



STATEMENT BY THE SFL CLUBS ON THE VISION FOR UEFA CLUB COMPETITIONS

At the extraordinary General Assembly, the 20 clubs from the Swiss Football League (SFL) discussed the current vision for UEFA club competitions from 2024 onwards. The SFL and its members unanimously reject the vision. The presently discussed concept presented by UEFA and supported by the European Club Association (ECA) would have unacceptable consequences for the SFL and should therefore not be implemented in this form.

The SFL clubs firmly believe in **sporting merit** in domestic league competitions as **the sole criteria** to qualify to international club competitions such as the present UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League. Any change in these competitions must not jeopardize the calendar of domestic league competitions. The SFL clubs are vehemently against the introduction of more matchdays than there are currently.

In turn, the SFL clubs support the introduction of a fairer revenue distribution model and the substantial increase of solidarity within UEFA club competitions so as to protect the competitive balance in the domestic league competitions.

«The domestic league competitions and the hundreds of clubs in the top European leagues form the very backbone of professional football,» said Claudius Schäfer, CEO of the Swiss Football League. «The dream of participating in UEFA club competitions and the prospect of playing matches against the continent's major traditional clubs must continue to live on for each of these clubs. Should this dream die, an important element of club football and supporting a team will also die. FC Basel 1893 against FC Liverpool, BSC Young Boys playing Juventus Turin, FC Zurich paired against AC Milan or FC Thun versus Arsenal: It's epic games like these that create the unique excitement for European Club Football amongst Swiss fans. We want to keep the opportunity to be part of memorable European nights in the future.»

