



11th AIAF

الرياض CONGRESS

RIYADH - SAUDI ARABIA

13/14 NOVEMBER 2024

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AIAF
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE
DES AVOCATS DU FOOTBALL



A think tank specialised in Football Law



About AIAF

The International Association of Football Lawyers is a forum for the exchange of information and experience between lawyers specialized in this field. The Association aims to value and assert the activity and image of football lawyers.

Missions and Activities

AIAF intends to be a main referent with the public and private authorities which regulate football and to actively take part in the development of international and national football regulations.

AIAF's mission is to emphasize the expertise of lawyers and their professional ethics with all the actors of football, particularly the clubs, the players, the agents, the sponsors, the national and international authorities of football and the public authorities. To achieve this mission, we think that it is crucial to develop the exchanges of knowledge and experience between lawyers specialized in the field of football from all the countries and the continents. To achieve this goal, AIAF provides intranet service for

its members, with a forum and privileged access to information, cases, decisions, regulations and publications.

The AIAF members are encouraged to participate in discussions on any specific subjects in football law through different task groups.

AIAF organizes an annual Congress focusing on a relevant theme in football law, which is held every time in a different country.



Who are the members of the AIAF?

AIAF gathers lawyers from all countries whose point of mutual interest is their professional practice in the field of football and who want to create and develop a professional network in order to exchange views and reflect on football law.



Words of AIAF President



Juan de Dios Crespo Pérez

Juan de Dios Crespo-Pérez has specialised in sports law since 1981, his practice in Valencia (Spain) deals mainly with international football cases, but also with other sports. He also lectures in sports law at some twenty universities around the world in four languages.

He has acted as counsel in cases that have changed the world of football, such as Webster and Matuzalem, among others, and has been appointed in more than 400 proceedings before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

He is an arbitrator at the EHF Court of Arbitration (handball at European level), Sports Resolutions in the UK, ALADDE in Latin America, the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris and the Chamber of Commerce in Valencia.



11th AIAF Congress – Riyadh 2024

"Here we are again, dear friends and colleagues! After the celebration of our 10th anniversary last year in Bordeaux, and the 11th AIAF Congress, we are delighted to be in Riyadh, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

We know who we are, the energetic and worldwide "think tank" of football lawyers' specialists. Since our creation, we have dramatically improved from a, yes, bunch of friends to a renowned association which is growing exponentially.

One of those rises was our yearly meeting with FIFA legal department, in which we have proposed changes on the football regulations. Some of them were accepted, some refused, but on the whole the brainstorming created was awesome. All the members must be proud of that achievement, and I warmly greet the proactivity that has helped us to provide FIFA with our thoughts, demands or requests.

Then, we have also been very active in the world of education. We know that this is the key to any future, not only in football, and we have already signed and participated in seminars and masters with ITTI, a sports institute with whom we have partnered.

In term of other association, we are proud to be in the same boat with WISLaw (Women in Sports Law), and we will continue to cooperate with it.

Thus, AIAF is not a mere group of companions in football law, but something that is expanding, growing and is open to becoming a crucial stakeholder in our market.

This year we are again in Asia, after our Congresses in Abu Dhabi in 2016 and we are thrilled to come to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The country is young, and football is the most popular sport in Saudi Arabia, which means that we had to be here. Also, we must remember that the FIFA World Cup will be hosted here in 2034, in just 10 years, and AIAF needs to have an eye on the place where our sport is relevant and will be more in the next future.

AIAF in Riyadh, with its more than 140 members from all over the world, will work on all the issues that are important right now in the legal path. From the future of women in football, the rise of Saudi Arabia in the market and how it happened, the IA in contracts, the Diarra decision and its impact in the legal game, the new regulations of FIFA and our last meeting with them are among the issues that will be treated.

As you can see, the program is not only interesting for football lawyers but for all stakeholders and we will need all the input that could be given, as to improve and think about the next steps.

The AIAF Congresses are also an opportunity for lawyers who are not members of the

association, as well as in-house counsel, young lawyers and students, to meet and exchange views with the leading practitioners in our industry, and to learn about their day-to-day professional practice.

Last year, we were in Bordeaux, as I said previously, and we would like to thank the Football Legal team, led by Ronan David and Alexandre Durand, for the great work during the whole Congress.

The Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF) is the main supporter of the present Congress in Saudi Arabia, with the help of our member Bandar Alhamidani, who has tried to have AIAF in his country and has finally achieved his dream.

The venue will be at the marvelous KAFD Conference Center with all the state of the art that you might imagine. The well-renowned hospitality of Saudi people is waiting for all of us to make our stay unforgettable. And, of course, for those that are willing to connect a bit more with the history and way of life in the country, there will be the possibility to reserve several tours of the city or the surroundings.

So, we very much look forward to seeing you all in Riyadh for our 11th Congress.

All the best!"

Words of the Organisers

"On behalf of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF), we would like to extend a very warm welcome to AIAF and its members and all participants to the 11th AIAF Congress in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As the Major Partner of AIAF for the 2024 edition, SAFF is delighted to welcome you all to the vibrant city of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia's capital and the city the headquarters of SAFF is based.

We are proud to have leading figures joining us on stage to discuss key legal issues in football, the sport loved by so many here in the Kingdom.

We are sure this will be an insightful and productive edition of the AIAF Congress, while you will have to opportunity to enjoy Saudi culture and hospitality during your stay in Riyadh.

Thank you for joining us and we look forward to a fruitful event!"



Yasser H. ALMISEHAL

SAFF President

Riyadh – Saudi Arabia



Ibrahim S. ALKASSIM

SAFF General Secretary

Riyadh – Saudi Arabia



KAFD

Conference Center

Your venue to the 11th AIAF Congress.

The KAFD Conference Center, a state-of-the-art facility in the heart of Riyadh's financial district, will serve as our venue for this year's congress. Known for its modern architecture and cutting-edge technology, the KAFD Conference Center is the perfect setting to inspire innovative discussions and meaningful connections among football law professionals from around the globe.



Riyadh

Riyadh, the vibrant capital of Saudi Arabia, enhances our congress with its extensive infrastructural capacities and profound cultural significance.

The city is poised to support our discussions and networking activities with its sophisticated facilities and welcoming atmosphere.



Programme



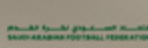
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DAY 01 → 13 November 2024

8:30 **Registration & Welcome Coffee**

9:00 **Welcome Speeches**

Juan de Dios Crespo Pérez, Lawyer, AIAF President

Bandar Al Hamidani, Lawyer, AIAF Member

Polly Handford, SAFF General Counsel

9:15 **Keynote Speech**

Hammad Albalawi, Head of the Saudi Arabia FIFA World Cup™ 2034 bid unit

9:45 **Round-table → Navigating the Future of Women's Football** *(in partnership with WISLaw)*



Moderator: Patricia Moyersoan, Lawyer, AIAF President Ad Honorem

Speakers:

Maria Karlsson de Cecco, CEO and FIFA Licensed Agent, Agency CMG

Monika Staab, Women's Football Technical Director, Saudi Arabian Football Federation

Claudia Romera, CEO & Founder of The Value Boosting Company, Former Marketing Director, FC Barcelona

11:00 **Coffee break**

11:30 **Interactive Session → Balancing Competition Calendar with Players' Health**



Moderator: Sven Demeulemeester, Lawyer, AIAF Member

Speakers:

Andrew Mercer, AFC General Counsel & Director of Legal Affairs

Simon Colosimo, Senior Executive, Saudi Football Players Association (FPA)

Patrick Stewart, Former CEO, Board Director & General Counsel of Manchester United

13:00 **Quick Lunch**

14:00 **Workshop → Dissecting Transfer Clauses in Football Contracts**



Moderator: Emin Özkurt, Lawyer, AIAF Member

Speakers:

Carol Couse, Lawyer, AIAF Member

Nasr El Din Azzam, Lawyer, AIAF Member

Daniel Muñoz Sirera, Lawyer, AIAF Member

15:15

Coffee break

15:45

Interactive Session

→ AI and its Use in Football: Towards a New Era



Speakers:

Christophe Bertrand, Lawyer, AIAF Member

David Yates, Lawyer, Al Tamimi

20:00

Dinner & Auction

Dinner will take place at **Aljabal** restaurant.

Shuttle vans will take you to the restaurant from the AIAF's partner hotels (Fairmont, Rosh Rayana by Rotana and Novotel Riyadh Sahafa) and back to your hotel after dinner.

17:45: KAFD to Hotels

19:00: Lobby Gathering

19:20: Departure to the Gala Dinner

20:20: Live Show - Music - Saudi Coffee

21:20: Dinner

22:30: Auction

23:30: Dinner to Hotels

The proceeds from the auction will go to two deeply meaningful causes: **ASDEQA**, a Saudi organization dedicated to supporting former football players in need, and the **victims of the recent tragic floods in the Valencia region of Spain**.

This is a powerful opportunity for us to come together and make a difference for those facing severe challenges.





DAY 02 → 14 November 2024

09:30

Round-table → Beyond Borders – Lessons and Limits of Saudi Football's Ascent



Moderator: David Casserly, Lawyer, AIAF Member

Speakers:

Marcos Motta, Lawyer, AIAF Member

Sébastien Ledure, Lawyer, AIAF Member

Saad Allazeez, Saudi Pro League Vice Chairman

10:45

Coffee break

11:00

Round-table → The Diarra Case: Towards the End of the Transfer System?



Moderator: Juan de Dios Crespo Pérez, Lawyer, AIAF Member

Speakers:

Alexandra Gomez Bruinewoud, FIFPRO Senior Counsel

Jan Kleiner, Director of Football Regulatory, FIFA

Andrea Bozza, Lawyer, AIAF Member

12:15

Round-table → Latest Updates on New FIFA Regulations

(Summary Report of the 3rd AIAF-FIFA Workshop)



Moderator: Anna Smirnova, Lawyer, AIAF Member

Speakers:

Jan Kleiner, Director of Football Regulatory, FIFA

Alkis Papantoniou, Lawyer, AIAF Member

Maite Nadal Charco, Lawyer, AIAF Member

13:30

Closing Remarks

13:45

Quick Lunch

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