

# Press release of the ELFPA

To the involved people, the League, the teams, the fans of the ELF and American Football in Europe,

Due to the recent occurrences in the ELF, which could be noted mainly via social media, and in connection with the word spread in recent weeks about the formation of the **ELFPA**, the Players' Association is pleased to comment on this matter.

## Statement on the creation of a Players Committee in the ELF

Despite several unanswered inquiries from the **ELFPA** and a lack of announced approach via email from the League, the Association welcomes the formation of a Players Committee for the upcoming season in the ELF and congratulates the League on this important and necessary step.

Although the **ELFPA's** requests to the League have been ignored at times, it seems that the formation of the Players' Association has already contributed to the League's response to the situation and its desire to involve the players, who are the main stakeholders in the "Players' League", in discussions. The ELFPA, however, sees itself not as a competitor but as a complement to the Players Committee.

In this context, the **ELFPA** will continue to monitor the new situation and, if necessary, make appropriate developments. It is still a great concern of the **ELFPA** to continue to exist and to cooperate with the responsible persons of the League and now the Players Committee. At present, the tasks of the Players Committee are not known in detail, which is why no corresponding comments can be made here.

The **ELFPA** continues to strive to provide a platform for all players of the ELF to exchange information and to develop their situation as well as to get in contact with all stakeholders in the environment of the ELF.

## Statement on ELFPA as an organization

Due to rumors circulating primarily on social media about ELFPA's governance, we would like to clarify the following.

**ELFPA** has created three bodies (**General Assembly, Board of Directors, Executive Office**) to carry out its purpose. **The General Assembly**, i.e. the meeting of all members, is the supreme authority.

The Association was created at the request and as a result of the need of players to be able to represent their interests as a unit and to communicate accordingly with all stakeholders around the ELF. The **Board of Directors**, however, has been composed entirely of players since the establishment of the **ELFPA**, and the Association is governed by them.

**The Executive Office, which is appointed by the Board of Directors**, acts in a supportive and entirely voluntary capacity, and has the necessary expertise in the sports industry. Decision makers are solely the members of the Association and therefore the players themselves. All decisions are therefore made by players for players. In this context, the idea of introducing player representatives is not new and has already been taken up by the Association. It would have been a pleasure to exchange ideas with the League.

The **ELFPA** and its responsible persons would like to emphasize that they are not interested in money, fame or any other dishonorable intentions and reject all accusations in this regard. The Association's focus is solely on the interests of the players involved and the development of a sport-promoting cooperation with the League and its entire environment.

In the course of the reactions to the founding of the **ELFPA**, one of the questions raised was why Switzerland was chosen as the location. Apart from the connection to the personnel of the current **Executive Office**, the **ELFPA** is on neutral and independent ground with its location in Switzerland. Thanks to its liberal legal system, Switzerland is home to many international organizations, especially in the field of sports, and is known and respected worldwide for this. Many international sports organizations such as the **IOC**, the **IHF**, **FIFA**, **UEFA** and many more have their headquarters in Switzerland. In addition, the **CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport)** is also based in Switzerland.

Switzerland is also multilingual and located in the middle of Europe. However, it is also a concern of the Association to establish a local representation at other locations, especially team locations, and to be able to appoint player representatives from the teams. In this way, local support can be offered and a direct exchange can take place at the respective locations.

Finally, it should be mentioned again that the Association has made it its mission to be open to all players and former players of the ELF in order to create an independent platform and to work out solution-oriented proposals at the hands of the League and the sport in Europe. We hope that this will not be prevented by rumors, untruths or denial of communication, as it has unfortunately happened often enough in European football, and thank everyone for some patience. Something new must be allowed to grow, which always goes hand in hand with the necessary space, time and trust.

All inquiries are of course still welcome. People with the same intentions are also invited to contact the PA directly via [info@elfpa.com](mailto:info@elfpa.com), so that together a movement can grow.

We thank all persons and institutions who have already invested time, work and ideas in this young movement and hope for a successful cooperation with all participants around the ELF.

**Your ELFPA**

