

Real Federación Española De Fútbol

Topic:
Evaluation
of the
“Negreira Case”



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Welcome Letter

Hello dear delegations.

As the board of the committee of the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), we give you the welcome to the CMUNP. We hope that during this model you have a pleasant experience, full of learning friendships and, above all, success; we hope that this experience is to your liking and fills you with opportunities. As well as stressing that we are extremely excited and grateful to be your chair, we are also looking forward to seeing you play your best part on this committee

The objective of this committee is to create a space for debate, reflection and, above all, come up with a solution for our topic:

TOPIC: Evaluation of the "Negreira Case"

Having already said the topic we would like to start by saying that we appreciate the interest that you showed towards this committee and toward the topic we are going to talk about, one that we all share, considering that the topic are quite important for the football league for this, the importance of talking about these issues and we thank you in great extent that you also consider them in the same way, since even though is a topic that people rarely talk about, they are still extremely important, so it is essential that more space be given to be able to speak of these topics and that more people know about them, as well as different ways to be informed and in many specific cases. Likewise, we would like to use this welcome to tell you all that you will always have us at their disposal, along with support and even friendship, what we want is this to be a pleasant experience for you and to grow up alongside you, comfortably and safely throughout the debate, without further ado, we give you a warm welcome and wish you the best luck.

Best Wishes



Committee introduction

Committee background

The RFEF was founded on September 29, 1909 in Madrid. Its creation was the result of the unification of several regional soccer associations in Spain into a single national body. In 1913, the RFEF became affiliated to FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association), the world governing body of soccer. This affiliation allowed Spain to participate in international competitions organized by FIFA. Throughout the 20th century, the RFEF played a crucial role in the development and popularization of soccer in Spain. It organized national championships, promoted the sport in all regions of the country and worked to improve the quality and infrastructure of Spanish soccer. The RFEF is responsible for organizing the Copa del Rey, one of the oldest and most prestigious soccer tournaments in Spain. This competition has been held annually since its inception in 1903 and has been an integral part of the Spanish soccer calendar. The RFEF also plays an important role in the management of professional soccer in Spain, working closely with the Liga de Fútbol Profesional (LFP) to regulate and organize club competitions.

Committee faculties

Real Federación Española de Fútbol (RFEF), the organization operates with a principle akin to collective defense and cooperation. Member clubs and associations within the RFEF work together to ensure the integrity and success of Spanish football, much like allies coming to each other's aid in times of need.

The RFEF establishes regulations, policies, and strategic plans to uphold the values and principles of Spanish football while addressing challenges and advancing the sport. These plans outline the organization's commitment to fostering a competitive and fair football environment, promoting youth development, and enhancing the overall quality of the game in Spain.

Similar to the promotion of democratic values by other organizations, the RFEF promotes the values of fair play, integrity, and inclusivity within the football community. Through democratic processes and consultations with stakeholders, the RFEF addresses issues related to football governance, competition integrity, and player welfare.

In times of crisis or disputes within the football community, the RFEF acts as a mediator and facilitator to resolve conflicts and maintain stability. However, if necessary, the RFEF has the authority to enforce disciplinary actions or sanctions to uphold the integrity of the sport.



The RFEF leverages the strengths of its member clubs and associations to ensure the success of Spanish football domestically and internationally. Major football clubs like Real Madrid, Barcelona, and Atlético Madrid serve as pillars within the Spanish football landscape, contributing to the country's rich football heritage and global reputation.

Overall, the RFEF plays a crucial role in safeguarding the interests and promoting the values of Spanish football. Through collaboration, cooperation, and adherence to shared principles, the organization strives to achieve its objectives and contribute to the well-being and prosperity of Spanish football.



Member states

In the committee there are considered

- Athletic Club
- Atlético de Madrid
- CA Osasuna
- Cádiz CF
- Deportivo Alavés
- FC Barcelona
- Getafe CF
- Girona FC
- Granada CF
- RC Celta
- RCD Mallorca
- Real Betis
- Real Madrid
- Real Sociedad
- Sevilla FC
- Villarreal
- Valencia
- Almería
- UD Palmas

TOPIC

Evaluation of the "Negreira Case"

Introduction

In this committee, it is crucial to ensure that all delegations have the opportunity to express themselves and contribute to the resolution of this conflict. Ending this situation is essential, as it has significant ramifications that involve multiple delegations and can cause a domino effect in areas such as the loss of matches and titles. Additionally, it is important to consider all the people involved in this struggle, especially those whose teams are experiencing unfair losses.

To fully understand the situation, it is important to contextualize it. The "Negreira Case" or "BarçaGate" refers to an investigation into possible sports corruption involving former referee José María Enríquez Negreira and Fútbol Club Barcelona. According to reports from the Tax Agency and the Prosecutor's Office, the club allegedly made payments to referee José María Enríquez Negreira totaling 7.6 million euros during his tenure on the Referees' Technical Committee, without a clear justification for the work performed. Although no conclusive evidence was found that these payments influenced match results, there is suspicion that part of the money may have been allocated to under-the-table payments.

The judge has charged FC Barcelona with the crime of bribery in the "Negreira Case," and an investigation has also been initiated against Enrique Negreira, his son, and former Barcelona presidents Josep María Bartomeu and Sandro Rosell.



Historical Background

The "Negreira Case" has been a significant event in the football world since it was made public on February 15, 2023. At that time, the Cadena SER radio station in Catalonia reported on the Prosecutor's investigation into the former vice president of the Technical Committee of Referees (CTA), José María Enríquez Negreira, for alleged payments received from FC Barcelona between 2016 and 2018, amounting to 2.1 million euros. Since then, a series of significant events have marked the course of this case: Subsequently, on February 16, 2023, the Integrity Department of the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) initiated an internal investigation into the case. On February 24, 2023, Catalan referee Javier Estrada Fernández filed a criminal lawsuit against Negreira and his son for alleged sports corruption. On March 8, 2023, Javier Tebas, president of LaLiga, announced that the organization would act as a private prosecution in the Negreira case. On March 10, 2023, the Prosecutor's Office filed a complaint against FC Barcelona and its former presidents for the alleged million-dollar payments to Negreira aimed at favoring the club in refereeing decisions. On March 15, 2023, the Barcelona Instruction Court No. 1 admitted for processing the complaint filed by the Prosecutor's Office against FC Barcelona and José María Enríquez Negreira. On March 16, 2023, the RFEF announced its participation in the legal process. On September 28, 2023, Judge Joaquín Aguirre ordered a Civil Guard intervention at the Technical Committee of Referees (CTA) offices and implicated FC Barcelona for bribery. On October 18, 2023, Judge Aguirre decided to charge Joan Laporta with continuous bribery offenses. Finally, on February 25, 2024, Judge Aguirre summoned José María Enríquez Negreira to testify as a suspect. These events have caused a great stir and have seriously questioned the integrity of Spanish football. Investigations are ongoing, and it is expected that more details will emerge regarding the alleged corruption and the possible roles of various actors in this sports scandal.



RFEF ACTIONS

Initial Investigation:

In May 2022, the Prosecutor's Office initiated an investigation after receiving an alert from the Tax Agency about irregularities in VAT and personal income tax. It was discovered that the former vice president of the Technical Committee of Referees (CTA), José María Enríquez Negreira, had received payments totaling 7.6 million euros between the years 2001 and 2018. These payments were related to his influence at Barcelona during the presidencies of Joan Gaspart, Laporta, Rosell, and Bartomeu.

Accusations and Bribery:

Rosell and Bartomeu are accused of these payments, as the events occurring under the presidency of Gaspart and Laporta would have expired.

Judge Joaquín Aguirre considers that referees could be considered officials, which could implicate Laporta for bribery. Barcelona is also indicted for bribery due to the payments made to Negreira to exert his influence.

Systemic Corruption:

Judge Aguirre maintains that Barcelona's payments to Negreira caused "systemic corruption" in the refereeing body.

Furthermore, any other team in La Liga that coincided with Barcelona during the years under investigation could be considered harmed by this alleged scheme.

In summary, the Negreira case has revealed a network of influences and irregular payments that have affected Spanish football for many years.

CURRENT RELEVANCE

The escalating dissatisfaction with Spanish refereeing transcends mere criticism; it represents a fundamental breakdown in the trust that underpins the entire sport. The lack of confidence in refereeing decisions not only affects the outcome of individual matches but also threatens the overall credibility and legitimacy of football in Spain. With each contentious call or perceived injustice on the field, the reputation of the RFEF suffers further, exacerbating tensions and deepening divisions within the football community.

Moreover, the negative repercussions extend beyond the immediate realm of sporting competition. They have broader implications for the commercial viability of Spanish football, as sponsors, broadcasters, and investors may hesitate to associate themselves with a sport plagued by controversy and uncertainty. This erosion of trust can undermine the financial stability of clubs, hinder the growth of the sport at all levels, and diminish its cultural significance within Spanish society.

Furthermore, the perception of biased or incompetent refereeing fosters an atmosphere of cynicism and disillusionment among fans, undermining their emotional connection to the game and diminishing their willingness to engage with it actively. This alienation of supporters represents a significant threat to the long-term sustainability of football in Spain, as the sport relies heavily on fan enthusiasm and participation for its success.

In light of these challenges, the RFEF faces a daunting task in rebuilding trust and restoring confidence in Spanish refereeing. Transparent communication, rigorous accountability measures, and decisive action to address systemic issues are essential steps toward rebuilding credibility and ensuring the integrity of the sport. Only through concerted efforts to address the root causes of the crisis can Spanish football emerge stronger and more resilient in the face of future challenges.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Impact of the topic in La Liga
- Reputation of RFEF
- Corruption into the RFEF
- Independence of clubs from external interests
- Role of the media
- Regulation and control in sport
- Impact on the club's image
- Accountability and legal consequences
- Political influence in sport
- Culture of integrity and values in sport
- Responsibility of sports leaders
- Necessary changes
- Impact on the development of sport

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What sanctions might FC Barcelona have?
- What is the impact of the Negreira case on the Committee of Referees (CTA)?
- How did the Negreira case impact football?
- How can we ensure that a similar case will not be repeated?
- How La liga teams are affected by the Negreira case

GLOSSARY

- **Corruption:** illegal, bad, or dishonest behavior, especially by people in positions of power
- **Referee:** a person who is in charge of a sports game and who makes certain that the rules are followed
- **Club:** an organization of people with a common purpose or interest, who meet regularly and take part in shared activities
- **Transaction:** an occasion when someone buys or sells something, or when money is exchanged or the activity of buying or selling something
- **Impact:** a powerful effect that something, especially something new, has on a situation or person



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