



The local club licensing system of Kazakhstan reckons from 2002 when Kazakhstan Football Federation joined the UEFA. At the same time, the KFF Licensing Department was founded and the “Football Clubs Manual of the Republic of Kazakhstan according to UEFA standards” was developed and accredited.

The basic function of the KFF Licensing Department is the annual estimation of the Premier League clubs’ compliance to the UEFA standards: financial, personnel-administrative, legal, sporting and infrastructure.

The KFF Licensing Department ensures well-timed allocation of the information necessary for registration of licensing applications to the clubs, efficient and timely considerations of clubs’ applications, as well as gives necessary consulting to the clubs-licence applicants.

The KFF club licensing pilot cycle for participation in the UEFA club competitions took place in the UEFA season of 2004/2005. In the UEFA season of 2005/2006 only 1 out of 16 clubs was granted a licence and that was the well known “Kayrat” Almaty. Other clubs were not in line with personnel-administrative and financial criteria.

First “licensing steps” were very difficult for the Top Division clubs. The KFF and its Licensing Department were criticized significantly and lack of understanding of mutual positions was huge. Following licensing cycles passed better and in a calmer atmosphere, as far as Top Managements of football clubs realized advantages of club licensing system application. Kazakhstan Football Family started to adopt European standards though gradually, still steadily.

14 Premier League clubs applied for the licence in the season of 2009/2010. 4 clubs were granted with licences for participation in UEFA club competitions by the Licensing Committee. Licences of 3 more clubs were refused due to non-compliance to personnel-administrative, legal and infrastructure criteria. Main problems were the absence of UEFA coaching licences and unsatisfactory condition of club infrastructure.

In 2009 the KFF applied club licensing system on the national level for the Premier League clubs. It was the 1st time when the system was applied on the national level and the Licensing Committee detected various non-compliances, but decided to grant “internal” (national) licences to all 14 clubs-licence applicants.

In the upcoming season, “internal” licensing requirements will be upgraded and made tougher. In future, club licensing system will also be applied towards lower divisions.

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