



PROTECTION OF THE GAME - INTEGRITY - MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING UNIT

Request For Research Proposal (RFRP)

The burden and effect of heading in youth football in Europe

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL

Closing Date: 30th June 2017 at 12.00 (midday) CET

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1. Introduction

UEFA – the Union of European Football Associations – is the governing body of European football. One of UEFA’s core values is the protection of young players and the organisation has a sporting and a moral responsibility to protect the health and well-being of those who play the game.

Football is the only sport in which players regularly use their heads to move the ball. In recent years there have been several studies looking at the effect of heading on the structure and function of the brain, although there are questions about the transferability of some findings from experimental studies to real-life football. At the same time there has been widespread media coverage which has in many cases only increased uncertainty about potential header-induced brain damage in players. There is currently a lack of data on the number of times young football players head the ball in both practice and match situations, which makes it hard to assess the true risk of playing football in this population. In addition, there is considerable variation between countries in the way football is played and coached with the header burden potentially also varying.

2. Objective of the research study

This request for research proposal (RFRP) is an invitation to the research community to submit proposals to determine the burden of heading and its potential effects within youth football in different regions of Europe.

The study should firstly determine the burden of heading in youth football, addressing differences in the way headers are taught in football training, and differences in the incidence of football headers in matches and training. In each country different age categories of each gender should be studied. Proposals should take into consideration variations caused by the different traditions and playing styles of the countries.

The study should secondly provide data to determine whether heading in youth football has any effect on players’ brain structure and function.

The UEFA Medical Committee, with input from independent experts, will review the viability and validity of all proposals and make the selection.

3. Application process

Researchers interested in conducting the study should submit their research proposal in English and in a document of no more than 4 pages. The proposal should include the following:

- Names, qualifications, organisations, university links and overview of previous research experience for all scientists and advisors involved in the study, including any possible conflict of interest
- The names of the European countries in which the research study will be performed
- The methodology and the mechanism by which the study is proposed to be conducted
- Expected outcomes of the study
- Timescale of the study
- Budget breakdown
- Telephone number and emails of the main contact person

The closing date for submissions is 30 June 2017.

The research study proposal and any questions concerning the study or the process should be sent to medical@uefa.ch.

4. Standard Terms & Conditions and Intellectual Property

The selected research study group will be required to sign a contract, which shall incorporate UEFA's General Terms and Conditions for the Supply of Services attached as **Annex** to this RFRP. The bidders must describe their ability to meet UEFA's legal and contractual requirements in their proposal.

The outcomes of the research study and all intellectual property pertaining to the outcomes shall be the sole and exclusive property of UEFA.

5. Legal Notices

- This RFRP does not constitute a contract or an offer that is capable of acceptance, and does not guarantee a successful application. UEFA reserves the right to fund a study in its entirety or only part thereof.
- The bidder accepts that UEFA's decisions relating to this RFRP will be final. UEFA is not obliged to give reasons for any of its decisions relating to this RFRP and the bidder waives any rights it may have to challenge any decision of UEFA.

UEFA RFRP – The effects of repeated headers on youth football players in Europe

- UEFA does not make any representations or warranties as to the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of any information contained within this RFRP. No liability is accepted by UEFA or any of its representatives for any loss, cost or damage suffered or incurred in reliance on, or in connection with this RFRP.
- If the bidder enters into the process it does so at its own cost and risk. The bidder will be responsible for all of its costs connected to any bid submitted in response to the RFRP regardless of whether or not it is awarded any rights.
- The bidder acknowledges that all intellectual property rights for all purposes throughout the world relating to the UEFA Competitions and/or Events, UEFA and/or this RFRP shall belong solely and exclusively to UEFA.
- The bidder acknowledges and warrants that it shall not use any marks, including but not limited to trade or service marks, logos, or other, belonging to UEFA and shall not make any references, direct and/or indirect, to UEFA or any of UEFA's competitions, events and/or activities. The bidder further acknowledges and accepts that it shall have absolutely no rights in this respect and cannot associate itself in any manner whatsoever with UEFA.
- The bidder undertakes to keep the contents of this RFRP, its offers and any communications and/or negotiations and/or any draft agreement confidential. These confidentiality undertakings shall survive the termination of the bidder's involvement therein.
- The bidder represents and warrants to UEFA that the information contained in its bid shall not be false or misleading. The bidder undertakes that if, following the submission of the bid, there is any material change to any such information or change in the bidder's circumstances, the bidder shall promptly notify UEFA in writing setting out the relevant details in full.
- This RFRP and any agreements that may follow shall be governed exclusively by the laws of Switzerland, without reference to its conflict of laws rules.
- Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in relation to this RFRP shall be resolved by arbitration in accordance with the Swiss Rules of International Arbitration of the Swiss Chambers of Commerce in force on the date on which the 'Notice of Arbitration' is submitted in accordance with said Rules. The number of arbitrators shall be three. The seat of arbitration shall be Nyon, Switzerland and the arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in the English language.

Annex: UEFA's General Terms and Conditions for the Supply of Services – Ver.10.2016



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