

PRESS RELEASE



PREMIER LEAGUE CLUBS BACK 'INTERNATIONAL ROUND' PROPOSAL

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Premier League Clubs have today unanimously agreed to further examine a proposal that creates a new round of 10 competitive fixtures to be played across the world over one weekend in January beginning season 2010/11.

This 'international round' would be in addition to the traditional 38 home and away matches each of the 20 Premier League Clubs currently play.

Premier League Chief Executive, **Richard Scudamore**, said: "We are proud the Barclays Premier League is viewed as the strongest domestic football competition in the world by fans at home and abroad, and we are committed to maintaining this position.

"The 'international round' is an exciting and innovative proposal that needs careful consideration before being introduced. However, this concept recognises the truly global appeal of the Barclays Premier League whilst understanding that the traditions of the English game have always underpinned our success.

"We believe that an 'international round' of matches will enhance the strength of the Barclays Premier League as a competition; create extra interest in all 20 Premier League Clubs at home and abroad; and allow increased investment in talent development and acquisition, facilities as well as our football development and community programmes.

"The globalisation of sport is both an opportunity and a challenge; one that needs addressing in a responsible way. We are a better competition for being a cosmopolitan league and have benefited from our increased international reach. Nonetheless, it is critical we retain our English character by improving our efforts to produce home grown talent, deepening our commitment to community engagement and continuing our investment in the grass roots." **-ENDS-**

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- The proposal supported in principle by the 20 Premier League Clubs is for 10 matches to be played around the world over one weekend in January. Each match will be worth 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, as is the current rule.
- This round will be additional to the established 38 match programme. None of these will be affected and fans' existing rights as season-ticket holders etc will not be reduced in any way.
- Structure of the commercial rights and revenue distribution to maintain solidarity between the 20 member clubs.
- The decision by the Clubs to support the proposal is subject to finalising the details and ensuring the project is feasible and practicable. The detailed programme will be completed by the end of 2008 with a final decision on whether to proceed by January 2009.