

## THE FIFA WORLD-WIDE REGISTRY OF SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATHS AND ARREST

**Scharhag J, Meyer T**

Institute of Sports and Preventive Medicine, Saarland University, Saarbrücken, FIFA Medical Centre of Excellence, Saarbrücken, Germany



In 2014 the FIFA-Sudden Death Registry (FIFA-SDR) was launched to examine sudden deaths in football with a special focus on sudden cardiac deaths and arrests of football players. The FIFA-SDR was presented in 2014 at the Team Physician Workshop in Florianopolis, Brazil, and at the Isokinetic Conference in Milano, Italy to the members of the FIFA Medical Centres of Excellence.

In addition, an international press release followed by FIFA, and the FIFA-SDR was presented to the Working Group of Sports Cardiology at the EuroPrevent Conference of the European Society of Cardiology.

Furthermore, all international football associations which are members of FIFA were informed on the FIFA-SDR and asked if they are interested to cooperate in the project.

So far, 23 international football associations reported informations via a short questionnaire on national medical structures, national registries on sudden deaths in football or sports and pre-competition medical assessment.

19/23 national football associations reported to have a medical committee, and 6/23 reported on an existing registry for sudden deaths.

In addition, 18/23 reported on a pre-competition medical assessment in football, using an ECG at rest in 14 countries, an echocardiography in 10 countries and an exercise stress test with ECG in 5 countries.

By now, sudden deaths in football were registered in 22 cases. The mean age of the 21 male players and one female player was  $28 \pm 10$  years. 20 players deceased from a sudden cardiac death, 2 suffered from a lethal traumatic injury. 15 deaths happened during the match, 2 during the warm up, 1 after the match, and 4 during training.

4 sudden cardiac arrests could be resuscitated (2 myocardial infarctions, 1 coronary anomaly, 1 unknown underlying disease).