TO THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1715

Zurich, 24 April 2020
SG

Impact of COVID-19 on member associations – immediate financial relief

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you are all unfortunately aware, the global health situation linked to COVID-19 continues to have a severely adverse impact on football across the globe.

FIFA understands that this has presented unprecedented challenges in terms of delivering fundamental football activities, as well as causing severe short-term financial distress for our member associations.

As a result, FIFA has committed to establishing a unique and far-reaching financial relief programme reflective of this exceptional emergency, and we have been actively examining the tools and options available that can help to alleviate this financial distress in the most effective and measured way possible.

While we continue to work on the broader financial relief programme, a concrete first step, as part of this ongoing process, has been the development of a set of unique measures in the context of Forward 2.0. These measures have been proposed to provide some immediate financial support to our members while the other aspects of the relief programme are being worked on and finalised. These proposals were approved by the FIFA Development Committee on 15 April 2020, as well as the FIFA Finance Committee on 16 April 2020, and are outlined in further detail below.

1) Operational cost entitlement for 2019 and 2020

Any remaining entitlement to operational costs as defined under article 6 paragraph 3 (b) of the Forward 2.0 Regulations shall be released in full for 2019 and 2020. In particular, the release of the second instalment of operational costs for 2020 will be moved forward from the July payment date as specified in the Regulations.

This funding should be used to mitigate the financial impact of COVID-19 on football in member associations. The standard obligations and responsibilities in relation to the use of these funds as outlined in the Forward Regulations 2.0 remain fully applicable (e.g. avoidance of the use of cash, maintenance of all supporting documentation, etc.), and will be subject to the standard audit and reporting process.
2) Extension of deadlines

As required, any relevant deadlines stipulated in the Forward Programme are to be extended, in particular concerning statutory audit reporting as outlined in article 14 of the Forward 2.0 Regulations, as well as the treatment of unused Forward 1.0 funds as per article 22 paragraph 2 of the Forward 2.0 Regulations.

The process of funding release resulting from the above decisions has already begun and the funds should arrive in the days immediately following this circular. The FIFA Member Associations Division remains at your full disposal should you have any questions or issues in this regard.

I would also like to take this opportunity to personally thank all member associations for their cooperation in the ongoing process of assessing the detailed individual impact faced by each of you as a result of this crisis. The commendable efforts of you and your staff will be an integral factor in successfully identifying the most effective and meaningful methods of addressing this situation through the relief programme in the immediate future.

The spirit of solidarity and cooperation already shown in the face of this unprecedented crisis will ensure that we overcome this unique challenge together and emerge stronger than ever before.

As always, FIFA remains fully open and available to you for any questions or concerns you may have, and we will remain in constant contact as this process develops.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

[Signature]

Fatma Samoura
Secretary General

cc: FIFA Council
Confederations