

Mr. Siarhei Ilyich is a Belarusian international sports law specialist, experienced arbitrator and football executive, born in 1977 in Minsk, with more than two decades of involvement in football governance, sports regulation and international sports dispute resolution. He is recognized for his expertise in football regulatory matters, sports governance and sports arbitration, combining academic, legal and operational experience at both national and international level. He graduated from the Faculty of Law of the Belarusian State University in **1999**, obtaining a law degree. His native language is Belarusian, and he is fluent in English, Polish, Russian and Ukrainian.



In parallel with his legal studies, Mr. Ilyich pursued a professional football career with Ataka-Aura FC (Minsk), where he played from **1994 until 1997**, while also representing the Belarus U-18 national team at youth international level. This experience provided him with valuable practical insight into the legal and regulatory framework of professional sport.

Between **2002 and 2004**, he completed postgraduate studies at the Belarusian State Economic University, where he obtained an MBA (Master of Economics degree). His postgraduate studies focused on management, economics and business administration.

In **2011–2012**, Mr. Ilyich completed the UEFA Diploma in Football Management organized by UEFA, and IDHEAP (Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration) and the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. The programme covered football governance, sports marketing, management and public relations.

In **2020–2021**, he completed the FIFA/CIES Football Law Programme organized by FIFA and the International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES) in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. The programme addressed FIFA regulations, transfer systems, dispute resolution mechanisms and commercial aspects of football.

Mr. Ilyich obtained his PhD in Law at the Faculty of Law of the Belarusian State University in **2013**. His doctoral dissertation, entitled “*Legal Regulation of Sports Agents’ Activities*”, examined the legal regulation of sports intermediaries and football agents.

Alongside his professional activities, Mr. Ilyich has maintained an active academic career. **Since 2011**, he has served as Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of the Belarusian State University, where he teaches Sports Law and Business Law. Previously, he was a member of the academic staff of the Faculty of Law of the Belarusian State Economic University from **2000 to 2008**, as Senior Lecturer in Sports Law and Business Law. He also worked as Junior Researcher at the National Academy of Sciences of Latvia between **1999 and 2001**.

Mr. Ilyich is the author of more than 60 scientific publications in the fields of Sports Law and Commercial Law. He is also co-author of the Belarusian Sports Code and three books, including *Business Law*, *Sports Agency Activities* and *Sports Law of Belarus*.

In **1998**, he founded Sparta Law Firm Ltd., where he acted as Founder and Director **until 2003**. During this period, he gained practical experience in commercial law, contract law, labour law and dispute resolution.

His long-standing professional involvement with the Belarus Football Federation began in **2003**, when he was appointed Head of the Legal Department. He was responsible for legal, regulatory and governance matters of the national football association. Between **2011 and 2012**, he served as

Assistant to the President of the Belarus Football Federation, advising on legal and international football matters.

Since 2012, Mr. Ilyich has served as Director for International Relations and Legal Affairs of the Belarus Football Federation. In this capacity, he oversees legal affairs, international cooperation and regulatory compliance. His responsibilities include regulatory drafting, participation in legislative initiatives relating to sports law, representation before national authorities and courts, labour law and governance matters, intellectual property protection, contractual matters and regulatory compliance. He has also been actively involved in dispute resolution and sports arbitration proceedings before the Court of Arbitration for Sport, FIFA judicial bodies and UEFA disciplinary and dispute resolution bodies, particularly in matters relating to regulatory, contractual and disciplinary matters.

Within the Belarus Football Federation, Mr. Ilyich has additionally supervised club licensing legal matters, administration of the FIFA Transfer Matching System and the FIFA Clearing House, and organization of seminars and conferences for football stakeholders. Mr. Ilyich also acted as the principal football expert on behalf of the national football association in connection with football stadium infrastructure and reconstruction projects, including Borisov Arena, Dinamo Stadium in Minsk and the National Football Stadium in Minsk.

Since 2004, he has served as Chairman of the Players' Status and Transfer Committee of the Belarusian Football Federation, dealing with matters relating to player status, transfers and contractual disputes.

Between **2014 and 2018**, he was a Member of the Legal Commission of the National Olympic Committee of Belarus.

At UEFA level, Mr. Ilyich acted as UEFA External Legal Expert between **2004 and 2008** and has served **since 2011** as Member of the UEFA Players' Status, Transfer and Match Agents Committee.

Since 2013, he has acted as UEFA Match Delegate more than 80 official UEFA and FIFA matches, including UEFA EURO qualifying matches, UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League matches. In **2016**, he served as Director of the UEFA Women's Under-17 Final Tournament held in Belarus. **Since 2017**, Mr. Ilyich has also acted as FIFA Match Commissioner.

Since 2017, Mr. Ilyich has served as Arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). He has participated in CAS proceedings both as panel member and sole arbitrator in disputes involving football regulatory matters, player-agent disputes, disciplinary and contractual matters, as well as governance-related disputes in international sport.

contact email address:

siarhei.ilyich@gmail.com

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