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TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference

Your correspondence of

Our reference
F/NA/nke/mgg

Date
21 November 2022

**2021/22 UEFA Women's Champions League
Solidarity payment scheme supporting women's club development**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that the solidarity payments from the 2021/2022 UEFA Women's Champions League are now available. As stated in circular letter 2021_59, these will be paid to UEFA member associations during the 2022/2023 season for distribution to their clubs for development purposes.

The money earmarked for this solidarity scheme represents the 23%, (€5.6 million), of the total estimated amount of €24 million available for distribution in the 2021/22 season.

The scheme aims to encourage simultaneous growth and increase standards, while taking account of the different local environments and varying stages of development in clubs and national associations throughout Europe. It is a key component of the new UEFA Women's Champions League financial distribution model, ensuring that money invested in or generated by the UEFA Women's Champions League will benefit all European top-division women's clubs.

Please note the following important information

1. Distribution criteria

Under the scheme, each association that entered at least one club in the 2021/22 UEFA Women's Champions League will receive an amount to distribute equally among all the clubs in its top-division domestic women's championship that did not participate in that season's Women's Champions League (see enclosure 1). The applicable domestic season is the same as that in which the solidarity payments are generated, i.e., the 2021/22 season for summer-to-spring leagues or the 2021 season for spring-to-autumn leagues.

The solidarity share that non-participating clubs are entitled to receive is directly correlated with the sporting performance of the participating clubs from their respective country. When an association has

more than one club in the Champions League, the club that progressed the furthest (i.e., the best performing) was used to calculate the amount.

2. Use of funds

The solidarity payments must be used by clubs to fulfil or improve one or more of the existing and measurable sporting, infrastructure, administrative and personnel criteria as laid down in the *UEFA Club Licensing Regulations for the Women's Champions League*. A summary of the eligible uses for these funds is attached (enclosure 2).

As the payments are for development purposes, they may not be used for the club's fixed and ordinary costs. Clubs with men's and women's sections may only use the funding for the women's section.

3. Application process

The national associations will be responsible for managing applications and communicating to clubs.

The following must be emailed to NAservices@uefa.ch, for the attention of Diana Linero, by 15 December:

1. A payment request indicating the amount in euros, together with the name, position and signature of the competent person at the national association.
2. The completed 'Solidarity Payments Scheme – Application form' (enclosure 3) with the names of the recipient clubs, criteria to be improved, specific areas to be addressed, and details of precisely how each club will invest the funding. The clubs listed must match those on the 'UEFA Women's Champions League 2021/22 Solidarity Payment Scheme – domestic competitions information' form previously submitted to UEFA by national associations.

On receipt of the documentation, UEFA will evaluate the applications prior to releasing the payments on 31 January 2023. Payments cannot be made unless associations comply with the requirements and deadline.

4. Payment procedure

Once the national association has received the amount due from UEFA, it must immediately distribute it in full to the eligible clubs, without retaining or earmarking any of that money for other purposes, and properly acknowledge the source of the funding. It is suggested that the following wording accompany payments to clubs:

"This payment is made under the UEFA Women's Champions League 2021/22 Solidarity Payments Scheme. Its purpose is to help clubs increase standards in line with the UEFA Women's Champions League licensing criteria and prepare clubs for future participation in the competition. The scheme provides a framework for clubs to support their own unique development needs, and is aligned with the strategic aims of UEFA, its member associations, and their clubs, to professionalise women's football. This payment is therefore to be used solely for the purpose stated by the club in accordance with the Solidarity Payments Scheme."

It should be noted that UEFA solidarity payments to clubs are separate from and must not replace any existing funding streams from the national associations to their clubs.

5. Records

National associations must keep a record of all clubs that receive funding. Records must include the amount received, and any other relevant information set out in this circular letter. Note that, after the first season, national associations will be requested to provide the UEFA administration with evidence that this money has been forwarded to the clubs concerned and has been used by them for the purpose stated on the application form.

Please also note that we may wish to quote the success of this solidarity mechanism in public documents, e.g., by listing the beneficiary clubs in UEFA publications, using information you have sent us.

Should you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact the UEFA National Associations Division (NAServices@uefa.ch).

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping to increase standards and professionalise the women's game.

Yours faithfully,

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Theodore Theodoridis
General Secretary

Enclosures

- UEFA Women's Champions League 2021/22 Solidarity Payment Scheme – Amounts to be paid
- UEFA Women's Champions League 2021/22 Solidarity Payments Scheme – List of eligible criteria
- UEFA Women's Champions League 2021/22 Solidarity Payments Scheme – Application form

cc (with enclosures)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA Women's Football Committee
- UEFA National Associations Committee
- UEFA Club Licensing Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA, Zurich
- ECA, Nyon