

March 29, 2024

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Eagle Football Group announces Dr. Michael Gerlinger as Chief Sports Officer

Former Bayern Munich Senior Executive and Founder of European Club Association, Gerlinger, to work directly with Eagle Football Chairman John Textor, in leadership of Global Family of Football Clubs

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, USA: Eagle Football Holdings Limited, today, announced the appointment of Dr. Michael Gerlinger as Chief Sports Officer. Reporting directly to Eagle Football Executive Chairman and (interim) CEO John Textor, Dr. Gerlinger will be responsible for the management and operation of all football clubs in the Eagle Football family, including Olympique Lyonnais (France), Botafogo (Brazil), and RWDM (Belgium). Mr. Gerlinger will also support Mr. Textor in his role as a Director of Crystal Palace Football Club, where Eagle Football remains a leading shareholder.

Mr. Gerlinger is best known through an 18-year distinguished career at FC Bayern Munich, where he was last served as Vice President of Sports Business, leading the general organizational and economic activities of the professional football department. He was also responsible for the introduction of digital squad and financial planning, the optimization of recruitment, and player transfer processes. In connection with FC Bayern's collaboration initiatives, Mr. Gerlinger led the establishment of a multi-club network and joint venture with Los Angeles FC, known as "Red & Gold Football", of which he became the first Chairman.

Mr. Gerlinger has also been a leading voice in European club football governance, with a prominent role in the creation of the European Club Association (ECA), and the subsequent joint venture between the ECA and UEFA (European Club Competitions SA). Dr. Gerlinger was member of the European clubs' delegation that negotiated the dissolution of the G14 and the creation of the ECA with UEFA, the cornerstone of the modernization and development of European football as a whole. He served as the ECA's General Manager after its creation and later became a Board Member and Vice-Chairman of the organization. In these roles, Dr. Gerlinger was instrumental in various advancements for football clubs, such as the implementation of player release fees and insurance during international competitions. At the ECA, Dr. Gerlinger was also in charge of creating a governance system of the joint rights marketing regarding European club competitions of UEFA and the ECA.

This ultimately lead to the creation of a European Club Competitions SA, where he held positions as a Director and Board member.

Leveraging this experience, Dr. Gerlinger joins Eagle to coordinate the sporting activities of all clubs in the Eagle network, to facilitate collaboration under Eagle's unique player asset creation model, and to steer the Group's football talent network. The combination of a world-class club network and the latest technological innovations in data and artificial intelligence enables Eagle Football to optimize the recruiting, training and education of players, offering unique career pathways.

"I could not be more honored that Michael chose to join Eagle Football," said John Textor, Eagle's Chairman and CEO. "It's clear that we see football a little differently than most, as we look to weave together our ambitions for players, club and community...but we really need people like Michael to provide a strong foundation of talent and experience to enable our futurist ideas to take flight."

"I am very excited to join the Eagle Football family," said Dr. Gerlinger. "The global dimension and passion of football has fascinated me ever since I started working in the sport. I've had the chance to witness the global development of our sport for nearly 20 years. This has always been the main focus of my work, whether in discussions with international federations and institutions or in international transfers. Eagle Football truly stands for the global development of the game, which, combined with Eagle's focus on technological innovation, has created a fantastic network within a very short period of time. This is why I am extremely happy to join Eagle Football."

## **Inquiries:**

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