

## A22 SPORTS MANAGEMENT WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING ITS PROJECT FREE OF THREATS

- The Madrid High Court (Audiencia Provincial) has today confirmed an injunction which protects the Super League and its clubs from threats by UEFA, FIFA and their associated members while the case is being heard.
- The ESL, A22, and individual clubs can now pursue the project free from the fear of monetary fines, competition bans or other penalties.

**Madrid, 31 January 2023** – The Madrid High Court (Audiencia Provincial), in an order notified to A22 Sports Management today, has agreed to restore the injunction issued in April 2021 aimed at protecting the Super League, its clubs and other potential participants from threats and other actions from UEFA and FIFA, designed to prevent or hinder the Super League project. The injunction also applies to UEFA/FIFA affiliated Federations and Leagues.

In its confirmation, the Madrid High Court pointed out that the conduct of UEFA and FIFA against the Super League project "cannot be justified as a protection of the general interests of European football" but could constitute "an unjustifiable abuse by those who hold a dominant position. "

The Madrid High Court also stated that "the justification of FIFA's and UEFA's conduct as an attempt to protect the European sports model is, prima facie, a flimsy excuse. Criteria of a sociological or cultural nature may help to contextualise the understanding of human behaviour, but they should not cause us to lose perspective when what is at issue is [...] the performance by an entrepreneur of an economic activity within a market". In the opinion of the Madrid High Court, the steps taken by UEFA and FIFA constitute "obstacles typical of closed and anachronistic models that are not in line with free competition and the principle of freedom of enterprise that prevails in Europe."

**The Madrid High Court therefore granted protection against any type of sanctions while the legal proceedings continue. The case is now pending before the Court of Justice of the European Union and will return to the Spanish courts thereafter.** The Madrid High Court, which has already fined UEFA and La Liga in the course of these legal proceedings for acting in "procedural bad faith", ordered UEFA to pay legal costs.

Bernd Reichart, CEO of A22 Sports Management said: "**We welcome the fact that this court decision allows A22 to freely continue the project of creating a new and exciting European football competition. It confirms that UEFA's monopoly position cannot be used to pressure or threaten clubs, players or companies willing to innovate and invigorate competition in professional football. We will therefore continue our dialogue with football stakeholders in a new and more appropriate environment, free from threats and other obstructive steps taken by UEFA and other bodies**".



## **About A22 Sports Management**

A22 Sports Management is a company that was formed to sponsor and assist in the creation of the European Super League. In its advisory capacity, A22 focuses on the overall structure, operating and financial aspects of the potential new competition.

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