

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1282

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SG/ jle

FIFA Ballon d'Or 2011

Dear General Secretary,

The time has come once more to present a number of awards to the most deserving figures in football in Zurich on 9 January 2012.

For the second year in a row, the best player in men's football will receive the FIFA Ballon d'Or and the best player in women's football will be presented with the FIFA Women's World Player of the Year trophy. Likewise, the coaches of the year in men's and women's football will also pick up awards.

We therefore ask you to please ensure that the enclosed voting forms are completed by the coach and captain of your men's and women's national teams and to return them to us by no later than **18 November 2011**. If you do not have a women's national team at present, we would appreciate it if you would indicate this on the voting form. In addition, **we wish to inform you that the member associations' votes as well as their abstentions will be made public. Therefore, your cooperation will be greatly appreciated in ensuring that your association sends us their vote in the given time frame.**

Information on the voting process:

- the four lists enclosed have been drawn up by:
 - ✓ the Football Committee, the Technical and Development Committee along with experts from *France Football* for the Ballon d'Or and World Coach of the Year for Men's Football.
 - ✓ the Committee for Women's Football and the FIFA Women's World Cup™ and experts from *France Football* for the Women's World Player of the Year.
 - ✓ the Football Committee, the Technical and Development Committee and the Committee for Women's Football and the FIFA Women's World Cup™ as well as experts from *France Football* for the World Coach of the Year for Women's Football.
- Coaches and captains choose their three personal favourites from the lists supplied.
- The selection criteria for the players of the year (men's and women's) are: sporting performance as well as general behaviour on and off the pitch from 1 January 2011 until now.
- The selection criteria for the choice of coaches of the year are: sporting performance and general behaviour both on and off the pitch from 1 January 2011 until now.

- The media (different for men's and women's football) take part in the vote, with their votes accounting for 33% of the final result. The votes from national team coaches and captains will also account for 33% each.
- To help you make your selection, we have enclosed a summary of the greatest moments from 2011 for each of the players and coaches (men and women).

Thank you very much for your valuable cooperation in making the FIFA Ballon d'Or a major success.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

cc: Confederations
FIFA Executive Committee

Enc.: as mentioned

PLAYERS

Summary of the greatest moments 2011

Éric Abidal

Now 32, the hugely versatile Éric Abidal has thrived in the face of adversity in 2011, overcoming a health scare and shining in both the France and Barcelona rearguards.

Abidal, whose family hails from the French Caribbean island of Martinique, has proved a composed performer in the left-back slot handed to him by Pep Guardiola, his coolness under pressure a feature of *Barça's* league, UEFA Champions League and Spanish and European Super Cup triumphs.

Equally effective in a central defensive role for France, Abidal made a significant contribution to their successful bid for a place at UEFA EURO 2012. Highly regarded for his defensive solidity, he earned even greater admiration after undergoing surgery for a liver tumour in March and then making a spectacularly speedy return to the field of play.

Sergio Agüero

Though 2011 has been a year of upheaval for Sergio Agüero, the Argentinian ace has maintained his lofty standards on the field of play. Likened by many to Brazilian legend Romario, the fleet-footed forward ended a five-year association with Atlético Madrid just months after being made captain by moving to Manchester City.

His Premier League debut could not have been more productive, Agüero conjuring up a 31-minute two-goal cameo against Swansea City. *El Kun* has also starred on the international front, top-scoring for his country with three goals at the 2011 *Copa América*.

Karim Benzema

2011 has been a year of renewal for Karim Benzema. Now settled in at the Bernabeu, the former Lyon prodigy has made himself an indispensable part of the Real Madrid front line, using his technique and speed to great effect last season, which he ended with 26 goals in all competitions as well as numerous assists, not to mention a *Copa del Rey* winners' medal.

Overlooked for France's ill-fated 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™ campaign, Benzema has also revived his international career, leading *Les Bleus'* attack with characteristic élan in their fruitful quest for a place at UEFA EURO 2012.

Iker Casillas

Capable of maintaining his concentration when his team-mates are laying siege to opposing goals, Iker Casillas is regarded as something of a saint in Spanish football, his divine interventions between the posts for both club and country earning him widespread admiration. Having lost none of his agility over the years, Casillas' maturity and strength of character have made him an obvious choice as captain for both club and country, his coolness under pressure proving a valuable asset.

In a year in which he won the *Copa del Rey* with Real Madrid and conceded fewer league goals than anyone bar Barcelona's Víctor Valdés, Casillas also played nine games for his country, keeping five clean sheets. He is now just one appearance away from equalling Andoni Zubizarreta as Spain's most-capped player, having conceded far fewer goals than his illustrious predecessor.

Cristiano Ronaldo

Cristiano Ronaldo has never been deterred by seemingly impossible objectives and long-standing records. Take Ferenc Puskás' single-season haul of 47 goals in all competitions for Real Madrid in 1959/60, for example. The Portuguese smashed that club record last season, hitting the back of the net approximately every 70 minutes to chalk up 53 goals in all, 40 of them in the league, itself another all-time high. Despite amassing a host of team and personal accolades, among them the FIFA World Player of the Year award in 2008 and the Puskás Award the following year, the Portugal and Real Madrid star shows no signs of letting up in his continuing quest for excellence.

Dani Alves

In carving out a niche for himself in a formidable line-up, Brazilian right-back Dani Alves has shown there is more to Barcelona's attacking weaponry than their posse of gifted midfielders and forwards.

Producing his trademark runs down the flank and pin-point passes and centres, Alves was a leading light yet again as the Catalans surged to a Spanish league and UEFA Champions League double in 2010/11. Little wonder then that the full-back is one of the few Brazil players who served under Dunga to have kept their place in Mano Menezes' new-look *Seleção*.

Samuel Eto'o

The years may pass but Samuel Eto'o's appetite for goals remains as keen as ever. The Cameroonian struck 37 of them for Inter Milan in a typically productive 2010/11 season. *I Nerazzurri* made plenty of that contribution to come away with three trophies – the *Supercoppa Italiana*, the FIFA Club World Cup and the *Coppa Italia* – with Eto'o scoring in the finals of all three.

His decisive role in the *Coppa* victory over Palermo was one of his last appearances for the Milanese giants, with Russian Premier League outfit Anzhi Makhachkala signing him in a much-publicised summer transfer deal.

Crowned the African Footballer of the Year on four occasions, more than any other player, Eto'o will be a major absentee at the CAF African Cup of Nations 2012, his beloved Cameroon having come up short in the qualifying competition.

Cesc Fàbregas

Cesc Fàbregas brought an end to a long-running saga in August 2011, finally relinquishing the captain's armband at Arsenal to return home to his beloved Barcelona. Immediately quelling doubts as to how he would shape up in *Barça's* star-studded formation, Fàbregas won his first trophy with the Catalans, the Spanish Super Cup, just two days after his unveiling at the Camp Nou.

A week later he scored his first goal for the club in their UEFA Super Cup win over Porto, the Spanish international equalling in ten days with Barcelona his entire trophy haul in eight years with Arsenal.

Freed from the responsibility of creating play, Fàbregas is revelling in a more incisive, attacking role with his new club and has wasted little time in striking up a near-telepathic understanding with Lionel Messi.

Diego Forlàn

Diego Forlàn could have been forgiven for resting on his laurels after blazing his way to the adidas Golden Boot at the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™. The blond-maned striker has lost none of his focus, however, a point he proved when Uruguay won their 15th *Copa América* crown in July, Forlàn chipping in with two goals in a comprehensive defeat of Paraguay in the final. In doing so, he maintained a proud family tradition, his grandfather and father having also won the coveted continental title.

His country's most-capped player and highest goalscorer, Forlàn called time on his four-year stay with Atlético Madrid to seek out a fresh challenge with Inter Milan. Days after scoring against Palermo on his *Nerazzurri* debut, he lined up against Novara for the 600th game of his professional career.

Andrés Iniesta

"I don't play the game to be number one," Andrés Iniesta once said, "I play to be happy." So adept is the Barcelona and Spain midfielder with the ball at his feet, however, that it is only natural his name should feature high on the shortlist for any individual award.

Ranked the fourth-best player in last season's UEFA Champions League, the diminutive wizard is still warmly applauded wherever he goes in Spain, national appreciation for his FIFA World Cup™-winning goal at South Africa 2010 remaining as high as ever.

Though afflicted by a string of niggling injuries, Iniesta has quickly regained top form. Few possess his ability to detect chinks in opposing defences and to change the pace of the game, qualities that have helped take both club and country to the pinnacle of European and world football and keep them there.

Lionel Messi

2011 has been just like any other year for Lionel Messi since he burst on to the international football scene; another 12 months littered with personal and team accolades.

Promoted to the captaincy of his national side, with whom he ended a scoring drought of two years and seven months in official matches, the Argentinian superstar has been reeling off the trophies again with Barcelona. The Spanish Super Cup, UEFA Super Cup, Spanish league and UEFA Champions League all have all come *Barça's* way this year, with Messi ending the continent's premier club competition as the leading scorer for the third season running.

Already his club's second-highest marksman with 194 goals, Messi also picked up the inaugural UEFA Best Player in Europe Award ahead of team-mate Xavi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Thomas Müller

Thomas Müller reproduced his fine form from the previous year in 2011. After being voted Best Young Player at the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa, where he also collected the adidas Golden Boot as the tournament's top scorer, the right-sided midfielder has continued to deliver the goods both for Germany and his club side Bayern Munich.

The 22-year-old may have missed out on a title with the German giants last term, but 12 goals and 13 assists ensured he remained among the *Bundesliga's* most prized attackers. Müller was one of only three players, along with goalkeeper Manuel Neuer and captain Philipp Lahm, to play in all of Germany's ten UEFA EURO 2012 qualifiers, scoring three goals and providing five assists en route to Poland/Ukraine.

Nani

Nani has collected more than his fair share of silverware during a notable five-year association with English giants Manchester United, standing out from the crowd thanks to the panache with which he plays the game. Born in the Cape Verde Islands, the Portugal wizard has built his reputation on his dazzling wing play, intricate dribbling skills and his uncanny knack of getting to the by-line. As adept at setting up team-mates as he is rounding off moves himself, Nani struck nine goals in United's march to yet another league title last term.

Neymar

Accustomed to the limelight since the age of 14, Neymar has become a household name in Brazil and one of its brightest hopes for the future.

The precocious Santos star has spent 2011 fulfilling the vast expectations invested in him, contributing to their successful São Paulo state title defence and inspiring them to a third *Copa Libertadores* triumph. On top of that, the 19-year-old also played a major hand in Brazil's U-20 South American Championship win, one that secured *A Seleçãozinha* a berth at London 2012.

The two-footed Neymar is a handful for any defence with his mazy dribbling and increasingly lethal finishing, qualities that have made him a fixture in the senior Brazil team and a recognised star of world football.

Mesut Özil

2011 has proven to be another triumphant year for Mesut Özil. Following his breakthrough at the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa, the 23-year-old soon earned a regular starting spot with new club Real Madrid, with whom he celebrated glory in the Spanish Cup as well as a runners-up finish in *La Liga*.

The skilful playmaker also had a leading role as Germany booked their place at UEFA EURO 2012 with a perfect qualification record of ten wins in as many matches. Özil appeared in nine of those games, scoring five goals and creating a further seven.

Gerard Piqué

Barcelona's feat in conceding fewer goals than any other team in *La Liga* last season was made all the more impressive by the fact that stalwart centre-half Carles Puyol missed a large chunk of the campaign through injury. While goalkeeper Víctor Valdés was his usual reliable self, Gerard Piqué played a no-less crucial part in keeping things watertight, assuming the responsibility of marshalling the defence in Puyol's absence and performing a similarly commanding role for Spain.

Still only 24, the cultured central defender has refined his already acute positional sense, providing a reassuring presence behind *Barça* and Spain's advanced midfield lines. Equally imposing whenever he joins the attack, Piqué collected four more winners' medals with his club in 2011, a year in which he furthered his reputation as the defensive rock of Spanish football.

Wayne Rooney

After a topsy-turvy 2010 for both club and country, Wayne Rooney has spent the past year cementing his place among world football's elite.

With a contract dispute and goal drought behind him, 2011 witnessed the Manchester United star strike up a superb partnership with Javier Hernández which proved crucial in securing a record-breaking 19th title for the *Red Devils*. Returning to a deeper-lying role brought out the best in the 26-year-old, and individual highlights included a sublime match-winning overhead kick in the Manchester derby and a typically explosive finish in United's UEFA Champions League final defeat by Barcelona.

Rooney also remained the focal point of England's attack as Fabio Capello's side qualified comfortably for UEFA EURO 2012, although a flash of his famous temper in their final qualifier earned a suspension that will rule him out of the *Three Lions'* group-stage matches in Poland and Ukraine.

Bastian Schweinsteiger

Bastian Schweinsteiger is the engine room at the heart of the Bayern Munich midfield and also ranks among the finest of a generation of world-class players in the German national team thanks to his superb vision and passing.

The midfielder pulled the strings as his country came through qualifying for UEFA EURO 2012 with an impeccable record, bringing order to his side's build-up play and contributing one goal and one assist as the three-time world champions cruised to a place in Poland/Ukraine.

Wesley Sneijder

Matching a year in which he became a European and world champion with Inter Milan and was named second-best player at the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ was always likely to prove tough for Wesley Sneijder. However, although Inter's fading fortunes did not aid his cause, this classy midfield schemer has succeeded in strengthening his reputation as one of the game's foremost creative talents.

A *Coppa Italia* win might have represented meagre reward for the 27-year-old's efforts at club level but the international arena brought greater joy, with the Netherlands' consistently fine form sending them strolling through to UEFA EURO 2012 and rocketing for a time to the top of the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking.

The close season brought with it sustained speculation about a move to Manchester United, but Sneijder stayed put in Milan and remains of vital importance to Inter and the *Oranje's* hopes of glory.

Luis Suárez

Uruguayan livewire Luis Suárez is unlikely to forget 2011 in a hurry, the 24-year-old having this year cemented his status as one of the game's most predatory strikers at both international and domestic level.

The Nacional youth product was central to Uruguay's latest *Copa América* triumph. After hitting four goals in all, one of them in the final against Paraguay, he was named the competition's most valuable player. Suárez also took a big step forward in his club career, completing the biggest-ever transfer deal involving a Uruguayan player when he ended a five-year stay in the *Eredivisie* to pull on Liverpool's famous red shirt.

No sooner had he arrived at Anfield than the goals started coming, Suárez getting off the mark 17 minutes into his debut appearance against Stoke City.

David Villa

Spanish goal machine David Villa has not let up since easing past Raúl as his country's all-time highest scorer in March, going on to add yet more goals to his record-breaking tally for *La Roja*. On the club front, Villa won three titles in his first season with Barcelona, scoring the goal that set the seal on their majestic 3-1 defeat of Manchester United in the UEFA Champions League final in May. Spanish and UEFA Super Cup winners' medals have since come the Asturian striker's way, and although he has found goals harder to come by in the wider position Pep Guardiola has been deploying him in, the tireless Villa continues to contribute to the team cause.

Xabi Alonso

The man charged with the task of setting the tempo in the Real Madrid midfield, Xabi Alonso has gained the complete confidence of coach José Mourinho. Elegant and poised on the ball, his vision and ability to hit long raking passes are pivotal to *Los Merengues'* lethal counter-attacking game.

A member of the team that won the *Copa del Rey* this year, his first trophy with the club, the unassuming Alonso is a crucial cog in the Madrid machine, and with 90 international appearances now under his belt, he lies sixth on the list of most-capped Spain players.

Xavi

The undisputed king of possession football, Xavi has been his usual ultra-consistent self in 2011, producing a string of typically polished displays as he moved third on the list of Spain's most capped players and set a new appearances record for his club employers, Barcelona.

The vastly experienced midfield maestro was integral to *Barça's* four trophy wins during the course of the year, his gift for recycling possession and dictating the pace undimmed. Responsible for providing Lionel Messi with a steady supply of bullets, the selfless Xavi finished runner-up to his Argentinian team-mate for the UEFA Best Player in Europe Award.

FEMALE PLAYERS

Summary of the greatest moments 2011

Sonia Bompastor

A French and European champion with Olympique Lyonnais, Sonia Bompastor was part of the France side that reached the semi-finals at Germany 2011, where she was named in the Team of the Tournament. Bompastor made eight assists in contributing to Lyon's 2011 French league title success, the experienced left-back ending last season on the highest of notes when OL won the UEFA Women's Champions League. A former France youth team player, Bompastor was also a key member of a *Les Bleues* side that created history in reaching the last four of the FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011™.

Kerstin Garefrekes

Germany's lightning-quick winger Kerstin Garefrekes was once again among the top performers in women's football in 2011 as her sharp shooting and physical prowess propelled club side 1. FFC Frankfurt to glory in the German Women's Cup.

The 32-year-old may have been unable to prevent Germany's quarter-final exit at the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011™ on home turf, but still she stood out as one of the most consistent campaigners among Silvia Neid's star ensemble. Garefrekes, who captained her country in two matches at the finals, registered two goals and one assist to secure her place in the Team of the Tournament.

Marta

The winner of the last five FIFA Women's World Player of the Year awards.. At club level, she lifted the Women's Professional Soccer Championship with the Western New York Flash, the upstate New York club claiming both the regular-season and play-off titles.

Just for good measure, the Brazilian star also ended the season as the leading scorer for the third time running. The low point of the year came at Germany 2011. Despite serving up two assists and hitting four goals to join Germany's Birgit Prinz as the joint highest scorer in the history of the FIFA Women's World Cup™ with 14, the magical Marta was unable to prevent Brazil from going down to a quarter-final defeat to the USA.

Aya Miyama

In her second appearance at a FIFA Women's World Cup™, midfielder Aya Miyama confirmed both her status as one of Japan's most talented players and her ability to find the net at crucial moments. Despite scoring just two goals in her six games at Germany 2011, Miyama's contribution to her country's first-ever FIFA Women's World Cup title was invaluable. After getting the winning goal in Japan's opening 2-1 defeat of New Zealand from a free kick, the exhilarating playmaker had to wait until the final to notch her second. Once again though, it would be priceless, with Miyama's 81st minute equaliser against the USA taking the game into extra time. With neither team able to break the deadlock, Miyama and Co eventually claimed the title after a dramatic penalty shoot-out victory.

Alex Morgan

2011 turned out to be an unforgettable year for the USA's Alex Morgan, who made the considerable leap from promising talent to world-class performer in the space of a few short months. Having already helped her homeland to glory at the prestigious Algarve Cup, where Morgan finished as top scorer with three goals, the pacey striker capped a magnificent season by winning the national title with the Western New York Flash.

However, the highlight of Morgan's year was the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011™ in Germany, where the youngest member of the USA squad showcased her abilities on the biggest stage of all. Morgan appeared in five matches and scored two goals, including one in the final, which the *Stars and Stripes* eventually lost on penalties to Japan.

Louisa Nécib

In a season in which she won French and European titles with Olympique Lyonnais, Louisa Nécib also earned a place in the Team of the Tournament at Germany 2011 after helping France to the semis. After collecting her fourth consecutive French championship winners' medal, having contributed 14 goals in their march to the title, midfielder Nécib then played her part in the French club's maiden UEFA Women's Champions League triumph. Nécib contributed to France's exciting run to the semi-finals of the FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011™, her performances securing her a place in the Team of the Tournament.

Homare Sawa

For Japanese veteran Homare Sawa, 2011 was surely the best year yet of her impressive career, with the midfielder picking up a raft of titles and personal honours.

Sawa's participation in the FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011™ was her fifth appearance at the women's game's premier tournament. After making her debut in 1995 at the FIFA Women's World Cup in Sweden, the veteran playmaker had to wait another 16 years before claiming the trophy with her team-mates.

However, if taking home a gold medal were not enough, Sawa also made a clean sweep of the individual awards in Germany, winning the adidas Golden Ball for the decisive role she played in leading Japan to the title, and the adidas Golden Boot for her five goals scored in the process.

Lotta Schelin

When Lotta Schelin won the UEFA Women's Champions League with her French club Olympique Lyonnais on 26 May, it was clear that the Swedish striker had a special year in store in 2011. Far from being contented with that success, the pacey forward travelled to the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011™ in Germany just a few weeks later full of confidence. Schelin led her team to third place at the finals, ensuring the *Blagult's* place at the Olympic Women's Football Tournament in London next year.

The 27-year-old chipped in with two goals and two assists en route to claiming the bronze medal at Germany 2011, impressing fans and experts alike with her dynamic attacking style and consolidating her reputation as Sweden's star player.

Hope Solo

Hope Solo lived up to her reputation as one of the greatest goalkeepers in the modern game when she starred at the FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011™, the USA custodian receiving some consolation for her side's defeat in the final by picking up the adidas Bronze Ball and adidas Golden Glove.

Getting that far was an achievement in itself for the determined Solo, who underwent an operation on her right shoulder in September 2010 before regaining peak fitness in time for the world finals. The keeper also played 13 games for her club magicJack in their run to last season's Women's Professional Soccer semi-finals.

Abby Wambach

Abby Wambach had every intention of making the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011™ her tournament, and the 31-year-old striker came mighty close to claiming the title in Germany, only to lose the final on penalties against Japan. Nevertheless, the 165-cap striker certainly made her mark on the competition.

Wambach's four goals (including an equaliser against Brazil in the quarter-final) and one assist confirmed her reputation as the USA's most lethal player, and also earned her the adidas Silver Ball as the tournament's second-best player as well as the adidas Bronze Boot as its third-top scorer.

MEN'S FOOTBALL COACHES

Summary of the greatest moments 2011

Vicente del Bosque

Victorious at South Africa 2010, Vicente del Bosque has continued to demand the very highest standards from his Spain side, who sealed their place at UEFA EURO 2012 after winning all of their matches for the second qualification campaign in a row. In the meantime, the unruffled coach has sought to safeguard *La Roja's* future by bedding in new players, while calmly preventing club rivalries from affecting relations in his squad. A 2-1 friendly defeat by Italy has been the only blemish in a year in which Del Bosque's side went unbeaten in their official games, ending their run to Ukraine and Poland with a perfect record of eight wins in as many games, scoring 26 goals and conceding just six.

Alex Ferguson

Having surpassed Matt Busby as Manchester United's longest-serving manager in December of last year, Alex Ferguson has used 2011 to remind everyone just why he has enjoyed such unparalleled longevity.

The highlight of the Scot's year was undoubtedly United's record-breaking 19th league title, a feat that confirmed the 69-year-old's long-stated ambition of knocking Liverpool from their historically pre-eminent perch. There were disappointments too, most notably another UEFA Champions League final defeat by Barcelona, but none sufficient to dampen this managerial giant's renowned passion and hunger for success.

Indeed, Ferguson's reaction to being outdone by the Catalans was simply to instigate another period of rebuilding, replacing outgoing stalwarts with emerging stars such as Phil Jones, Ashley Young and David de Gea. All will doubtless benefit from being guided by a veteran of 37 years in the dugout and a man firmly established as modern football's most successful manager.

Rudi Garcia

Since taking charge at Lille in 2008, the studious Rudi Garcia has earned widespread acclaim for fashioning an enterprising, attack-minded side and nurturing a clutch of bright young talents.

Adil Rami, Eden Hazard and Gervinho are just three of the players indebted to Garcia, who was rewarded for his cultured approach when Lille outclassed France's traditional powerhouses to secure a magnificent league and cup double this year, the club's first since 1946.

Widely respected in France, Garcia now has the opportunity to make his name across the continent as *Les Dogues*, who are in the mix for the French title once again, bid for a place in the knockout phase of the UEFA Champions League.

Pep Guardiola

No Barcelona coach has won as many trophies in as little time as Pep Guardiola. Still only 40, the former cultured midfielder has steered *Barça* to a dozen titles already, while making them the benchmark by which all other teams are measured. A consummate strategist and motivator, Guardiola worked his magic again last season as *Barça* surged to a *La Liga* and UEFA Champions League double, seeing off rivals of the calibre of Real Madrid and Manchester United with style and panache. Though Guardiola's charges lost out to *Los Merengues* in a gripping Copa del Rey final, they went on to claim the Spanish and European Super Cup titles, the prelude to what he hopes will be another successful FIFA Club World Cup campaign in December.

José Mourinho

The inaugural winner of the FIFA Men's Football Coach of the Year award, José Mourinho is in the running yet again after bringing his impressive credentials to bear in his first season in the Real Madrid hotseat. In fashioning a formidable unit, the charismatic and controversial Portuguese oversaw the club's first *Copa del Rey* triumph in 18 years and pushed a virtually unbeatable Barcelona all the way in the league, while also reaching the last four of the UEFA Champions League. *Los Blancos* have been in even more impressive form at the start of the new campaign, executing Mourinho's meticulous strategies to perfection in a string of ruthless and stylish performances.

Jürgen Klopp

Jürgen Klopp will remember 2011 as the year he made his breakthrough as one of the most renowned and revered coaches in world football. Word soon spread of his meticulous work at Borussia Dortmund, where he turned a team of relative unknowns into an exciting young team which stormed to the 2010/11 *Bundesliga* title.

Klopp may have only made it as high as the second tier as a player, but it soon became clear that his true calling lay on the touchline. A sports science graduate, his extensive knowledge and unbridled emotion make him one of the most likeable characters in the game, not to mention a figurehead for a new breed of German coaches.

Joachim Löw

After leading Germany to third place at the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa with a dynamic style that earned him plaudits the world over, Joachim Löw's star continued to rise in 2011. In qualifying for UEFA EURO 2012, the 51-year-old masterminded a perfect campaign in which his side recorded ten victories in as many games to secure their place in Poland/Ukraine with minimum fuss.

Löw's stamp on the national side, which he inherited from Jürgen Klinsmann after the 2006 FIFA World Cup™, has long been in evidence. The refined tactician has managed to combine attractive attacking play with consistent success by way of smooth transitions and precision passing. Löw has used the past few months to further implement his philosophy, bringing through a string of talented young players to form a national squad capable of great things in 2012.

Óscar Tabárez

Now 64, Uruguayan coach Óscar Washington Tabárez earned global recognition in his second spell in charge of *La Celeste*. At the Uruguay helm for the 1990 FIFA World Cup Italy™, *El Maestro* returned to the big stage at South Africa 2010, guiding the national side to the semi-finals, an achievement they followed up on by winning the 2011 *Copa América* title in Argentina without losing a game. Those successes took the Uruguayans up to fourth in the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking in 2011, their highest placing in 18 years and a testament to the methodical, low-profile approach of the former Boca Juniors and AC Milan coach.

André Villas-Boas

Despite being younger than some of the players under his command, André Villas-Boas satisfied the expectations of even the most demanding Porto fans when he took up the reins at the club at the tender age of 33, promptly leading *Os Dragões* to a Portuguese Cup, UEFA Europa League and Portuguese League treble.

That remarkable achievement, which included an unbeaten championship campaign, attracted the attention of Premier League powerhouses Chelsea, with the astute and precociously gifted tactician following the very same path his mentor José Mourinho had taken seven years earlier.

Arsène Wenger

Even during tough times, Arsène Wenger has remained faithful to his attack-minded, teamwork-based principles and approach. The second half of the 2010/11 campaign was difficult for Arsenal, as the team could only manage a final placing of fourth in the Premier League, but they nevertheless secured a spot in the UEFA Champions League by successfully negotiating the play-off round at the start of the following season.

In the 2010/11 edition of the tournament, the *Gunners* pulled off a remarkable victory over Barcelona in the first leg of their round-of-16 encounter, but could not hang on to their lead in the return leg in Catalonia. Wenger continues to unearth a host of talented young players.

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL COACHES

Summary of the greatest moments 2011

Bruno Bini

After just four years as the coach of Les Bleues, former FFF women's national youth team coach Bruno Bini guided France to the semi-finals of the FIFA Women's World Cup Germany 2011™, the furthest they have ever gone in the competition. As well catapulting them into the world's elite, that performance also ensured the French a place at the Women's Olympic Football Tournament London 2012.

Leonardo Cuéllar

A key figure in the development of the women's game in Mexico for the last 13 years, Leonardo Cuéllar steered *La Tricolor* to their debut FIFA Women's World Cup™ appearance at USA 1999. He repeated that achievement in taking them to Germany 2011, where his charges missed out on a place in the quarter-finals after drawing with England and New Zealand and losing to eventual champions Japan. Aside from his responsibilities with the full national team, Cuéllar also supervises the country's youth sides as well as projects designed to consolidate women's football in Mexico.

Thomas Dennerby

Having failed to lead Sweden beyond the group stage at the FIFA Women's World Cup 2007™, Thomas Dennerby went into Germany 2011 with a major point to prove. Six games later, the 52-year-old had re-affirmed his top-level credentials and re-established the Swedes as one of the women's game's heavyweights.

A third-place finish was impressive enough in itself, but it was the stylish manner in which Dennerby's side played throughout the global showpiece that earned most admirers. Only Japan, the eventual champions, were able to stop the Swedes as they defeated several formidable rivals – among them the USA, Australia and France – to take the final place on the podium.

Patrice Lair

Patrice Lair made quite a start to his tenure at Olympique Lyonnais, masterminding their fifth French championship win in a row, secured with a 14-point margin, and then overseeing the club's first UEFA Women's Champions League title success.

Maren Meinert

Maren Meinert confirmed her rise to the elite of women's coaching by guiding the host nation to glory at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup Germany 2010. The team supervised by the former international, who was a FIFA Women's World Cup™ winner with Germany in 2003, won all six of their matches en route to claiming the trophy.

The 38-year-old has continued her successful stint with the German FA (DFB) junior teams in 2011. Germany comfortably won the UEFA U-19 Women's EURO, claiming a fourth triumph at continental level to go with previous successes in 2002, 2006 and 2007. In the final, Meinert's team swept aside strong opposition from Norway in a blistering 8-1 win.

Hope Powell

Now approaching her 15th year as England coach, Hope Powell set a new national record in September when she took charge of the *Three Lionesses* for the 140th time.

That landmark established the 44-year-old as the longest-serving coach of any England team, male or female, and provided a timely reminder of her remarkable staying power. Powell had hoped for more at this year's FIFA Women's World Cup™ than another quarter-final exit, but she did at least have the consolation of masterminding a 2-0 win over Japan – the eventual winners' only defeat in Germany.

Norio Sasaki

Norio Sasaki took the reins of Japan in 2007, taking them through a solid period of incremental growth, before enjoying a remarkable 2011. Japan previously had just one FIFA Women's World Cup™ quarter-final appearance to their name, but all that changed at Germany 2011.

Sasaki guided his unheralded side past the likes of host nation Germany, Sweden and then a stunning victory against world no. 1 the USA to claim Asia's first senior world crown. The *Nadeshiko* won the world title in style by playing a modern and dynamic possession game, and to prove it was no fluke, Sasaki then led his team to first place in Asia's qualifying competition for London 2012.

Tom Sermanni

One of the most experienced coaches in women's football, having featured at the FIFA Women's World Cup 1995™, Tom Sermanni needed all his guile to mould another successful Australian team in 2011.

Despite possessing the third-youngest playing group at Germany 2011, Sermanni successfully took Australia to a quarter-final appearance for the second successive time, with the *Matildas* defeating former world champions Norway en route. Five teenagers were just some of the bold squad selections from the Scottish-born coach, with the inclusion of Germany 2011 Hyundai Best Young Player Caitlin Foord the most notable.

Pia Sundhage

2011 was a successful year for Pia Sundhage and the USA women's national team. In March, the side coached by the former Sweden international won the Algarve Cup for the eighth time. At the prestigious tournament in Portugal, USA beat Japan (2-1), Norway (2-0), Finland (4-0) and Iceland (4-2) to secure the trophy.

The North Americans also boast an impressive playing record for the year. In 19 matches, Sundhage and her team only left the field defeated on four occasions, two of them at the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011™ in Germany. The US, who remain top of the FIFA/Coca-Cola Women's World Ranking, lost in the group stage to Sweden, their coach's home country. The second defeat came in the dramatic final against Japan, a thrilling encounter that went all the way to penalties.

Jorge Vilda

A mere 30 years old, Jorge Vilda already has an excellent record as Spain's national women's youth coach. Taking up the U-17 reins in 2009, he guided the team to the European title a year later and the bronze medal at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Trinidad and Tobago 2010. He has continued the good work this year, steering the Spanish U-17s to a successful defence of their continental crown.

Please complete this form in CAPITAL LETTERS

Confederation:

Member association:

Voting form (MALE PLAYERS)

The three best male players in 2011 are:

Please place a cross alongside your **three** selections.

1st = 5 points; 2nd = 3 points; 3rd = 1 point.

NAME	FIRST NAME	COUNTRY	VOTE OF COACH OF MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM			VOTE OF CAPTAIN OF MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM		
			1 st	2 nd	3 rd	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
			5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt
Abidal	Éric	France						
Agüero	Sergio	Argentina						
Benzema	Karim	France						
Casillas	Iker	Spain						
Cristiano Ronaldo		Portugal						
Dani Alves		Brazil						
Eto'o	Samuel	Cameroon						
Fàbregas	Cesc	Spain						
Forlán	Diego	Uruguay						
Iniesta	Andrés	Spain						
Messi	Lionel	Argentina						
Müller	Thomas	Germany						
Nani		Portugal						
Neymar		Brazil						
Özil	Mesut	Germany						
Piqué	Gerard	Spain						
Rooney	Wayne	England						
Schweinsteiger	Bastian	Germany						
Sneijder	Wesley	Netherlands						
Suárez	Luis	Uruguay						
Villa	David	Spain						
Xabi Alonso		Spain						
Xavi		Spain						

NAME OF COACH:

NAME OF CAPTAIN:

SIGNATURE OF COACH:

SIGNATURE OF CAPTAIN:

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– by fax to the FIFA Special Events & Guest Management Department: +41-43-222 7878

– or by e-mail to fifaballondor2011@fifa.org

Association's
Stamp

**Signature of President
or General Secretary:**

Place and date:

Please complete this form in CAPITAL LETTERS

Confederation:

Member association:

Voting form (FEMALE PLAYERS)

The three best female players in 2011 are:

Please place a cross alongside your **three** selections.

1st = 5 points; 2nd = 3 points; 3rd = 1 point.

NAME	FIRST NAME	COUNTRY	VOTE OF COACH OF WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM			VOTE OF CAPTAIN OF WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM		
			1 st	2 nd	3 rd	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
			5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt
Bompastor	Sonia	France						
Garefrekes	Kerstin	Germany						
Marta		Brazil						
Miyama	Aya	Japan						
Morgan	Alex	USA						
Nécib	Louisa	France						
Sawa	Homare	Japan						
Schelin	Lotta	Sweden						
Solo	Hope	USA						
Wambach	Abby	USA						

NAME OF COACH:

NAME OF CAPTAIN:

SIGNATURE OF COACH:

SIGNATURE OF CAPTAIN:

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Please complete this form in CAPITAL LETTERS

Confederation:.....

Member association:

Voting form (MEN'S FOOTBALL COACHES)

The three best coaches for men's football in 2011 are:

Please place a cross alongside your **three** selections.

1st = 5 points; 2nd = 3 points; 3rd = 1 point.

NAME	FIRST NAME	COUNTRY	Club/national team	VOTE OF COACH OF MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM			VOTE OF CAPTAIN OF MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM		
				1 st	2 nd	3 rd	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
				5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt
Del Bosque	Vicente	Spain	Spain national team						
Ferguson	Alex	Scotland	Manchester United FC						
Garcia	Rudi	France	Lille OSC						
Guardiola	Pep	Spain	FC Barcelona						
Klopp	Jürgen	Germany	Borussia Dortmund						
Löw	Joachim	Germany	Germany national team						
Mourinho	José	Portugal	Real Madrid F.C.						
Tabárez	Óscar	Uruguay	Uruguay national team						
Villas-Boas	André	Portugal	FC Porto/Chelsea FC						
Wenger	Arsène	France	Arsenal FC						

NAME OF COACH:

NAME OF CAPTAIN:

SIGNATURE OF COACH:

SIGNATURE OF CAPTAIN:

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Signature of President or General Secretary

Place and date:

Association's
Stamp

Please complete this form in CAPITAL LETTERS

Confederation:

Member association:

Voting form (WOMEN'S FOOTBALL COACHES)

The three best coaches for women's football in 2011 are:

Please place a cross alongside your **three** selections.
1st = 5 points; 2nd = 3 points; 3rd = 1 point.

NAME	FIRST NAME	COUNTRY	Club/national team	VOTE OF COACH OF WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM			VOTE OF CAPTAIN OF WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM		
				1 st	2 nd	3 rd	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
				5 pts	3 pts	1 pt	5 pts	3 pts	1 pt
Bini	Bruno	France	France women's national team						
Cuéllar	Leonardo	Mexico	Mexico women's national team						
Dennerby	Thomas	Sweden	Sweden women's national team						
Lair	Patrice	France	Olympique Lyonnais (France)						
Meinert	Maren	Germany	Germany U-20 women's national team						
Powell	Hope	England	England women's national team						
Sasaki	Norio	Japan	Japan women's national team						
Sermanni	Tom	Australia	Australia women's national team						
Sundhage	Pia	Sweden	USA women's national team						
Vilda	Jorge	Spain	Spain U-17 women's national team						

NAME OF COACH:

NAME OF CAPTAIN:

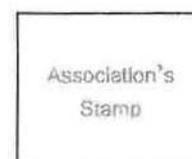
SIGNATURE OF COACH:

SIGNATURE OF CAPTAIN:

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Signature of President or General Secretary

Place and date: