

SPORTS AND IMMIGRATION OUTLINE

1. World of Soccer - Foreign Player Rules

- A. LABOR LAW -Every Country has it own rules.
 - i. Show list
- B. MLS - 8 Foreigners any age per club.
 - i. (changes nearly every year, and FIFA wants to limit it to 6+5 rule)
 - ii. Foreigner is described as someone not on the Central Index.

2. Players Coming on a Trial...(world of soccer trial = tryout not litigation :))

- A. If EU - Just come on Tourist Visa (ex. Tony Varelles)
- B. If Non-EU
 - i. Invitation Letter from the Club addressed to the American Consulate
 - a. American Consulate of the Country from which the player is playing and physically at, not the Consulate in the Country of Nationality
(Example - Essien Okon Flo -Nigerian playing in Russia)
 - ii. Post 9/11 world .
 - A. We always need to assist in expediting. Inevitably, it is always difficult getting a quick visa.
 - i. Contact Consulate and battle through the gatekeepers to get to the decision makers, and explain that it needs to be expedited.
 - ii. Keep your contacts name and number !!!! I will explain later, you will need it.
 - B. Sometimes easier to simply have the client go to the trial with the club in a different country.
 - i. Ex. Ricardo Virtuoso...Cyprus...
 - iii. BRAZIL
 - A. 2004 Fight between US and Brazil
 - B. Servilio - 2 weeks invite letter, 5 years.....now a struggle.

3. Players Signing

- A. Standard P-1....
 - i. Application is made by the league
 - a. Single Entity.
 - ii. Player must return to Country of Origin or Nationality.
 - iii. Because professional sports involve seasons, and this is usually done in pre-season or even during the season, time is of the essence and the clock is ticking. So we must AGAIN request the Consulate to expedite the visa.
 - iv. Now is when we contact our same person who helped us before.
 - v. Visa will only last until the end of the year.
 - a. MLS' contracts are almost entirely league options.
 - 1. 1+1+1+1

4. Player Renewals

- A. December First, League exercises Options.
- B. League Immigration Lawyer is **supposed** , I highlight supposed to file for the new visas promptly.
 - i. Last Year Ricardo Virtuoso
 - a. League Lawyer filed late, despite my proddings, was unable to come until mid march, two weeks before season. Injured his ankle and was cut, and then the club won the championship this year without him.

5. Political Asylum

- A. Separate Immig Atty for immediate filing.
- B. Central Index 6-8 weeks.
- C. Travel Complications (Colorado) until papers arrived - 2 months for work permit...