

100 YEARS FIFA 1904 - 2004

**By telefax**

Mr Jens Sejer Andersen
Director, Play the Game

Zurich, 29 August 2006
msi-sma

Dear Mr Andersen,

I refer to the letter you addressed to FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter on 1 June 2006, and on behalf of Mr Blatter, I would like to respond as follows.

First of all, we would like to apologise for the fact that you have not received an answer to your letter until now. We trust that you will appreciate that, due to the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ in Germany and the President's ensuing lengthy absence, matters that were not directly related to the World Cup were subject to delays.

You raised a whole host of questions in your letter, most notably with regard to the ISL/ISSM affair. We would like to point out that the basic facts of this matter are already known and as such, they do not require any further comment from FIFA or the FIFA President. It must be stressed, however, that FIFA is itself an injured party in the ISL/ISSM affair, and that neither FIFA nor any FIFA officials stand accused of any wrongdoing in this regard.

As you will already be aware, the Swiss authorities are still investigating the ISL/ISSM affair. FIFA reserves the right – depending on the result of this investigation and any related proceedings – to make any statements it may deem necessary of its own free will. At this point in time, neither FIFA nor its President see any reason to comment, once again, on the points that you raise, namely those published by Mr Andrew Jennings in his book, *Foull*

With regard to Mr Jennings, it is true that the relationship between him and FIFA has indeed become rather strained, and that FIFA has distanced itself from Mr Jennings for a number of pertinent reasons.

FIFA, as a private organisation, is not obliged to enter into discussions with or answer to journalists who oppose FIFA and severely violate the principles of proper journalism, namely to produce fair and balanced reports. While FIFA generally has an open and transparent information policy, there are limits that journalists also have to respect.

FIFA consequently reserves the right to refuse to cooperate with persons who step over the boundaries of reasonable behaviour. However, it must also be noted that of the hundreds of journalists who have regular contact with FIFA, Mr Jennings is the only one to whom access is no longer granted.

Fédération Internationale de Football Association

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*For the Good of the Game*

I can assure you that FIFA generally sets great store on nurturing good, proper relationships with journalists and indeed with anybody who studies and follows FIFA's affairs. FIFA naturally has no objection to critical journalism, provided that the journalists in question respect the principles of fairness, balance and decency. FIFA believes that the "press freedom" to which you refer in the subject of your letter cannot be absolute, and a private legal sports organisation such as FIFA does not have to agree with every journalist's actions. Therefore, in the future, FIFA will continue to provide all journalists who act properly and conduct research in a fair manner with all of the information they require.

In terms of FIFA's information policy, it must also be borne in mind that the personal rights of FIFA employees and FIFA bodies must also be respected. FIFA is obliged under Swiss law to ensure that this is the case.

We hope that these comments are of help to you.

Yours sincerely,

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION


Markus Siegler
Director of Communications