



Member of the Association Internationale de la Presse Sportive (AIPS)

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Executive Board and Media Department
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Executive Board and Media Department of UEFA
Route de Genève 46, SUI-1260 Nyon

20. April 2026

**Security incident at the UEFA Champions League match FC Bayern München vs. Real Madrid
- Shared responsibility for safe framework conditions -**

Dear Executive Board of FC Bayern München,
Dear Executive Board of UEFA,
Dear Media Departments of FC Bayern München and UEFA,

In my capacity as Vice President of the German Sports Journalists Association (VDS), I am addressing you directly with this letter.

The incident that occurred last week during the UEFA Champions League match between FC Bayern München and Real Madrid, where photographers in the restricted area were injured by moving fans, has deeply affected us as a professional association. Many of us were on-site, and some VDS members were directly involved. I, too, experienced the situation firsthand. What happened in seconds will have a lasting impact—both physically and emotionally.

It is especially important to us: The emotions in football, the passion of the fans, and even the dynamics of ultras are essential components of the sport. It would be far too simplistic—and ultimately unproductive—to shift responsibility for such an incident onto the fans or ultras. We explicitly oppose this reductionist view and therefore also reject any potential sanctions against fans.

Rather, a more fundamental question arises from our perspective: How could a situation occur in which individuals were already present in areas clearly not intended for them before the final whistle—and where there appears to have been no effective intervention?

We do not see this as an issue of individual behavior, but rather as a possible failure within the security circle. Based on our observations—including personal experiences on-site—emerging developments were not addressed in a timely manner. This raises questions that, in our view, should be examined both organizationally and, if necessary, legally. It is important to emphasize that this is not about hasty blame, but about a factual and comprehensive review.

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Sports photographers regularly operate in close proximity to the action, often at points where both positive and negative emotions converge. For this reason, all accredited media representatives depend on clear security structures that not only exist on paper but are consistently implemented. We contribute to the visibility and media impact of the sport, while simultaneously trusting that our physical safety is guaranteed.

This incident once again highlights the need for improvement.

All the more reason for us to view this letter as a constructive impetus. We should take this situation as an opportunity to critically examine and further develop existing processes.


I personally, and we as the Executive Board of the German Sports Journalists Association, consider it imperative that all relevant stakeholders—clubs, organizers, security personnel, and associations, as well as us as representatives of sports journalists—come together at the table. It would also be desirable to include representatives from the fan community. The goal should be to jointly develop concrete measures on these issues:

- How can restricted areas be more clearly defined and consistently protected?
- What preventive mechanisms can be implemented to prevent situations from escalating as in this case?
- How can communication between security personnel and accredited media representatives be improved?
- How can we ensure that observations on-site are taken seriously and evaluated appropriately from the outset?

This is not only about individual measures, but about a shared understanding of responsibility.

The Executive Board of the VDS has a clear expectation that this incident will be thoroughly reviewed. We also invite you to engage in a joint dialogue.

With best and sporting regards,
On behalf of the Executive Board of the VDS


Kevin Voigt
2nd Vice President