

CONGRESS APPROVES BILL THAT REQUIRES THE PROFESSIONALIZATION OF WOMEN'S SOCCER

On March 21, 2022, Congress approved the bill of law entitled: *"Requires the execution of a contract, in the terms indicated, between Professional Sports Corporations and athletes who are part of the National Women's Soccer Championship"*.

The provisions of the approved bill, in addition to updating the language used in the Labor Code, will be mandatory for the Professional Sports Corporations participating in official national women's associations or leagues in adult categories, with promotions and relegations, and that allow participation in international tournaments.

To be able to continue their activities, such corporations must meet the following requirements:

1. That its women's professional teams have their professional athletes subject to professional athletes' employment contracts.
2. Professional players must have a single employer (prohibits the subcontracting or outsourcing of services).

Deadline to comply with these requirements

The law will enter into force six months after its publication in the Official Gazette. The law has not yet been published. From the date it enters into force, sports organizations have a 3-year term to hire female players. This obligation must be complied with gradually, since the organizations are required to have at least 50% of the total number of female players with employment contracts within the first year after the law becomes effective. In the second year, the requirement is increased to 75% of the roster and, in the third year, to 100% of the roster.

Benefits that can be applied for

The law also creates an incentive for clubs that comply with the law, which allows them to apply for the benefits of the National Fund for the Promotion of Sports and Donations for Sports Purposes, for a period of 5 years from the entry into force of the law, to finance projects aimed at the institutional development of professional women's teams.



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