



No. 52/2023

TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of  
the President and the General Secretary

Your reference	Your correspondence of	Our reference F/WFD	Date 29 September 2023
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### **UEFA Minimum Standards Framework for Women's National Teams**

Dear Sir or Madam,

With reference to circular letter 44/2023, we are pleased to provide you with further information on the UEFA Minimum Standards Framework for Women's National Teams (the 'Framework'), approved by the UEFA Executive Committee on 28 June.

The Framework was created following independent research and extensive consultation with UEFA member associations, and national team captains and FIFPro Europe. Through this process, it became evident that different levels of development and wide disparities continue to exist in the provisions offered to women's national team players among nations. It was therefore decided that there was a sufficient need for further incentives and guidance from UEFA in this area.

As a result, this initiative aims to ensure that the same minimum standards are accessible to all senior women's national team players in all 55 national associations, while taking account of the different local and national contexts. Its primary objective is to enhance the professionalism of national team football by addressing key areas, such as sporting and technical provisions, as well as promoting good governance through incentive funding, clear guidance and supporting tools.

This project is one of the last outputs of the UEFA Women's Football Strategy 2019-24 – Time for Action, and has been devised to meet one of the strategy's five goals: to ensure minimum standards and conditions are available to all senior women's national team players in each of the 55 national associations.

This project does not sit in isolation and follows many recent strategic initiatives from UEFA to grow, develop and support women's national team football. This project will complement the increased quality standards in the UEFA Women's EURO and the new qualifying system, consisting of the UEFA Nations League and the UEFA European qualifiers.

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## Objectives

- Provide the best conditions for players to perform at the highest level when representing their country;
- Support all national associations by providing the best care and environments for players on duty for their national teams;
- Protect national associations and players alike through greater transparency and good governance;
- Increase the sporting level of all women's national teams;
- Foster stakeholder relations between national associations and players; and
- Create a platform for sharing best practices and transferring knowledge

## Implementation

Implementation of the Framework will be encouraged through the HatTrick VI programme, with an annual incentive payment of up to €100,000 allocated to each UEFA national association for meeting the Framework's requirements. Of this total, up to €70,000 will be available for implementing the sporting and technical provisions, and up to €30,000 for implementing the good governance provisions.

The key areas of the Framework are as follows:

### Sporting and technical

- Head coach
- Competition environments
- Training facilities and environments
- Medical personnel and health services

### Good governance

- Cooperative agreements between the national association and national team players
- Player welfare policies
- Promotion and advocacy

Each national association will be asked to complete a quality assurance self-evaluation that will serve as the basis for receiving the funding. This will also be used as an anonymous benchmarking tool for national associations. UEFA will provide further information regarding this quality assurance and self-assessment in the information session in November.

UEFA will allow a one-year preparatory phase (i.e. before HatTrick VI starts) and a 12-month 'transitional period' during the first year of the HatTrick VI cycle when no funding will be withheld (regardless of the level of compliance that year) so that national associations can work towards fulfilling the requirements.

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## Support

The UEFA administration will work with national associations, providing guidance and assistance to ensure that all requirements can be fulfilled. In addition, UEFA will create supporting tools in the form of best practice examples, contact information, templates and knowledge-sharing platforms.

To help UEFA assist national associations, they are asked to appoint a contact person and send their contact details to [womensfootballdevelopment@uefa.ch](mailto:womensfootballdevelopment@uefa.ch), by **30 October**. This individual will be invited to an information session in November.

We look forward to working together and continuing our cooperation with our national associations to take women's national team football to the next level.

Yours faithfully,

**U E F A**



Theodore Theodoridis  
General Secretary

### Enclosure

- UEFA Minimum Standards Framework for Women's National Teams

### cc (with enclosure)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA HatTrick Committee
- UEFA Women's Football Committee
- European members of the FIFA Council
- FIFA, Zurich