

## TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1572

Zurich, 19 December 2016

SG/sco

### FIFA World Cup™ format proposals

Dear Sir or Madam,

In response to numerous requests and in order to be completely transparent with our members, we would like to provide you with some more information regarding the proposals for an expanded FIFA World Cup™.

FIFA has selected the following expanded formats for consideration and analysis:

#### Format 1

- *Number of teams – 40 teams with 8 groups of 5 teams each (8x5)*
- *Number of matches – 88*
- *Number of days – 32*

#### Format 2

- *Number of teams – 40 teams with 10 groups of 4 teams each (10x4)*
- *Number of matches – 76*
- *Number of days – 32*

#### Format 3

- *Number of teams – 48 teams with 16 teams qualifying directly for the group stage and a 32-team initial play-off stage*
- *Number of matches – 80*
- *Number of days – 32 (plus an additional 6-7 days for the 32-team play-off stage)*

#### Format 4

- *Number of teams – 48 teams with 16 groups of 3 teams each (16x3)*
- *Number of matches – 80*
- *Number of days – 32*

We are pleased to share with you the report prepared by the FIFA administration entitled "An Expanded FIFA World Cup™: Analysis and Findings". The report analyses the format options for a 40- or 48-team FIFA World Cup™ and contains two annexes. Annexe 1 illustrates the formats and provides drafts of match schedules, while Annexe 2 sets out the financial calculations underpinning the financial analysis in section 5.4 of the report.

The full analysis and results have been shared with the FIFA Council and will be discussed at the FIFA Council meeting in January.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Fatma Samoura  
Secretary General

cc: - FIFA Council  
- Confederations