



UEFA
ROUTE DE GENÈVE 46
CH-1260 NYON 2
SWITZERLAND
TELEPHONE: +41 848 00 27 27
TELEFAX: +41 848 01 27 27
UEFA.com UEFA.org

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WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



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XI. Resolution: European
football united for the
integrity of the game

European football united for the integrity of the game

Resolution

1. The UEFA Statutes provide that a key objective of UEFA is to safeguard the regularity and proper functioning of sporting competition and to protect football from any form of abuse.
2. Similarly, UEFA's 11 key values underline the central importance of protecting the integrity of the game.
3. There is no more obvious threat to the integrity of football than match-fixing, whether for betting related or any other reason. Any such corrupt practices offend the very soul of football, and must be kicked out of the sport, once and for all.
4. All UEFA member associations stand united against match-fixing and hereby undertake to implement concrete and effective policies to eradicate it. More specifically, all member associations undertake to adopt and apply, as a minimum and as soon as practicable, the measures listed below.
5. Pursuant to their own Regulations and practice and subject to the application of national law, to:
 - a) make it a disciplinary offence to influence, or attempt to influence, the conduct or outcome of a football match or competition in an unsporting, unethical or corrupt manner;
 - b) make it a disciplinary offence for officials, referees, players or coaches to bet on matches or competitions in which they are involved;
 - c) provide for a secure information gathering system to allow people to report, if necessary on an anonymous basis, incidents of match-fixing or attempted match-fixing;
 - d) oblige all those concerned (officials, referees, players, coaches, etc.) to notify immediately, and where appropriate through the above-mentioned system, the competition organiser or relevant national association officials if approached in connection with any activity aimed at influencing the conduct or outcome of a football match in an unsporting, unethical or corrupt manner or if they become aware of others involved in such activities;
 - e) establish and run comprehensive education programmes, especially for young players, to increase awareness of the risks of match-fixing and to ensure that all those involved in football are aware of, and respect, the relevant rules;
 - f) ensure that, in addition to individuals, clubs are also held responsible and sanctioned in circumstances where those with authority to act on behalf of the club are involved in match-fixing, attempted match-fixing, or any other form of corruption linked to match-fixing;
 - g) exclude match-fixing, attempted match-fixing, and any other form of corruption linked to match-fixing from any kind of statute of limitations.

6. All UEFA member associations recognise the need to cooperate, work together, and exchange information and expertise with the state authorities, including the police and state prosecutors, in order to win the fight against match-fixing.
7. All UEFA member associations emphasize the importance of ensuring that "sporting fraud" be recognised as a specific criminal offence under national law.
8. Having regard to the needs of sporting competition, the specificity of sport, and subject to the application of national law, all UEFA member associations undertake to prosecute cases of match-fixing or attempted match-fixing without delay and even before the final outcome of state criminal proceedings may be known. Furthermore, in such cases sports disciplinary proceedings shall not be abandoned simply because the person(s) involved might no longer be within the territorial jurisdiction of the national association concerned.
9. In accordance with the relevant jurisprudence of the Court of Arbitration for Sport and subject to the application of national law, UEFA member associations consider that, in cases of match-fixing or attempted match-fixing, it is sufficient that the relevant facts be established to the "comfortable satisfaction" of the sports decision-making body. This standard of proof is greater than a mere "balance of probability" but less than the criminal standard of "beyond reasonable doubt", in particular, since sports bodies do not have the same investigative or evidence gathering powers as state criminal authorities.
10. All member associations of UEFA re-affirm that match-fixing, attempted match-fixing or other forms of corruption linked to match-fixing must be met with strong and dissuasive sporting sanctions, such as the possibility of lifetime bans for officials, players, coaches or referees, and measures such as the deduction of points and/or relegation and/or exclusion from competition for clubs.
11. Football is about leadership, both on and off the field. European football is united against match-fixing and any other forms of corruption. Let us put a stop to any behaviour that might jeopardise the integrity of football. Now.