association Youth Players Grant Scheme provides financial support up to five thousand Euros (€5,000) for undertaking a football scholarship, as stated above in section two (2). The funding is intended to cover part of the costs and therefore you are encouraged to ensure that you have additional funds to support your during your scholarship.

First payment will be provided at the start of the contract and the final payment is subject to the obligations as set out in section nine (9) being upheld by the player. Kindly refer to section nine (9) of the regulations (page 7).

7. Pre-departure preparations

Pre-departure meetings are organised to address any queries that the player might have or any issues that might arise.

▪ Accommodation Arrangements

Accommodation arrangements need to be made directly by the player. Some clubs/academies offer accommodation, alternatively the player might prefer a private accommodation. This is entirely up to the player.

▪ European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) and Insurance

It is the player's responsibility to have a valid EHIC document. The Association encourage the player to have a travel insurance policy which is valid for his/her stay at the host club/academy, covering the entire duration of the scholarship. Travel insurance should cover 'special medical intervention and repatriation'. The player should also consider additional cover to your travel insurance policy to provide cover for 'work place accident insurance; and



'liability insurance coverage' for any damages caused during your scholarship at the host club/academy.

8. During the scholarship

The Association is your first point of contact. Should any issues arise during the scholarship, whether of football or personal nature, we will provide support whenever possible. The Association may furthermore, monitor the training programme and require regular meetings with the player and the club/academy.

During the scholarship, the **host club/academy** has to:

- Provide the Association with a monthly typical training programme or schedule;
- Calendar of fixtures;
- Provide details of the coaches or contact person involved in the training/preparation of the player;
- Provide weekly/monthly fitness reports of results achieved in training;
- Provide quarterly match recordings in which the player has participated;
- Provide monthly attendance sheet;
- Provide a detailed report of participation in competitive and non-competitive matches and results attained by the player (including minutes played) on a monthly basis;
- Be fully and totally responsible for the fitness level and medical condition of the player all throughout the Scheme;
- Be fully and totally responsible for the total actuation and supervision of the training programme in order to maximise the benefits for the player within the Scheme;
- Inform the Association should the athlete face any injury and/or illness which may have adverse effects on the player;
- Acknowledge the fact that the player is sponsored by the Association through this Scheme.

The **player** shall undertake to:

- Abide with the Code of Sport Ethics;
- Make no use of illegal substances and/or performance enhancing during and/or other doping methods;
- Undertake any doping tests as required;
- Provide a contact phone number for quick and easy contact if the need arises;
- Inform the Association in cases of injury;
- Inform the Association when not reporting for training;
- Inform the Association when not fit for training.

Instances where the **player** is found guilty of:



- Illegal doping;
- Misbehaviour;
- Lack of respect by the player or any immediate family member towards the Association;
- Any other action deemed to be serious in nature by the Association,

Shall lead to an immediate termination of this scheme agreement.

Further to the above paragraph, if in default, through a doping offence/the use of illicit substances and/or drugs, the athlete has to reimburse the Association for all allocated amounts provided to the athlete, when so charged. The amounts shall be returned to the player if he/she is found to be innocent.

The player shall attend any seminars organized by the Association for the purpose of this Scheme and any events organized by the Association as it deems necessary. Furthermore, the player shall be available to be used as testimonial for the Association marketing campaigns.

9. After the scholarship

Once the scholarship is completed, you are requested to submit the necessary documents to the Association, within 30 days after completion of the scholarship:

- Final assessment/report prepared by host club/academy; and
- Certificate of Attendance prepared by host club/academy.
- Breakdown of costs report.

Furthermore, once the player returns back and has successfully completed the scholarship, he/she shall be expected to undertake an assessment which would consist of a). A psychological assessment, and b). A strength and conditioning test.

Final payment shall be provided to the player upon presentation of the above mentioned documentation and receipts. A full report of the activity including all expenses incurred and results attained by the athlete should be submitted at the end of the scholarship.

