



Union des associations européennes de football

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Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations approved

Five-referee experiment to be requested for UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA EURO 2012 and UEFA Super Cup 2010

UEFA's Executive Committee has today unanimously approved the new UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations, submitted to the committee with the support of all stakeholders in European football.

After a phased implementation over three years (2010, 2011, 2012), the main cornerstone of the regulations, the "break-even requirement", enters into force for the financial statements of the reporting period ending 2012, to be assessed during the 2013/14 UEFA club competitions season.

Commenting on this key decision for the future well-being of European football, UEFA president Michel Platini, said:

"We have worked on the Financial Fair Play concept hand-in-hand with the clubs, as our intention is not to punish them, but to protect them. We have an agreement with the clubs. The philosophy is that you cannot spend more money than you generate.

"This approval today is the start of an important journey for European football's club finances as we begin to put stability and economic common sense back into football. I thank all the stakeholders who have supported this along the way."

The chairman of the European Club Association (ECA), Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, said:

"This really is a huge achievement. On behalf of the European Club Association, I would like to thank UEFA and especially Michel Platini for his initiative that goes, I believe, in the right direction. After only two years of existence, the European Club Association has managed, together with UEFA, to set measures that will shape the future of European club football into a more responsible business and ultimately a more sustainable one. As clubs, by fully supporting these Financial Fair Play Regulations, we have agreed to change the way we operate, and that is a substantial step forward."

The full UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations (edition 2010) will be published in June 2010, and will be available via uefa.com. Clubs will be assessed on a risk basis, taking into account debts and salary levels, as well as the following main pillars:

1. Break-even requirement – clubs must not spend more than they generate over a period of time.
2. No overdues payable during the season - towards other clubs, employees and/or social/tax authorities).
3. Provision of future financial information – to ensure clubs can meet their future obligations.

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The independent Club Financial Control Panel, chaired by Jean-Luc Dehaene, will be responsible for the monitoring process in terms of assessing the documentation submitted by the licensor and, if necessary, requesting additional information.

The UEFA Executive Committee also agreed to propose to FIFA and the International Football Association Board (IFAB), following the IFAB's approval on 18 May 2010 of a further two years of experimentation with two extra additional assistant referees, that the UEFA Champions League 2010/11 as of the play-offs (last qualifying round before the Group Stage), the UEFA Europa League as from the Group Stage, the UEFA EURO 2012 qualifying phase and final tournament, and the UEFA Super Cup 2010, be used for further trials for the use of two additional assistant referees.

With regard to the regulations of the UEFA European Football Championship 2010-12, the Executive Committee agreed to amend article 7.07 of the UEFA EURO 2012 Regulations by deleting the provision that the seeded teams play the return match at home, and have replaced it with a draw to establish the order of matches.

As a reminder, for the UEFA EURO 2012 qualifying competition, the 51 participating teams have been drawn into six groups of six teams and three groups of five teams. The nine group winners and the best runner-up will qualify directly for the final tournament. The additional four teams that will participate in the final tournament will be determined by play-off matches between the eight remaining runners-up.

In other decisions taken today, the following items were all approved:

- The final-tournament match schedule for the UEFA European Under-21 Championship 2009-11 was amended to start on Saturday 11 June, instead of Sunday 12 June 2011, allowing for an additional extra rest day between matchdays 2 and 3.
- The UEFA European Under-21 Championship 2009-11 play-off and final draw procedures, to take place on 10 September in Herning, and 9 November 2010 in Aalborg, Denmark respectively.
- Regulations of the UEFA European Under-19 Championship 2010/11.
- Regulations of the UEFA European Under-17 Championship 2010/11.
- Regulations of the UEFA European Women's Under-19 Championship 2010/11.
- Regulations of the UEFA European Women's Under-17 Championship 2010/11.
- Regulations of the UEFA European Futsal Championship 2011/12.

The second day of the Executive Committee meeting takes place on Friday at the Espace Hippomène, Avenue de Châtelaine 7, 1203 Geneva, with the announcement of the host association of UEFA EURO 2016 to be made at 13.00 CET by the UEFA president. This will be followed by a press conference.