

**Juha Kanerva (Finland)**  
Play the Game 2019

How an athlete's decision  
got the federation to  
rethink its values



## **FINLAND PLAYER REFUSES QATAR CAMP**

---

Riku Riski won't train with Finland in Qatar due to "ethical" reasons. Qatar are preparing stadiums ahead of the 2022 World Cup and there is criticism over how workers are being treated.



President of FAF: "I am here with Nordic union leaders and football association chairs drawing attention to the same issue as Riku."

Very few people  
in Finland  
thought that the  
chairman was  
sincere with his  
comments about  
the situation in  
Qatar.



# Consequences

- The Fair Play subcommittee of FAF: Firm stance against similar training camps in the future.
- The council of FAF decided to consult FINCIS (Finnish Center for Integrity in Sports) about the case.
- FINCIS guideline: The sports federations should pay attention to human rights aspect as they choose training camp sites
- Where National Team will train in January 2020? According to president of FAF Mr. Lahti Qatar is still one alternative. "But we take into consideration the guidelines drawn by the FINCIS."
- The Finnish National Team Supporter's Association: "Keep on mind human rights aspect and don't go to Qatar in January 2020."

# Jari Litmanen (Ajax, Barcelona, Liverpool)

- The greatest player Finnish player of all time
- Champions League winner 1995



Litmanen visited Doha in September 2019 and praised the 2022 tournament.

- “Qatar’s compact tournament a ‘huge advantage’ for players in 2022.”
- “Qatar 2022 will not disappoint anybody.”



**Mr. Sauli Niinistö**  
President of Finland

He was the president of the FAF in 2010 –  
He didn't like the way FIFA's awarded the World Cup 2022 to Qatar and worked for the change in voting procedure.

