

7



1st International Conference Science and Football 2011 Sicily, Italy

Proceedings of the 1st International
Conference in Science and Football,
15 - 17 April 2011, Palermo - Italy



Edited by:
Monèm Jemni
Antonino Bianco
Antonio Palma

Palermo
15 - 17 April 2011

© Scuola dello Sport CONI Sicilia Publications

Italian soccer teams and UEFA financial fair play. Economic and financial gaps and potential barriers to reorientation strategies

SALVATORE CINCIMINO
UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO, ITALY

Keywords: UEFA, financial fair play, soccer clubs, economic crisis of football

Introduction: Recently, UEFA launched the initiative of financial fair play to the soccer teams, with the aim to encourage the competition at economic level, promoting appropriate strategies for rational economic management and also with the aim to enforce timely payments. In Italy, a number of "constraints", even outside the world of sport (for example, the variable of taxation) make soccer clubs less competitive than the foreigner ones. The implementation by the Italian soccer teams of measures to respect the constraints of financial fair play shows some risks, both for the amount of losses to be restored and for the obstacles that may emerge. In that context, the national federal soccer association (Federazione Nazionale Giuoco Calcio - FIGC) plays a fundamental role, which can implement steps to redirect the system.

Method: The work is based on a combination of qualitative and quantitative analysis. This research is mainly conducted by analysing data from last years' balance sheets of "Serie A" Italian football clubs and through the use of performance indicators that help showing the differences with respect to economic and financial objectives of financial fair play.

Results: The identification of some causes of the gap between current performance of the Italian soccer teams and the basic parameters of the UEFA financial fair play, can provide useful information both for the FIGC (criteria for the redistribution of resources, incentive policies) and for each club about the adoption of appropriate reorientation strategies.

Conclusion: In addition to the interventions of the Federation, the clubs will have to adopt different strategies in relation to their different sizes and gap to be reclaimed. The adoption of strategies for meeting the financial parameters of the UEFA fair play can also hide "dangers" if they are not properly assessed the impacts not only economic and financial, but also social, in both the short and medium term.

References:

- › Haugen, K.K. Solberg H.A. (2010), The financial crisis in European football - a game theoretic approach, *European Sport Management Quarterly*, vol. 10, no. 5, pp. 553-567.
- › Montanari, F. Silvestri, G. Gallo E. (2008), Team performance between change and stability: the case of the Italian "Serie A", *Journal of Sport Management*, vol. 22, n. 6, pp. 701-716.
- › UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations, Edition 2010.

