



Information for media

No referees – A game of three halves!

The Football for Hope Festival uses the game to promote tolerance and understanding

The Football for Hope Festival 2010 will use special rules designed to promote social integration, communication and mutual respect. There will be no referees at the festival – instead any disagreement on the pitch is resolved through dialogue between the young people.

This technique has been proven to promote understanding and interaction between young people, from the streets of Medellin, Colombia where football addresses violence between street gangs, to the former Yugoslavia where the game promotes understanding between different ethnic groups.

The secret is that each game is divided into three sections of equal importance.

- 1. Pre-match discussion:** Before every match, the teams come together on their own, without their coaches, to discuss how they want to play the match and agree on specific rules they would like to play with, such as 'Can you score from anywhere on the pitch?', 'Will there be corner kicks or throw-ins?', 'When one team scores, should we all celebrate together?'
- 2. Match:** During the match the players themselves are responsible for playing according to the rules they agreed on. If they can't reach an agreement, mediators will help them to resolve the issue.
- 3. Post-match discussion:** Following the match, the teams again come together and discuss how fair they felt the game was, and decide whether they want to award a 'fair play point' to the other team.

The fair play points will count towards each team's total, so fair play is an integral part of each team's success. At the end of the festival, the delegation which has displayed the best spirit on and off the pitch will be rewarded with the Festival Fair Play Trophy.

The festival is also the only official FIFA World Cup event where boys and girls play together, promoting understanding and respect between genders. Two boys and two girls must be on the pitch at any one time in each team of five players, and matches are twelve minutes long, one-way.

The festival will also feature 32 delegations from all over the world, making successful communication between different cultures a vital part of the festival's success.

For more information or interview requests please email communications@footballforhope.org or telephone +27 (0)76 073 9971.