

## **FIVB Statement in response to inaccurate reporting by Play The Game 29/10/14**

Dear Mr Andersen

With regards to your article on October 29, 2014 titled "Volleyball president Graça seeks eight-year term to avoid age limit," the FIVB would like to address several damaging factual inaccuracies which have been included inside the article by requesting an immediate correction to the article concerned and running of the FIVB statement below.

- *The PTG report stated that this weekend the FIVB Congress will be asked to revise the statutes so that President Ary Graça can extend his mandate beyond a 75-years of age limit by replacing a four-year election term with an eight-year term.*

This is not correct and is misleading. The current rule provides for unlimited terms. The new rule proposes to limit the terms in line with the IOC rules, namely two terms, together totalling 12 years: one of 8 years and one of 4 years. In the case of Dr Graça, he will serve his current 2012 election mandate of 4 years and if he gets re-elected in 2016 he will serve a further 8 years. Importantly, he will not be eligible to stand again after that second term.

- *The PTG report stated that President Graça, is now seeking to remain on the post until 2024 or perhaps 2028*

This is not correct and is highly misleading. The proposed new mandate means that the maximum any FIVB President can serve is 12 years over two terms. Therefore it will not be possible for President Graça to serve beyond 2024 having been first elected in 2012.

- *The PTG report stated that the upcoming FIVB Congress will ratify a change of statutes as proposed by Graça*

This is not correct and is a deliberate misrepresentation of the truth. The proposed changes are coming from the FIVB Board of Administration following the initiative of the Legal Commission seeking to bring the FIVB in line with the IOC and other organisations in the Olympic Movement; the proposals have not come from President Graça.

- *The PTG report states that in line with the IOC, after the eight years have expired, the FIVB president can seek re-election for another four-year term.*

Again this is not correct. In the case of Dr Graça, he will serve 4 years (from 2012) and if re-elected in 2016, he will serve a further 8 years (so the 12 year cap similar to the IOC rule is completely respected).

- *The PTG report states that President Graça's first four years as president will not be factored into the equation of new proposals, so he will need only two re-elections to prolong his mandate with up to 12 years and get a total of 16 years as FIVB president*

This is not correct and is a deliberate misrepresentation of the truth. Dr. Graça will only be allowed to serve 12 years, which will comprise an initial period of 4 years (2012-16) followed by a further 8 year period (2016-24) if re-elected. Thereafter all FIVB Presidents will serve an initial period of 8 years and a second period of 4 years if re-elected.

- *The PTG report implies that the changes to the statutes are designed to enable President Graça to serve as President beyond 75 years of age.*

This is not correct. The FIVB is changing its statutes to bring it in line with the IOC by providing two terms of office for the President not exceeding 12 years. Current FIVB articles allow a President to finish serving his term as President even if he reaches the age of 75 during such term.

- *The PTG report refers to a number of allegations made in some media against President Graça and some other Brazilian colleagues during their time leading the Brazilian Volleyball Federation. Most serious is the implication that President Graça and some colleagues were engaged in corrupt practices during this period.*

These are serious allegations that have no grounding in truth and have not been backed up with any proof by PTG or the few media that have run these reports in Brazil. Therefore these allegations should be withdrawn immediately.

The matter is under legal review in Brazil and President Graça and his colleagues strongly deny any wrongdoing and are very confident that the courts and independent reviews will reach that conclusion.

Furthermore President Graça believes that the allegations have come from a dissatisfied group in Brazil opposed to the significant commercial success that the Brazilian Volleyball Federation achieved under his leadership.

Best regards

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