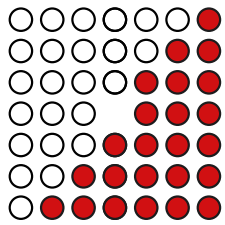


7 THE NEW POINTS-SYSTEM



*That's how football will be
more attractive, more exciting and more attacking*

3:3 5:2 6:1 7:0



7 THE NEW POINTS-SYSTEM

***That`s how football will be –
more attractive, more exciting and more attacking***

This is, how the 7-points-system works:

draw	(0:0, 1:1, etc.)	3:3 points
one goal difference	(1:0, 2:1, etc.)	5:2 points
two goals difference	(2:0, 3:1, etc.)	6:1 points
three and more goals difference	(3:0, 5:1, etc.)	7:0 points

Imprint

“7” – the new points-system

A brochure by FORGIST, a community with
Zurich mathematician Peter Hammer,
television redactor Hansjörg Wyss,
media expert Marco von Ah,
Philosopher Jost Imbach and
“rotweiss” editor Daniel Schaub

Overall design
rotweiss Verlag GmbH,
St. Jakob-Strasse 110,
CH-4132 Muttenz
www.rotweiss.ch

Text: Peter Hammer, Jost Imbach,
Daniel Schaub, Marco von Ah, Hansjörg Wyss
Signet: Raphael Schoen
Translation: Chris Wilson

Layout and Prepress: Karin Blaser

www.siebenpunkte.ch

“A point for the future!”

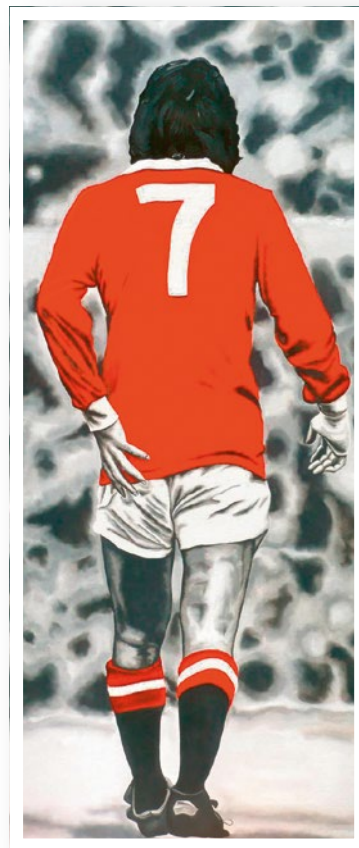
- Why should a team that narrowly loses 3:4 receive nothing?
- Is boredom – when, for example, a strong team is 2:0 up – desirable?
- What is the advantage of having Champions League, Europa League in group stage or World Cup qualifications, when group winners are decided early?

These are only three of several critical points of the current 0-1-3 points-system in football. The current method of awarding points per matches has obvious drawbacks, which the new 7-points-system, developed by the Zurich mathematician Peter Hammer, tries to avoid.

This clever idea with the win and the goal difference considered simultaneously with the distribution of points not only evaluates the outcome fairer, but, above all, also brings additional tension and excitement in the individual games and in championships. The elimination mode in cup competitions will not be affected.

There was a new record in Swiss football history in August 2015. After only three rounds of the Super League Championship, two coaches from top teams were fired within three days: Uli Forte (BSC Young Boys) after three draws and Urs Meier (FC Zurich) after one defeat and two draws. Top favourite FC Basel 1893 had won three matches, therefore trailing by six, respectively seven points, the coaches were sacked with only three matches played out of 36!

One month later in the German Bundesliga took Lucien Favre – the Swiss coach of Borussia Mönchengladbach – took the decision to resign



after five defeats. In the 7-points-system the situation would also be precarious, but they would still have had six points for three close defeats and the situation would not have been so desolate.

In hindsight, to analyse the effects of a new system and to draw conclusions is questionable or at least a touchy subject, because changing the system would affect playing strategies. Nevertheless, if you examine the statistics, you can imagine, which positive effects the 7-points-system can have.

The big winner will be the world of football – and this of all stages. As well as the additional excitement, the new system will promote a new value for goals and more attacking football. Who will see narrow defeats in the right light and strive for a fairer distribution of points, find a perfect goal in the center like our signet shows.

TEAM FORGIST

Seven points in a match

The Zurich mathematician Peter Hammer has developed a new point system for football. New seven points per game will be awarded instead of two or three points. The advantages of this are amazing.

By Daniel Schaub

Peter Hammer is a mathematician. And someone, who lives and breathes mathematics not only with great enthusiasm as a teacher, but also someone who likes its playful elements. He develops games, for example, the app “Martello”, played in the Swiss national chess team for ten years and has supervised mental sports columns in Newspapers for decades. And he is a football fan, which means, once in a while, he can become also sometimes annoyed.

Hammer is particularly frustrated about how points are currently awarded in football. He has established, that the current system has some disadvantages that it creates itself. He has set himself the task of remedying this by creating a new scoring system in football. This shouldn't be a difficult exercise and also no simple number games for mathematicians, but an idea that offers incentives for a future implementation in football. That's why the number cruncher has picked some supporters for his idea.

“Many dead games”

The distribution of points in modern football is well known. Since the 1995/96 season the German-speaking region has been the home of three points for a win. Before, it was only two points for the win, one for a draw for both teams and nothing for the loser, which is still applied.

With more points (3) for a win, they wanted to achieve one thing above all: The courage to take risks should the draw be unattractive. This has succeeded to some extent, but there's still evidence that teams, once in the lead, try to settle for

the result and do not seek more goals. “There's a reason, why we have a lot of dead games, when there's not a lot to play for. This is unattractive”, says Peter Hammer. And he's right about that. Styles of playing, such as in the last few years with Roberto Matteo's Chelsea or Portugal at EURO 2016 may be successful, but they're not exactly captivating to the viewer.

This is where the “7-points-system” comes in. It not only rewards winning, but also rewards more goals and the goal difference. A maximum of seven points will be allocated per match. In the event of a draw, each team receives three points, the seventh remains as a “punishment”. With a narrow victory with one goal difference, the points in the ratio 5:2 will be distributed to the winner, with two goals difference, 6:1 points and starting from three goals difference 7:0 points awarded to the winning team.

The advantages are obvious: A team leading 1:0 is interested in extending the lead to gain more points. A team losing hopelessly 1:4 is encouraged to score to earn a point. With this new system, games will remain exciting until the final whistle and matches will become less predictable, which has another advantage: players and coaches have to be much more flexible to react to the score. And, by the way, in the past few years it has become more and more important with the emergence of betting fraud.

Shorter ways

An examination of calculated examples also shows that there are other weaknesses of the

“Dead games, where there is nothing to play for, are unattractive.”



Mathematician Peter Hammer.

current scoring system, which can also either be eliminated or at least reduced. Early decisions in group matches of World and European championships, or in the group stage of the Champions and Europa League, would hardly exist, where after four of six group matches everything is already clear and teams know more or less their final position.

In domestic championships the final positions would be decided later, because with 7 points awarded for a victory, catching up would be possible. For everybody you can demonstrate the system with a simple example. A team has results of 0:0 and 1:0. In the current system, the points split in the ratio 4:1 and the factor is 4. In the 7-points-system the point split ratio would be 8:5 and the factor would be 1.6. That means, if you have a deficit for which you would need three victories today to catch up, however you would only need two.

In the 7-points-system there will be no drastic changes in final standings. Normally the Champion will remain the Champion the relegated the relegated. What changes is the factor of hope. A team, that is several points adrift at the foot of the table, does not need to concede defeat early and accept relegation. A team that has a big lead at the top of the table, should not be too complacent, that it will stay like that. Added to that, is the motivational factor, especially in the junior section. A goal can change a lot and therefore despite a great performance and losing to a controversial 93rd minute penalty, a team would still take two points away with them.

Not only win, score goals

The system of Peter Hammer is not far from ingenious. It combines the current scoring method with the goal difference and thus creates more incentives for attacking football. In other words: It's worth it, not just winning, but winning by scoring more goals. What could be better for football?

Hammer knows, that changing rules in football is difficult, especially by those, who have something revolutionary in them. However, it is his desire that the idea is discussed publicly and maybe a trial with an official lower or youth league is tested. He is convinced: "The improved tension and attractiveness of a game, and also the football championship, adopting the 7-points-system can only significantly change the game for the better".

“The number seven symbolizes perfection”

Let's throw six matches on the table, you can determine with one glance the number of matches. With seven matches the human eye respectively the brain has problems to recognise there are exactly seven. Is therefore the number seven divine?

By Peter Hammer

For the footballers with seven letters in their name, in particular Beckham and Ronaldo, there is no doubt: the number seven symbolizes perfection, it attracts the perfect luck like a magnet attracts a piece of iron. The Englishman David Beckham and the Portuguese Cristiano Ronaldo obviously do not mind, that the number seven symbolizes bad luck, in China, because, amongst other things, according to an old Chinese calendar the gates of the underworld open in the seventh month allowing the ghosts to give the people an unwanted visit.

Spirit plus matter equals seven

In Western cultures the number seven is the most popular number, when people are asked to give a number. Seven is not just the people's favourite, but even for a large majority, seven is the luckiest number par excellence. This has many reasons. In prehistoric times the number seven had special meaning. To create the world God needed six days. As the divine work was accomplished in six days, he still used the Sunday, the day of the Lord, to perpetuate the divine seven. The realization that in the number seven God's Trinity plus the four elements (which symbolizes all the material) are combined, reflect the mysticism of the number seven in the towering equation: “Spirit plus matter equals seven”

Look at the Sumerians (3rd millennium before Christ) as the first tribe, who took the step to the advanced civilisation, we see the beginning of the “mystical seven”. The “Ziggurat” and the temples of the Sumerians were split into seven

parts and called the “House of the seven parts of the world”. Further evidence for the special role of the number seven we find in different parts of the Gilgamesh Epic: “The seven gates of Uruk he locks” or “You dig a pit, seven and another seven”.

What in turn connects the Swiss people with the Ancient Romans? We have seven Federal councillors and the Romans saw in Septemvritus an ideal number for committees. To try and see a context between the seven hills on which Rome was built and the number seven is simply a numbers game. The hilly numbers story fits also Constantinople, today's Istanbul. The twin mounts of Mount Bülgürlü (267 m) were united and counted as one to be equal to the Eternal City with its divine seven hills.

The seven wise men of Ancient times, led by the Mathematicians and natural philosophers Thales and the lawmaker Solon, are pure invention. Undeniably, however, it is these wise men – depending on the list, it is up to seventeen candidates – which we owe their worldly wisdom, which has not lost its relevance for centuries. The strength of the Seven is also described in the book “Greece first philosophers, lives and systems” by Dieterich Tiedemann (1780): However, the Seven, as you cannot make it using another multiplication, has no mother and therefore the number is parentless from the mother side. That means nothing else, as all the numbers from one to ten can be shown as a product or a division ($1 = 2:2$, $2 = 4:2$, $3 = 9:3$, ..., $10 = 2 \times 5$), but not the seven.



The heptagon as an impossible structure

Let's take a compass and a straight-edge, and we see that the seven gets in the way again. The equilateral triangle, the square and also the regular pentagon (with the help of knowledge of the golden section) can be constructed precisely, which is showed already by Euclid. But unlike the regular hexagon with its six radius sides and the octagon with the 45° -central-angles can be constructed easily. Only the construction of the regular heptagon is an impossible structure, proved 2000 years later. Thanks to the genius Friedrich Gauss (1744-1808), we know, that the construction of a heptagon with compass and a straight-edge is impossible.

We would need almost seven lives to watch all the films, that have something to do with number seven, and also to read all the fairy tales involving the number seven. "The Magnificent Seven" and "Snow White and the seven Dwarfs" are only two examples. Who with seven stones in seven seconds can build a seven is a master of the laying-game Tangram and is floating in seventh heaven. A backgammon expert knows, how dangerous it is to have a counter in a distance of seven spikes from the opponent's point of view, standing alone, because seven as the sum of two cubes is the most common. And who dares to doubt that FIFA is something divine. On May 29th 1904 in Paris at the founding of FIFA were with France, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland precisely seven represented countries.

The most famous monuments are seven in number, as are the seven wonders of the world:

- 1 The Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- 2 The Colossus of Rhodes
- 3 The tomb of King Mausolus II to Halicarnassus
- 4 The lighthouse on the island of Pharos by Alexandria
- 5 The pyramids of Giza in Egypt
- 6 The temple of Artemis in Ephesus
- 7 The Zeus statue of the Phidias of Olympia

In case FIFA would introduce the new system based on the seven, to make the performances on the football field fair and to make football more attractive, it would be time to introduce the first intellectual wonder of the world!

Book tip (available in german): Reinhard Schlüter, "Sieben – eine magische Zahl", dtv 2011.

“As a player you have to think about the possibilities more.”

Benjamin Huggel, former Swiss national and Bundesliga player and seven times champion with the FC Basel, expressed the advantages and disadvantages of the 7-points-system in seven answers.

Interview: Daniel Schaub

Would the new points system according to the motto “Every goal counts” promote more attacking football?

Benjamin Huggel: I would say yes, because with this system it would hardly be possible to play badly, creating few or no goal chances and win 1:0 and therefore taking maximum points. Surely it would be that teams like Barcelona or Bayern Munich, with their success based on attack would reap more rewards and more points than teams with strong defensive records such as Atlético Madrid or Leicester City in its championship winning season in 2015/16.

Suppose the 7-points-system is introduced. How will coaches and players react?

The physiognomy of the game will not change fundamentally, a 1:0 lead is always still very important as a basis for success, regardless of how many goals there are to follow. Besides, with this system, matches would still start at 0:0, therefore guaranteeing three points each, which I initially do not want to lose. Evidently, the incentive is clearly there to turn victory into one with a higher goal margin.

Whoever loses, for example, 3:4 receives two points for losing in the 7-points-system. Is it wrong, however to reward a losing team?

When a team that strives to prevent a defeat and earns some points certainly has its justification.

The system rewards those teams, that are lagging behind with more opportunities to at least be able to score additional points.

With a draw, everyone gets three points, and a narrow victory – for example 2:1 – the winner receives 5 points instead of three. Is the incentive to score the winning goal large enough for the current system?

Actually, not mathematically, because with a winning goal in relation I can receive 5 points instead of 3 which is less critical than 3 points instead of 1. You also have to note, in the new system, you do not always have to win something in a match, but very often to lose something. And the losing team would in this example, lose only three points by falling back on two points, that's in proportion better again than in the current system.

The 7-points-system with the graduated points awarded 7:0 (most conclusive victory), 6:1 (clearer victory) and 5:2 (narrow victory) is more varied than the previous one. Only with a draw six points (3:3) will be awarded. Is this system easily transparent or already too complicated for everyday football?

It remains transparent in my eyes, but of course it is true that a coach and also the players in their routine thought process, instead of the current three variants victory, draw or defeat, they would need to digest and react accordingly to seven

“Goal-scoring is clearly enhanced in the new system”



Benjamin Huggel

variants. I can see in this system, that after each result no points or one, two, three, five, six or seven being awarded and that totally depends on the score.

It is without doubt that in the current system, it is very often after a 2:0 victory and in particular with a 3:0 and sometimes even with only a 1:0 (for a dominant team) matches become boring and very predictable. Do you agree, that the new system will encourage more interesting games?

This question assumes that certain teams are satisfied with the present situation. Often it is that “teams cannot do more and will settle for a draw”. So it’s more like an unsportsmanlike approach that I would not share. What is certain, is, that goal scoring in the new system is clearly more important. And, a team that is very dominant in a championship could possibly become even more dominant with the additional points for higher victories.

Can you imagine, that one day this 7-points-system is introduced or is the current practice of awarding points in football carved in stone?

Carved in stone, certainly not. Yes, there was a change already, when three points were awarded for a victory compared to two points previously. I would not be certain, since then, if this system has actually resulted in less drawn matches, as desired. A new system opens up

new possibilities, and even if at first sight it may seem too complicated. However, it is human nature to get used to new things quickly.

Benjamin Huggel

Who would be more qualified to talk about the 7-points-system than the former Swiss international player Benjamin Huggel? His date of birth is 7. 7. 77! And indeed, Huggel, who was a coach of the Swiss 1st League Club FC Black Stars Basel has been a supporter of a new points system. Ever since the former midfielder from Arlesheim considers rewarding scoring and awarding some points to a losing team after a narrow defeat as a welcome change.

Huggel, who now works as an expert on Swiss Television, started as a regional footballer with FC Münchenstein and FC Arlesheim. With 21 years he changed at the top level in football. He was seven times Swiss champion seven times and Cup winner with FC Basel five times, played from 2005 to 2007 for Eintracht Frankfurt in the Bundesliga and has been capped by Switzerland 41 times in international matches, including Euro 2004 and 2008 and 2006 at the World Cup in Germany.

Ronaldo, Beckham and others famous wearers of the number 7

The seven not only plays a central role in the new scoring system for football but also for many footballers who proudly wore or wear the number 7 shirt. Here is a selection of the most famous numbers 7 in the history of football.

By Daniel Schaub



Cristiano Ronaldo

He is currently the most dazzling footballer on the planet – in a unique duel he battles with Lionel Messi to break scoring records at the highest level. The bow-legged icon already has collected titles with his teams, and these are just as important for the personal balance sheets. Most recently, he was top scorer for three seasons in a row in the UEFA Champions League and when this was written, he stood alone on 120 goals, 20 more than Messi. Ronaldo, you would hardly believe, has left in the age of 33 years so many footprints to last a normal football life.

“The number 7 carries great responsibility.”

Cristiano Ronaldo



David Beckham

The epitome of the modern football star, who is known for his fashion and style awareness as well as for his craft on the ball. Eleven formative years with Manchester United under Sir Alex Ferguson, with six championship titles as well as the UEFA Champions League victory in 1999 as highlights. After that he embarked upon a world tour and played at Real Madrid, Los Angeles Galaxy, AC Milan and Paris St-Germain. 115 international caps with England and 17 goals. An icon, who, despite fame and fortune, remains surprisingly normal and down to earth.



Garrincha

Mané Garrincha was a world champion with Brazil in 1958 and 1962 and is recognised in Brazil after Pelé as the greatest footballer of all time. He played throughout in Brazil, his most successful years with Botafogo. His artist name Garrincha comes from a Brazilian jungle bird that moved as easily as he did. With a deformed backbone, and one leg physically longer than the other, his movements were unmistakeable. For Brazil he played in 50 Internationals and scored 12 goals.

Sir Stanley Matthews

In 1956 he was the first European Footballer of the year, in 1948 the first footballer of the year in England. There, he was considered a living legend with Stoke City, still playing on the football field at the age of 50. At 32, he moved from Stoke City to Blackpool, where in the FA Cup Final because of his three assists which led to a 4:3 maiden victory over Bolton Wanderers. The Final became rightly known as the "Matthews Final". His attacks on the flank and tricks were spectacular. At the end of his career he led Stoke again in the highest English league and increased the average attendance from 8'000 to 20'000 fans. At 50 he played against a team of world celebrities in his farewell match and was knighted by the Queen.



***“It does not matter
who wears the number 7.”***

Raul



Raul

At 16 years he made his debut for Real Madrid and his record is 550 league games 228 goals, three times the UEFA Champions League winner, one time the World Cup winner and six Spanish Championships. The epitome of loyalty to his club, he ventured on abroad, surprisingly at Schalke in Germany with its earthiness and then onto Qatar and the MLS in the United States. Until November 2014 he was with 71 goals the record scorer in the UEFA Champions League before Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo (another number 7) overtook him.



George Best

Genius and madness with the number 7. George Best epitomised the Manchester United of the 1960s under the legendary coach Matt Busby. He was named European Footballer of the year in 1968 after two national titles and a European Cup victory. The northern Irish winger with the flowing hair was not only hard to contain on the field, he was drinking alcohol, gambling and womanising at full throttle off the field. The match winner was only 59 years old, when he passed away – his burial in Belfast was attended by more than 100 000 people.

**“Because at that age,
I stopped smoking.”**

Mehmet Scholl answers, why he wore number 7.



Mehmet Scholl

Mehmet Scholl won the German Championships eight times – a record matched by no one in Germany. In 2001 he won with Bayern Munich the UEFA Champions League, two years after the most famous and painful last minute defeat against Manchester United. Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld was Scholl's biggest supporter in his career, during which he also won the European Championship title in England in 1996. His career lasted 18 years at the highest level. Afterwards he was a sharp-tongued TV expert.



Tranquillo Barnetta

If it's a famous number 7 in Switzerland you are looking for, then it probably belongs to Tranquillo Barnetta, who played several years in the national team with big success. Playing at three World Cups (WM 2006, 2010 and 2014) as well as two EURO finals (2004, 2008) he is Switzerland's most successful footballer in the international arena. He played many years in the Bundesliga for Hannover, Leverkusen, Schalke and Frankfurt. After a two-years-stop in Philadelphia he came 2017 back to St. Gallen. His national team career record stands at 75 international matches and ten goals.

“Yes, the 7-points-system is innovative!”

Laurent Prince has been Technical Director of the Swiss Football Association since February 1, 2015. The 48-year-old sees the 7-points-system as innovative, however, he also has his doubts. He would welcome a trial in a regional championship.

Interview: Marco von Ah

Would the new points system according to the motto “every goal counts” promote more attacking football?

Laurent Prince: It promotes both sides, sure, attacking football, but pretty sure, too, the opposite, tough defensive play. Because: Each team starts with three points. Also the bottom of the table against the leader. It's possible that the bottom team can play within themselves. A goal in the 70th minute? Not so bad, there are still two points. With the current system, on the other hand, at the bottom of the table, with 20 minutes remaining against the leaders, a team is more focused on strong defensive tactics and yet everything can change by scoring another goal for another point.

Suppose the 7-points-system is introduced. How will coaches and players react?

There will be scepticism in the beginning, like so often with changes, with certain unknowns in the system. However, people will quickly adapt to it. And if the system is watertight, tactics will also change accordingly. However, you can promote a kind “rewarding defeats” because just as teams lose 0:1, they still earn two points.

Will a progressive scoring system that rewards teams with points for defeats, change the character of football?

That's exactly, what I meant with my last remark, which is also a fear. Because the 7-points-system could be something that football takes from its archaic character. The system rewards winners with maximum points yet still awards points for the losers, whether they have deserved them

or not. Losing teams on the other hand put in great performances and go home with no points. That's what makes football so exciting, yes, sport in general, too. That's why I am asking the question: The character of football will no doubt be changed by the 7-points-system, but my question is: Is the change in the right direction? And there I have my concerns. Because: Yes, the attacking football is promoted, great. But: If the loser is rewarded, then that can also have an impact.

Whoever loses honourably, for example, 3:4 receives two points. Is it wrong to reward the losing team?

That's just one example, where I have a doubt about the system. A 3:4 match is certainly more attractive to viewers and fans, than a 0:1. Where or what is the honourable thing about a 3:4 defeat? That question, too, has justification. Because a defeat is a defeat, and the honour should be awarded to the winner. It is tricky to examine a new points system because strategies will change.

Do you agree with the assumption, that the championships would be much more exciting, because the relative point differences inevitably become smaller?

I have my doubts. Today I would predict that in Switzerland, FC Basel at the end of a season 2016/17 for example would have 160 points and the chasers only 110, 120 points.

The 7-points-system is a system using 7 points. 7:0 (maximum victory), 6:1 (clearer victory) and 5:2 (narrow victory). Only a draw will award six

“A trial in a Regional Association is the right approach.”

points (3:3). Is this system easily understandable or too complicated for everyday football?

No, it's not too complicated, neither for coaches on the touchline or for the players on the field and not for the spectators in the stadium or fans in front of the TV. But – and it is a big but – in the past, football had different systems which should have improved the quality of the game, but after two years, the systems failed.

In which league in football or even in which sport can the 7-points-system be trialed?

That's the right approach: a pilot project, a trial championship. For this we have regional associations. If in a region, a youth league adopts the 7-points-system in cooperation with the regional association and the umbrella organization, they can examine and analyse tactical and playing strategies.

It is evident: in the current system for a 2:0 victory, in particular with a 3:0 and sometimes even with only 1:0 by a dominant team, matches and results are boring and predictable. Do you agree that the 7-points-system will result in more interesting games?

I can imagine that in the outcomes above mentioned there would be more interesting games, 2:0 or 4:1 will for example promise more points. But the opposite is also quite imaginable. That the weaker and dominated team plays very defensively, so that earn some points despite losing only narrowly.

Experts, including Ottmar Hitzfeld, agree, that the 7-points-system is innovative. Can you



Laurent Prince, technical director of the Swiss Football Association.

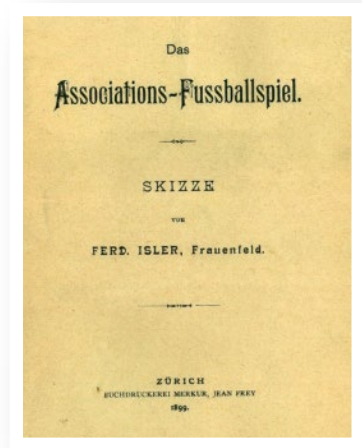
imagine that one day this 7-points-system is introduced and the current practice of scoring points in football is carved in stone?

What is carved in stone? I think, you should not condemn something that has been used successfully for a long time and obviously critically questioned. However, just because it's used for many years, it does not mean one cannot think about a new system. That's why I can give a clear answer: Yes, the 7-points-system is innovative!

Laurent Prince

Laurent Prince has been the technical director of the Swiss Football Association since the 1 February 2015. In this position he is responsible for technical developments, coach education, the promotion of young talent, and for the national teams. The native Jurassier spent years working for SFV in central Switzerland. He led the sports school in Kriens, the performance center, an offspring of the FC Lucerne and the Project Team Central Switzerland.

Landmarks in the Rules of Football



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| <p>1848 “Cambridge Rules” are the basis for the later rules of the FA</p> <p>1856 Own rules of some clubs from Sheffield, England</p> <p>1862 J.C. Thring, the Rector of Uppingham School, publishes a draft for Rules of the game entitled “The simplest game”</p> <p>1863 First set of rules from the English Football Association founded in London. In the Freemasons’ Tavern, the 14 rules were written under the chairmanship of Ebenezer Cobb Morley, the basic rules which are still the valid in the regulations today.</p> <p>1865 The crossbar height is raised to 2.44 meters high using string</p> <p>1866 Modification of the Offside rule (until then Offside was, if a player was in the front of the ball, it was in fact only reverse passes like in Rugby possible. New was, that a Player stands offside, when he is closer to the goal line than the ball and the third-deepest lying opponent)</p> <p>1869 Introduction Goalkick</p> <p>1870 Limit to eleven players</p> <p>1871 Hands only allowed for goalkeepers</p> | <p>1872 Introduction of corners</p> <p>1875 Introduction of the crossbar at the posts (instead of the previously used string)</p> <p>1877 Introduction of ejection of player for serious foul play</p> <p>1878 First use of the whistle by the referee</p> <p>1882 The four British associations England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland bring together their rules to form the International Football Association Board (IFAB)</p> <p>1886 First meeting of International Football Association Board (IFAB) on 2. June</p> <p>1891 Introduction of penalty after a foul in the penalty area. Ball can be kicked from along a 11-meter line.</p> <p>1891 Introduction of the referee (as a successor to a previous judge from each of the teams)</p> <p>1891 Introduction of goal nets</p> <p>1902 Introduction of the penalty area (16.5x40 Meter) and Penalty spot for the Penalty kick, as well as the goal area (5.5x18.30 Meter)</p> |
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The first football rules for Switzerland, were published in 1899 by Ferdinand Isler (left), and the current rules 2017/2018 IFAB.



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|--|--|
| 1907 Modification Offside rule (excluded being in own half) | 1991 Introduction of yellow-red card |
| 1912 Goalkeeper may only keep the ball in his hands in the penalty area | 1992 Introduction of the no back pass rule to goalkeeper |
| 1913 FIFA becomes a member of the IFAB | 1994 Introduction of the three-point rule (3-1-0 instead of 2-1-0)
Switzerland, Austria and Germany adapted this from the season 1995/96 |
| 1920 Modification Offside rule (no Offside from a thrown in) | 1995 Introduction of substitutes (3) |
| 1925 Modification Offside rule (two instead of three defending players between Goal line and striker) | 1996 Introduction of the “Golden Goal” (until 2002) |
| 1930s Total revision of the rules of the game by Stanley Rous (now 17 rules) | 1997 Modification of the back-pass-rule (goalkeeper allowed to hold ball for six seconds) |
| 1939 Official introduction of numbers on the back of shirts | 1998 Introduction of passive offside |
| 1950 Football boots are mandatory to wear | 2002 Introduction of the “Silver Goal” (only until 2004) |
| 1967 Introduction of substitutes (1) | 2013 Approval of goal-line technology |
| 1968 Introduction of substitutes (2) | 2014 Introduction of the free-kick spray |
| 1970 Introduction Red and Yellow card | 2016 First experiments with video technology evidence |
| 1990 Modification Offside rule (level is no longer offside) | 2018 Introduction of the video technology evidence at FIFA World Cup in Russia |
| 1990 Direct red for foul on a player with a clear chance of scoring | |
| 1990 Shin guards become mandatory | |

“With this system, there can only be winners!”

Hansjörg Wyss, sports editor at Schweizer TV, was keen on the idea of the 7-points-system from an early stage. He believes that it counteracts boredom in some games and prevents early outcomes in leagues and in group phases.

Interview: Peter Hammer

Hansjörg Wyss, you are one of the initiators of the 7-points-system. Why?

I immediately understood the idea which addressed, good performances and rewarded narrow defeats. It cannot be, that if a team loses 4:3 due to a last minute goal, it goes away empty handed.

Is this system easily transparent or already too complicated for everyday football?

Each score changes the value by one point and the sum is always seven. The two exceptions are the draw (3:3) and with the winning goal, a team instead of 1 points, receives 2 points.

Is this too complicated? Of course, you will need one, two if necessary, maybe three rounds of this to get used to the system. However, in the face of many advantages, it should not be an issue!

What benefits does this new scoring method offer?

Besides the obvious advantages like more exciting games – not even with a 3:0 score – the distribution of points is decided early and more exciting championships as the final places at the top and the bottom of the table will be decided later. There are many hidden, positive aspects. For example, in the Champions League, normally after four of the Group Stage matches, the qualifiers are known already. This in turn influ-

ences the way the game is played, besides that a single goal no longer will be enough to turn a table upside down.

Does the 7-points-system promote according to the motto “Every goal counts” attacking football?

This is to be assumed. In any case, superior teams managing a 1:0 victory will no longer be an issue. Attacking teams will no doubt be very much in favour of this system, which promotes scoring goals.

Meetings with football celebrities and broadcasters are part of everyday life for you. What are the reactions in your work environment? How could it be any different?

The reactions are all spontaneous and very different. The ones, who do not look into the system deeply, will have trouble understanding it, as they will not be able to analyse the conclusions. In a discussion, which is undoubtedly necessary to understand the system, even the followers of the present “all-or-nothing” system will realise, the thrill of winning is hardly affected. As well as this, the Cup knock out system will remain.

Is the 7-points-system also suitable for other Sports?

In sports with a wealth of goals such as ice hockey or especially handball, I would support the 7-points-system. I can very well imagine that, for

“Whoever enjoys traditional attacking football, appreciates the system.”

example, for Field Hockey, the principle of the football system also becomes relevant.

Do you believe that someday the system will be introduced?

I cannot answer, because as a supporter I am biased. One reason why the 7-points-system certainly has potential to be implemented, is that basically this system will bring only winners, both among the players and the fans and there will be no losers. An important aspect is the money. There will be less boring games with corresponding lower viewing numbers and more viewers will bring more money into the game. A match between the top and bottom of the table clubs will be a completely different situation. Or in other words: the attractiveness of the system allows even a goal from a team from the bottom of the table special applause, as it creates a spark of hope which this system can ignite.



Hansjörg Wyss, sports editor of the swiss Radio and Television (SRF)

Hansjörg Wyss

Hansjörg Wyss after graduating became a sports teacher and a part-time student at the Journalism School and in 1988 became head of the sports section of the “Lucerne Latest News” (LNN). In this function he visited various World and European championships as well Olympic games. In January 1996 he started a three-year engagement in the sports editorial department of “New Lucerne newspaper (NLZ)”.

Since March 1999 he belongs to the sports editorial department of the Swiss Radio and Television (SRF) and works on various projects and major operations and has helped with the formation of sports multi-media-program, is the editorial manager of sports actual and since this year, is a contributor to the editorship of SRF. The Central Swiss man is father of two grown up children.

Scoring with points kicks the system into the offside

Let's get right to the point: Basel beats Lugano 5:0, Lucerne wins against St. Gallen 2:1, and the "logical" point distribution is 3:0 and 3:0! That's clear. Are you sure?

By Jost Imbach

If a Martian would visit his friend Erich von Däniken and Erich would show him the above points system, the Martian, would hardly believe it and scratch his head and politely not say a word against it. Maybe the Martian would also think about his colleague, "the Martian Lewandowski" (so called from the Italian paper *La Gazzetta dello Sport* on the 23rd of September 2015), who, after coming on as a substitute, scored 5 goals in 9 minutes for Bayern Munich – a world record! If Socrates, who lived about 469-399 BC, came back to life today and would have a glass of wine with his friends at Platon's Banquet, he would say with honest conviction and at the same time without any reservation "I don't know, I don't know ... "

Football fans live and love watching the game at matches or via the TV at home. The nature and deviation of football according to Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831) is that football is "a simple complexity of many places", as we see the expressive Philosopher in another context phenomenal poems (in: "Phenomenology of the Mind"). The simplicity of the game – for example at a Champions League match – an unimaginably complicated organization and requiring a thousand different contributors working together in a complex web – creates fascination for millions of people, who are spell-bound and cheering, jeering and swearing at the 23 and more muscle men down on the grass, waiting and hoping until the ball hits the back of the net.

In our modern, digitized and deregulated world with its global political excesses and the daily warlike and terrorist acts, and at the same time the disappearance of religious and moral values, which should provide the individual with support, football creates a simple manageable

alternative world, which casts a spell and creates satisfaction: the heroes, the losers in the game, the celebrated and cursed referees, the aesthetic magic as well as the kicks, the shots on goal, players celebrating, anger and grief emotions, the foul, the fake and real injury, the trainers in tracksuits and suits, the score in league tables. Everything attractive and manageable, enjoyable in endless repetition.

What should you change, if everything is so simple and exciting? The answer is quite simple: the unsatisfactory points system, which was revised almost unnoticeably 20 years ago from 2-1-0 to 3-1-0. The new system promises not only a new points distribution, but also a new quality of the game, an extra motivation for even more attractive, attacking football, therefore more justice which for me, sets a striking point of the future.

As mentioned earlier, a victory of 5:0 and 2:1 merits the same points allocation 3:0. This has been and still is a long-standing affair: a disturbing one of injustice not in the result of victory or defeat, but in stark disproportion of how many points are received in relation to the number of goals scored.

The extraordinary thing about the 7-points-system is the imaginative and at the same time precisely meticulous connection between the number of goals and points awarded, raising the spectacle of the game and guaranteeing more excitement.

The Zurich mathematician, the former international chess player and football fan has come up with an ingenious system and for the first time in football, goals and points will be linked together, so that there will be a fairer points distribution after a victory, a draw and defeat resulting in different but more appropriate league positions.

“The points system is combined with a sense of justice.”



Jost Imbach, philosopher.

Moreover, it indirectly makes the game on the field more attractive like the former Swiss International and former Basel star player Benjamin Huggel comments in his interview: The system gives “the incentive to win matches a bigger priority and scoring goals will be more worthwhile and rewarded more in the new system”.

In motivational theories, we often think about reward and punishment, and at the same time, it is discussed, whether punishment or reward actually brings more action. In the new point system, the “penalty” is reduced, depending on the level of the result, therefore the loser leaves rarely with no points and will receive 1 or 2 consolation points.

It seems important to me, that the new points regulation is also combined with a sense of justice. Being treated unfairly already as a child is one of the worst and formative experiences one can experience. It is actually very frustrating for a team to lose with a lucky goal from the opposition, despite playing reasonably well and going home with no points instead of three. Emotional as well as rational thinking creates a feeling of unjust treatment, which may well be a reason for aggressive behaviour in the ranks.

A 2:1 defeat resulting in a 5:2 instead of a 3:0 points distribution is no doubt a more appropriate and fair split, because even the unfortunate loser receives points and therefore a kind of win-win-situation – and therefore with this, our Martian will soon be happy to bring this good news to his fellow Martians on his planet and on Earth, too.

Food for thought

To complete the “System 7” in full, I suggest giving the away team an extra point, when there is a draw 3:4 (7 points) so there is more encour-

agement to win. This means with a draw, the home team has to win in order to win 5 points (+2) and at the same time the opponent has 2 points (-2). This gives a difference of four points. That means the home team has a lot to gain, the away team a lot to lose. The system would then be as follows: 7:0; 6:1; 5:2; 3:4; 2:5; 1:6; 0:7 – and even in a draw the magical number 7 still exists.

Jost Imbach

Jost Imbach was born in Zurich in 1947. After school in Zurich and Lucerne, he studied philosophy Paris (Master / Maîtrise 1976) and taught this subject and French from 1978 to 1984 at the Cantonal School Reussbühl. After that he freelanced and worked in Bern as a journalist and publicist mainly for the newspaper “The Bund” in Bern, in addition also for the local radio, also for other press organisations in Lucerne, St. Gallen, Chur and Salzburg.

The focus of his publications are first philosophical and literary contributions, later more and more art-critical articles on fine art in museums in Switzerland and throughout Europe. Since 1988 he also acts as a book author and publisher. In the year 2002 his historical novel “Inselglück – Rousseau on St. Peter” in the Zytglogge was published in Bern. Jost Imbach lives and works in Bern-Köniz and Vienna.

“This point system is better than the present one!”

As a sports reporter Bernard Thurnheer always brings the best out of a football match. What does he think about a change in the points system in football?

Interview: Hansjörg Wyss

What do you think of the new 7-points-system according to the motto “every goal counts”?

Excellent! Attacking football will be rewarded and the excitement in the championship will be extended. In my view, this system has more advantages than the present one.

Would this system be suitable, starting with a pilot project – and if so, where?

It would certainly be worth trying the seven-points rule, for example at “Blue Stars Youth Cup”, in the lower leagues or with the seniors.

How will the coaches and players react to this new system?

From a tactical point of view not a lot will change in first phase of the match.

The longer the game lasts, the stronger teams will take advantage – another plus for the spectators!

Is the 7-points-system easily to understand or too complicated for everyday football?

When you have a simple and complicated variant, it is normally the simple, which is the winner. Already the change from two to three points for a victory took about ten years to introduce. How

many for a win now, five, six or seven points and for a narrow defeat two points, this certainly would be problematic. The positive side will be the additional tension for the championship and on the negative side there will be a lack of overview and unpredictability of the table.

The 7-points-system is quite innovative. Can you imagine, that one day it is introduced or is the previous practice chiselled in stone?

There is hardly any other group, more conservative and inflexible than the football family. For example, if the off-side rule was abolished, I am convinced, that nevertheless games would re-



***“There should only
as many points as goals
scored.”***



***Bernard Thurnheer,
Swiss TV Legend.***

main the same for the next years as is if the off-side rule is still existing.

Do you see also weaknesses in the 7-points-system?

A 0:1 defeat with two points and a 3:5 defeat with only one point, so in this case attacking football is not rewarded. The opposite is the case, weaker teams are motivated to play more defensively.

How would you try and successfully change the present system?

As you know, criticizing is easy, that's why I would like to attach a constructive proposal: The points distribution remains with the 3-1-0 variant. In each game there are only so many points distributed on goals scored. The maximum of three points is thus only achieved if the winning team score three or more goals (3:0, 3:1, 4:3, etc.). If it finishes with a 0-0, both teams go home empty – according to the motto no goals, no points.

Bernard Thurnheer

1973 he began an unprecedented career. At a young talent competition for sports reporters, one man named Bernard Thurnheer started his career. Thanks to his open opinions and his sharp tongue he was the mouthpiece of the nation, he was a popular quiz and Showmaster later (Tell-Star, Benissimo). In the past few years, he worked less and in 2012 his show Benissimo, which was a collaboration with the Swiss lottery where you could win a million, came to an end.

In 2014 he was in Brazil on his last Football World Cup and in 2016 he hosted Sports Panaroma for the last time, after 34 consecutive years. A personal greeting message by Roger Federer touched the man with an unprecedented career and brought him to tears. He wants to fulfil a personal desire to visit 100 countries. Thurnheer has written several books about his work and his life.

Advantage 1: Less early decisions

Example:

European Championship qualification 2016

No, Holland would also not go to the EURO 2106 with the new 7-points-system. However, the Dutch would not have to pack their bags after 8 qualifying matches, because the Czech Republic and Iceland, already too far away in the present system, would be catchable. The decision of

the definitive qualification would be only a match later. A leader board with the new 7-points-system completely turning the table upside down is not the case. There would be small changes however, as the example below shows. Iceland, with the better goal ratio (+11) in the present system compared to the Czech Republic (+5) would be rewarded.

EURO 2016	Qualifiers, Group A									
Matchdays	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Czech Republic	3	6	9	12	13	13	16	19	19	22
2. Iceland	3	6	9	9	12	15	18	19	20	20
3. Turkey	0	0	1	4	5	8	9	12	15	18
4. Holland	0	3	3	6	7	10	10	10	13	13
5. Kazakhstan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	5
6. Latvia	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5
Matchdays	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Iceland	7	14	20	22	29	34	39	42	45	47
2. Czech Republic	5	10	16	21	24	26	31	36	37	42
3. Turkey	0	2	5	11	14	19	22	29	35	40
4. Holland	2	8	9	16	19	25	27	27	32	34
5. Kazakhstan	3	4	5	6	6	8	10	13	15	20
6. Latvia	3	3	6	6	9	10	13	15	18	20

Two tables from EURO qualification group A: Above is the current points system and below is the new 7-points-system.

Advantage 2: Rarely no points

Matchdays	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
1. Basle																																					
2. YB																																					
3. Lugano																																					
4. Sion																																					
5. Lucerne																																					
6. Thun																																					
7. Saint Gall																																					
8. GC																																					
9. Lausanne																																					
10. Vaduz																																					

Matchdays	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
1. Basle																																					
2. YB																																					
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5. Lucerne																																					
6. Thun																																					
7. Saint Gall																																					
8. GC																																					
9. Lausanne																																					
10. Vaduz																																					

Example Super League Switzerland 2016/17

In the season 2016/17 about a quarter of the 180 games finished as draws. This means in about 135 games one team does not receive a point. This zero marks” makes you feel unworthy and produces negative feelings. Especially how the defeat was reached, this can reach to aggressive emotions. With the 7-points-system this zero marks” would be about four times less.

Advantage 3: Do not lose hope early

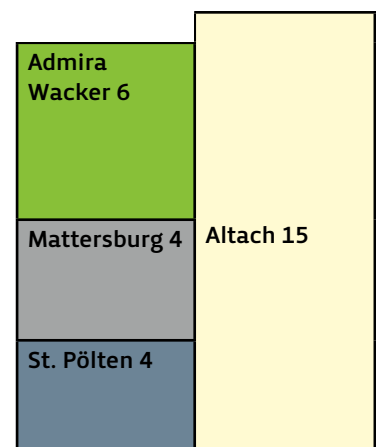
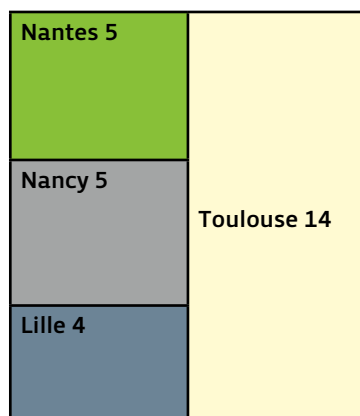
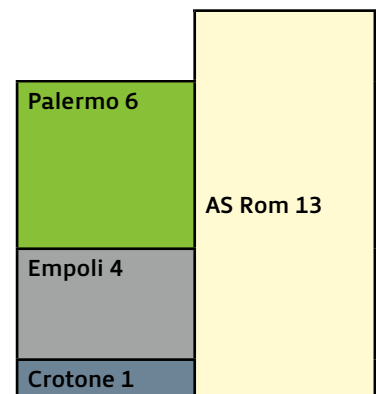
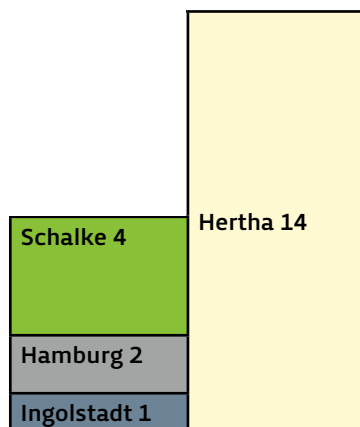
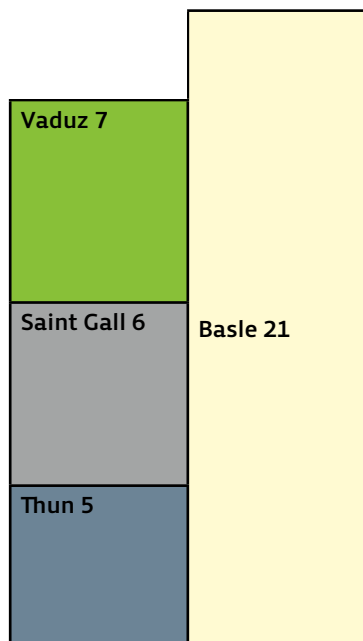
Example: Season 2016/2017

Year after year creates a similar picture – this picture shows the season 2016/17.

The bottom three relegated teams altogether have the same or less points as one single team and not even the best ranked in the mid table. This creates a crises atmosphere – often result-

ing often with the coach being sacked – and all hope is already lost after only a portion of the season. One noticeable example emerged in the German Bundesliga. In seven rounds FC Ingolstadt 04, Hamburger SV and the FC Schalke 04 collected together only seven points and thus only half as many as the fourth placed Hertha BSC Berlin.

Graphs with teams and points



Advantage 4: Excitement until the last round

Example: Champions League season 2016/17

In the 7-points-system, after four rounds, there is not a single early group winner. In the new system 12 instead of 8 teams qualified early. More than twice as many teams (15 instead of 7) could still reach the knockout stage and only 9 instead of 13 teams in the competition 2016/17 would be already eliminated.

Today's point system

- **Qualified (12):** Atlético Madrid (Group winners), Barcelona (group winner), Leicester City (Group winner), AS Monaco (group winner), Arsenal, Bayer Leverkusen, Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, Juventus, Manchester City, Paris St-Germain, Real Madrid.
- **Round of 16 chance (7):** Benfica Lisbon, Beşiktaş Istanbul, Copenhagen, Lyon, Napoli, Porto, Seville.
- **Without knockout chance (13):** Basel, Mönchengladbach, Celtic Glasgow, Bruges, CSKA Moscow, Dinamo Zagreb, Dynamo Kiev, Legia Warsaw, Ludogorets Razgrad, PSV Eindhoven, Rostov, Sporting Lisbon, Tottenham.

7-points-system

- **Qualified (8):** Arsenal, Paris St-Germain, Barcelona, Atlético Madrid, Bayern Munich, AS Monaco, Borussia Dortmund, Real Madrid.
- **Round of 16 chance (15):** Leicester City, Bayer Leverkusen, Juventus, Manchester City, Benfica, Beşiktaş Istanbul, Copenhagen, Lyon, Napoli, Porto, Seville, Mönchengladbach, Tottenham, CSKA Moscow, Dynamo Kiev.
- **Without knockout chance (9):** Basel, Celtic Glasgow, Bruges, Dinamo Zagreb, Dynamo Kiev, Legia Warsaw, Ludogorets Razgrad, PSV Eindhoven, Rostov, Sporting Lisbon.

Champions League 2016/17, group H							
	Matchdays	1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Juventus Torino	1	4	7	8	11	
2	Sevilla FC	1	4	7	10	10	
3	Olympique Lyon	3	3	3	4	7	
4.	Dinamo Zagreb	0	0	0	0	0	

Champions League 2016/17, group H							
	Matchdays	1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Juventus Torino	3	10	15	18	24	
2	Sevilla FC	3	8	13	20	21	
3	Olympique Lyon	7	9	11	14	19	
4.	Dinamo Zagreb	0	0	2	2	4	

The ranking of the Champions League Group H shows, that after five matches everything is already decided. In the new 7-points-system three teams could progress from the last round of matches.

3:3

5:2

6:1

7:0

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