TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1230

Zurich, 5 July 2010
SG/frt

Regulations on the Organisation of Refereeing in FIFA Member Associations

Dear Sir or Madam,

According to art. 13 par. 1 (e) of the FIFA Statutes, each member association is obliged to establish a referees committee which is directly subordinate to the member association.

In order to develop this article and assist with the organisation of the refereeing in the member associations, we would like to inform you that the FIFA Executive Committee approved the Regulations on the Organisation of Refereeing in FIFA Member Associations at its meeting on 19 March 2010.

Five copies of these new regulations are enclosed for distribution in your association, especially for the members of the referees committee and/or referees department. Additional copies may be ordered if necessary and in any case an electronic version is available on FIFA.com.

The contents of this booklet are intended to assist member associations and match officials with their respective duties and responsibilities. These regulations provide some basic principles which must be followed while at the same time recognising that there will be differences between associations.

The regulations basically consist of four main chapters:

1. The referees committee (composition and duties)
2. The refereeing department (composition and duties)
3. The referees (referee categories, appointment, promotion and demotion)
4. Refereeing development programmes

The regulations came into force on 1 April 2010 and apply to all member associations. The provisions of these regulations shall be compulsory for member associations as of 1 April 2011. In addition, the member associations have exclusive competence, not granted to any other bodies such as the leagues, unions or government, to develop and implement these regulations at national level.

FIFA’s development offices and in particular FIFA’s refereeing development officers will help the member associations with the implementation of the regulations.
Furthermore, this year FIFA will be organising seminars for chairmen of referees committee, heads of refereeing, referee administrators, etc. (depending on the association) within the framework of the Refereeing Assistance Programme, at which these regulations will be explained and discussed.

We trust that these regulations will serve to harmonise the organisation of refereeing and, most importantly, help to develop refereeing in the member associations of FIFA.

We appreciate your cooperation in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

cc: - FIFA Executive Committee
    - FIFA Referees Committee
    - FIFA Development Offices
    - Confederations