



The Football Association of Montenegro, as a youngest member of European football family, has started with club licensing three years ago. In that way Montenegrin football clubs were enabled to appear on the international football scene for the season 2007/08, with the exception of two leading clubs which already have this opportunity in the framework of Federal Republic of Serbia and Montenegro.

In the beginning as well as now, considering that we are new in this area, the main problem or task of Football Association of Montenegro was raising the awareness of clubs in relation to importance and benefits of licensing. As it was the case, I believe, in many other associations, clubs in the beginning were looking on the whole process with fear, mistrust and unconcern. On the other hand the Association has entered in the same process at accelerated tempo. The core process was abbreviated and having in mind that it was totally new experience for clubs, it could be said that the first season was successfully finished. From 6 applied clubs, 5 of them completed the licensing cycle successfully. The second licensing season was identical to previous when we are speaking about the number of applied clubs and issued licenses.

The licensing system, for the past 2 years, has been conducted in accordance with CL Regulation accredited by UEFA, in February 2007. This Regulation has represented combination of version 1 and version 2 of UEFA CL Manual. In this way UEFA allow to FAM to license clubs at a bit smoother criteria in relation to valid UEFA Manual.

Considering that this two seasons had finished, Football Association of Montenegro, has started with revision of CL Regulation, last August, and adjusted it to the UEFA Manual V2. On UEFA recommendation, we prescribed obligation for all first division clubs to pass the licensing process. Aware of more stricter criteria, specially in the financial part, we've organized several workshops and prepared a set of uniform financial templates, in order to facilitate the clubs. The result was surprising, in a positive sense. From 12 first division clubs, 10 of them applied for license and 6 got a green light for international scene.

Slowly, clubs began to realize and feel benefits that bring CLS in the sense of improvement their organizational structure, infrastructural facilities, financial operations, etc. However we are expecting that these benefits would be more visible when we start with implementation of club licensing system on the national level. The Association has already started with working on the domestic Club Licensing Regulation, which will be adjusted to Montenegrin football circumstances but with one aim – improvement of Montenegrin and European football.

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