

The CNMC recommends changes to the marketing of futsal broadcasting rights to ensure competition between TV operators

The Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF in Spanish) puts out to tender the broadcasting rights of the First and Second Futsal Federation for the coming seasons.

Madrid, 7 December 2022.- The CNMC has approved a report analysing the conditions proposed by the Royal Spanish Football Federation to market the broadcasting rights for the First and Second Futsal Federation, for the 2023/2024, 2024/25, and 2025/2026 seasons (INF/DC/229/22).

The CNMC considers that the proposed marketing bases do not comply with the conditions required by Royal Decree-Law 5/2015. Specifically, the CNMC recommends to the RFEF a bidding procedure that respects the principles of competition, transparency, and non-discrimination by introducing the following changes:

- Clarifying whether the rights are tendered for 5 seasons, preferably considering a maximum term of 3 seasons.
- · Granting sufficient time for the preparation and submission of bids and requests for clarification.
- Bringing the rights on offer into line with the provisions of Royal Decree-Law 5/2015.
- Precisely defining the content of the lots.
- Redressing the discrimination between pay-TV and free-to-air operators, by guaranteeing free competition between the two in all the lots.
- Limiting restrictions on the advertising decisions of the successful bidders.
- Eliminating wording that creates uncertainty for the applicants and gives ٠ excessive discretion to the RFEF in the awarding of rights.

These reports are issued pursuant to Article 4 of Royal Decree-Law 5/2015 of 30 April on urgent measures in relation to the marketing of the rights to broadcast content of professional football competitions, which requires distributors to request a prior report from the CNMC on the proposed conditions.

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