

European Leagues urges Uefa to raise competition payments for non-participating teams

SportBusiness Staff – www.sportbusiness.com

April 21, 2023

European Leagues, the collective body of European football leagues, has called on Uefa to increase the distribution of club competition revenue for non-participating teams from next year.

European Leagues held a meeting in Prague today (Friday) and endorsed plans to urge Uefa and other football stakeholders to implement a “substantial” increase of the solidarity distribution from four per cent to 10 per cent of total club competition revenues.

The increase would be justified given Uefa’s club competition revenues are projected to increase to €4.8bn (\$5.3bn) per season during the 2024-27 cycle, European Leagues said.

The umbrella body feels that strengthening the link of solidarity payments to youth-focused and talent development projects will enable clubs who solely play in domestic competitions to better compete on the pitch and in the transfer market, in turn protecting competitive balance in domestic and international competitions.

European Leagues said: “NPC solidarity payments must be allocated exclusively to professional football clubs to help counterbalance the much greater distribution of revenues to UCC-participating clubs while compensating domestic clubs for the enormous expansion of UCC matches and match dates as from the 2024-25 season.”

Uefa’s club competition revenue totalled €3.61bn in 2021-22, which was up €459m on [2020-21](#). Uefa attributed this to the addition of the Uefa Europa Conference League, its new third-tier competition which debuted last season and led to the organisation of more matches.

Revenue figures are expected to rise significantly from the 2024-25 season, when the number of group-stage teams in the Champions League will increase from 32 to 36. The competition will adopt the ‘[Swiss model](#)’ format, which will see one single league replace eight individual groups of four.

Each club will play 10 group games rather than six, with eight sides qualifying automatically for the knockout stage and the teams finishing in ninth to 24th to compete over two-legged playoffs to secure a spot in the last 16. A similar format will be adopted for the Europa League and the Europa Conference League.

European Leagues represents more than 1,000 clubs across 40 professional leagues and associations of clubs from 34 countries across the continent.

Last month, LaLiga, the organising body of the top two tiers of Spanish football, [resigned](#) from European Leagues and claimed the organisation was ineffective in tackling governance and commercial issues facing European club football.