

Review of Sell-on Clause in Iranian football in light of int'l regulations



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PERSPECTIVE EXCLUSIVE

The Sell-on Clause is a contractual commitment typically included by the selling club when negotiating the transfer of a player. Under this provision, if the buying club later transfers the player to a third club for a specified amount, the original club shares in a portion of the proceeds from that resale. Simply put, this mechanism ensures that the original club benefits from the appreciation of the player's value and any potential future transfers.

In recent years, FIFA's Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) have frequently stepped in to clarify the legal and practical aspects of this clause. Its prevalence can be attributed to reasons such as covering the costs of player development, managing risk, and encouraging investment in young talents.

While FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players do not explicitly refer to the Sell-on Clause as a standalone provision, Articles 18 bis (prohibition of third-party influence or ownership) and regulations regarding transfer fees could impact the formulation or execution of the clause. According to FIFA's general interpretation, as long as this clause does not imply third-party economic ownership of the player and does not conflict with principles of fair competition, FIFA recognizes it as a valid contractual clause.

The most common form of the Sell-on Clause stipulates that the original club receives 20% of the transfer fee for any future transfer. A common challenge here lies in defining the "transfer fee." Is it the net transfer amount (excluding taxes and commissions) or the gross amount? FIFA and CAS generally lean toward interpreting this as the gross amount unless the contract explicitly specifies net or gross. In some contracts, it is specified that the original club participates in the "profit" from the transfer, meaning the initial transfer amount is deducted from the subsequent transfer fee, and a percentage of the remainder belongs to the original club. This model can introduce additional complexities, as disputes may arise over details like the "previous purchase costs" or "ancillary expenses."

Regarding the timing of when the clause is realized and related interpretations, disputes sometimes arise over whether the payment obligation arises immediately upon signing the subsequent transfer contract or after the full payment of the resale installment is received. In the absence of contract stipulations, CAS tends to follow current practice; a practice that often states that as soon as the transfer is formalized and registered with the national federation, the original club's share becomes claimable.

The Sell-on Clause has increasingly become a common fixture in player transfer agreements, serving as a tool to safeguard the financial interests of the original club should the player's value rise over time. Practical experiences indicate that FIFA and the Court of Arbitration for Sport generally recognize this clause, provided it does not contradict third-party ownership prohibitions and is clearly articulated. The primary legal challenges in this context revolve around three core issues: ambiguity in defining transfer amounts, compliance with good faith principles, and avoiding conflicts with regulations against third-party economic ownership.

From a practical standpoint, clubs are advised to clarify the details when drafting the Sell-on Clause to prevent future disputes. It is essential to frame the clause in consideration of FIFA's prevailing practices and the precedents set by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, minimizing the potential for contradictory interpretations. Moreover, it is recommended that this clause be incorporated into the contract with utmost care before signing, ensuring that clear and credible evidence can be referenced in the event of a dispute.

UWW Ranking Series:

Mohmadi shuts Novikov down to avenge Olympic final loss

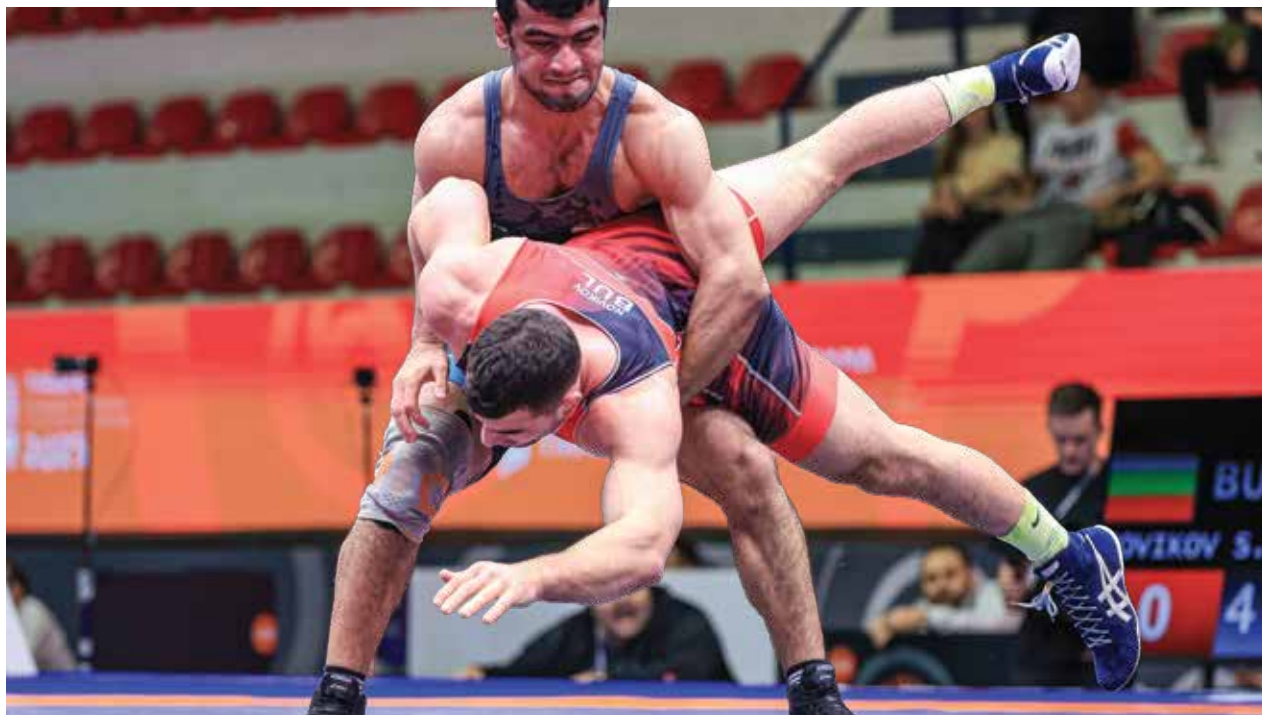
UWW – Iran's Alireza Mohmadi and Bulgarian Semen Novikov flexed their achievements in their own ways. Both acknowledged each other but a sense of supremacy also followed.

In a rematch of the 2024 Paris Olympic Greco-Roman 87kg final, Novikov and Mohmadi met in the quarterfinal of the Muhamet Malo Ranking Series to add another chapter to the exciting rivalry.

While the stage wasn't as grand as Paris, Mohmadi avenged his loss in style, blanking Olympic champion Novikov 5-0.

Mohmadi went on to win the gold medal at 87kg after Hungarian David Losonczi pulled out of the final injured but the purpose of getting a match against Novikov and winning was served.

"This match was very important to me," Mohmadi said. "Wrestling against Novikov, who I wrestled in the Olympics, I expected myself to wrestle better than I did in the Olympics. I was able to win and wrestle without mistakes. I hope I can maintain this winning streak against Novikov in the World Championships as well." Novikov won 7-0 in Paris in a very one-sided final and Mohmadi, perhaps learning from that experience from Paris, where he wasn't awarded the forced par terre, began on an aggressive note. He got



Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Alireza Mohmadi lifts Bulgarian Semen Novikov in an 87kg quarterfinal at the Muhamet Malo Ranking Series in Tirana, Albania, on Feb. 28, 2025.
● UWW

the par terre but failed to score and led only 1-0 at the break. However, the second period saw Mohmadi dominate proceedings as he scored a stepout and takedown to make it 4-0.

The world silver medalist was awarded the par terre in the second period as well which extended his lead to 5-0 but he once again failed to score. He shut Novikov down for the remaining time to win

the bout.

He blew a kiss like an archer release the arrow whereas Novikov flexed his biceps, perhaps reminding Mohmadi that he is still the Olympic champion.

"I expected this match to be intense because the wrestler is both an Olympic champion and a world medalist, and a very good wrestler," he said. "But fortunately, I was able to use my opportunities well

and get my points in this match."

Mohmadi seems to have become the mainstay for Iran at 87kg for the foreseeable future but given the international depth at the weight class, Mohmadi knows he cannot let his guard down.

"The 87 kg weight class has many contenders, even in these competitions," he said. "With the help coaches, I

work on each of them individually and plan for each of them. They will do the same because this weight class has many contenders and has always been a busy weight class."

Novikov wasn't the only big win for Mohmadi on Friday. He began with an 8-0 sweep of Hungary's Tamas Levai and defeated European champion Aleksandr Komarov of Serbia 5-1 in the semifinal.



● FFIRI

Taj reelected president of Iranian Football Federation

Sports Desk

Mahdi Taj was reelected as the president of the Iranian Football Federation for another four years, taking the helm at the national governing body of the sport for a third term.

Taj, 65, claimed 72 of the votes in Saturday's general assembly of the federation against 10 for Amir Abedini – a former chairman of the federation in the 90s – in the two-horse race for the role.

A vice-president to AFC president Shaikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Taj first took the job at the federation in 2016 but stepped down from his role three years later, for what he claimed to be a health issue.

He was reelected to the role in August 2022 and went on to replace then-Iran head coach Dragan Skocic by his Portuguese predecessor Carlos Queiroz for the World Cup finals in Qatar.

Sports Desk

The Iranian men's national basketball team retained the 28th spot in the latest FIBA World Ranking.

Collecting 414.1 points, Iran also remained fourth in the list of Asian teams, following Australia – seventh in the World Ranking – Japan (21) and New Zealand (22).

The latest ranking came after Iran came out on top against India and Kazakhstan to win Group E of the FIBA Asia Cup qualifiers in February.

Teenage prodigy Mohammad Amini contributed with a game-high 33 points, as well as seven rebounds, as Iran routed 106-55 at Tehran's Azadi Basketball Hall last week.

Sina Vahidi chipped in 20 points, while Matin Aqajannpour finished on 16 points, dropping half of

the team's 8 three-pointers, as all players of Greek coach Sotirios Manolopoulos got on the score-sheet during last Monday's 88-45 away win against Kazakhstan.

Iran finished the qualifiers with a 5-1 record, with the three-time Asian champion's lone defeat coming against Qatar, and former Iran coach Hakan Demir, last November.

Joining Iran and Qatar in August's finals are host Saudi Arabia, two-time reigning champion Australia, Japan, Philippines, New Zealand, Lebanon, Jordan, South Korea, Syria, and China – the most decorated team in the competition with 16 titles – with four spots remaining up for grabs.

Iran, a back-to-back champion in 2007 and 2009, will be chasing a first Asian crown since 2013, having finished third in 2015 before the final defeat against Australia in the 2017 edition.

Iran remains 28th in FIBA World Ranking, fourth in Asia



● FIBA