Media Release
Communiqué aux médias
Medien-Mitteilung

Route de Genève 46
Case postale
CH-1260 Nyon 2
Telephone ++41 22 994 45 59
Telefax ++41 22 994 37 37
uefa.com
info@uefa.com

Union des associations européennes de football



Date: 02/03/2001 No. 25 - 2001

Internazionale FC to play two games outside Milan

Italian club banned from using Giuseppe Meazza stadium due to crowd behaviour

UEFA's Control & Disciplinary Body, at a meeting held at the House of European Football in Nyon earlier today, decided to prohibit Internazionale FC from using the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza in Milan for their next two home fixtures in UEFA club competitions. Both games will have to be staged at a venue situated at a distance of least 300 kilometres from Milan.

The sanction is derived from the second leg of Internazionale FC's UEFA Cup tie against CD Alavés. The Spanish club had fought back from 1-3 down in Vitoria to draw the first leg 3-3 and then, in the return leg played on 22 February, recorded a 2-0 win which eliminated the Italian club.

After the visitors had scored their second goal in the 83rd minute, the CD Alavés goalkeeper and defenders drew the referee's attention to the crowd disturbances which had started in the sector behind the Spanish team's goal. The referee had to interrupt the match while the CD Alavés penalty area was evacuated for safety reasons. The missiles which landed on the pitch included seats, glass bottles, plastic bottles, lighters, coins and even a radio receiver. Even though the match was watched by less than 10,000 spectators, order was not re-established and the disturbances interrupted play for five minutes.

Immediately before and after the final whistle, more missiles were thrown on to the pitch from the sector behind the substitutes' benches – some of them landing near the Fourth Official. Flares and fires were also lit in the stands. Players and officials had to take refuge in the middle of the pitch, out of the range of the missiles, until they could safely leave the field of play.

The Control & Disciplinary Body decided not only to ban Internazionale FC from using the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza for their next two UEFA club competition games, but also imposed a fine of 75,000 Swiss francs on the Italian club, who may lodge an appeal against the decision, provided it is received by midnight on Monday 5 March.

Another Italian club, S.S. Lazio, were also fined 50,000 Swiss francs due to the large number of flares which were lit in the Stadio Olimpico in Rome during the UEFA Champions League match against Real Madrid CF. A dozen plastic bottles full of water were also thrown on to the pitch during and after the game which determined the Italian club's elimination from the competition.

Russian champions Spartak Moscow were also fined 20,000 Swiss francs as smoke bombs, firecrackers and flares were set off during the UEFA Champions League match against FC Bayern München in the Luzhniki Stadium, Moscow.

Like Internazionale FC, they have a deadline of midnight on Monday 5 March should the two clubs wish to lodge an appeal.