Dear Sir or Madam,

At a Special Meeting in Zurich on 18 May 2010, the International Football Association Board (IFAB) – as the guardians of the Laws of the Game – reviewed the experiment with two additional assistant referees that was carried out in the 2009/2010 UEFA Europa League.

In accordance with the decision of the IFAB Annual General Meeting on 6 March 2010, the Special Meeting on 18 May had the authority to determine whether or not to continue this experiment. Having received a number of reports confirming the positive outcome of the experiment in the Europa League, the members participating in the meeting on 18 May 2010 agreed to continue the experiment until the 126th IFAB Annual General Meeting in March 2012, but not to limit it to a single confederation.

It is important to note that the following basic criteria must be met:

1. the experiment must be conducted in member associations’ professional leagues (national championships) and other confederations (club competitions only)

2. the experiment must be completed by the end of 2011 to allow a decision to be taken by the IFAB in March 2012

3. the additional costs incurred by conducting such an experiment must be covered by the relevant league, member association or confederation

4. it is mandatory for all matches in the applicable competition to be officiated with two additional assistant referees

The confederations and member associations that wish to conduct this experiment are invited to inform of us of their interest in writing by no later than Wednesday, 30 June 2010 (with a copy to the relevant confederation).
Please note that we can confirm that a special business meeting of the IFAB is scheduled to take place in Wales on Wednesday, 21 July 2010.

In the event that you should wish to receive further information in this regard, please contact us. We will be happy to respond to your queries.

We look forward to seeing you very soon in Johannesburg for the 60th FIFA Congress and wish you a very pleasant trip to South Africa.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

Encl.: Additional Assistant Referees Experiment Protocol

CC:
- FIFA Executive Committee
- International Football Association Board
International Football Association Board

Additional Assistant Referees Experiment Protocol

**Duties**

Two additional assistant referees will assist the referee to control the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game, particularly inside the penalty area or when the additional assistant referee has a better view than the referee. His duties will include communicating to the referee when the whole of the ball leaves the field of play.

The final decision will always be taken by the referee.

An additional assistant referee will not replace the referee or an assistant referees if any of these match officials is unable to continue.

All additional assistant referees must be active referees, ideally of the same standard as the main referee, but otherwise of the highest level possible (since the decisions to be taken are those normally taken by referees and those occurring in critical match-changing positions).

**Positioning**

The additional assistant referees' position will be behind the goal line to the left of each goal (looking from the centre mark). They may move along the goal line in order to gain a better view but never enter the field of play.

The referee shall continue to use a diagonal running pattern but must pay special attention to the areas requiring additional attention.
**Signalling system**

The additional assistant referees will use a radio communication system only and not flags to communicate decisions to the referee.

In the event of a breakdown of the radio communication system, the additional assistant referees will use flags to indicate their decisions.