



Fédération Internationale de Football Association

DPSIMUN '26

T H E M E

Radical Resilience:” Engineering Stability in an Age of Volatility”

Chairs

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Committee

[FIFA]

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1.1 Welcome Message

Dear Delegates,

It is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to the FIFA Committee at this year's DPSIMUN conference. On behalf of the Secretariat, we extend a warm welcome to both experienced delegates and those having their very first MUN conference.

Under this year's overarching conference theme, "**Radical Resilience: Engineering Stability in an Age of Volatility**" our committee will confront two interconnected, high-stakes challenges that will reshape modern international sports governance: **"Evaluating the Expansion of the FIFA World Cup from 48 to 64 Teams: Balancing Global Inclusion with Competitive Integrity & Regulating Sports Betting Sponsorships, Integrity Frameworks, and Commercial Governance in FIFA Competitions"**

As global football faces unprecedented commercial shifts, geopolitical fragmentation, and rapid technological integration, member associations are called to practice radical resilience. In **Topic 1**, delegates must navigate the delicate balance between broadening global participation and preserving the athletic standard, player health, and logistics of football's flagship tournament.

In **Topic 2**, delegates must engineer structural stability against commercial volatility by establishing strict integrity safeguards surrounding sports betting, spot-fixing vulnerabilities, and multi-billion-dollar sponsorship frameworks.

We hope you're ready for lots of engaging debates, interesting sessions, and, of course, plenty of fun. After all, what would the FIFA Committee be without a little organized chaos? Whether you're negotiating resolutions, forming alliances, or navigating the unexpected twists of committee, we hope you make the most of every moment.

Welcome to the FIFA Committee!

1.2 Chair Messages

Amanda

Hi everyone!

My name is **Amanda Okaikoi**, and I'm so excited to welcome you to the FIFA Committee. This will be my second time chairing a committee and my sixth MUN conference. Over the years, MUN has become something I genuinely look forward to—not just because of the debates, but because of the people. One of my favourite parts of every conference is meeting delegates from different backgrounds, hearing new perspectives, and getting to know the personalities that make every committee unique.

Whether I'm in committee as a Chair or a delegate, I always hope to leave having learned something new, made new connections, and shared a few laughs along the way. For me, the best committees are the ones that strike the perfect balance between thoughtful debate, professionalism, and having fun.

When I found out I'd be chairing the FIFA Committee, I won't lie - I was a little nervous. Football fans are some of the most passionate and opinionated people you'll ever meet, which means I know this committee is going to be energetic, lively, and full of exciting discussions. But that's exactly what I'm looking forward to.

My goal as your Chair is to create a committee where everyone feels comfortable speaking, challenging ideas respectfully, and enjoying the experience. Of course, I do expect professionalism and respect at all times... and if things get a little too exciting, I have some very, very hefty sanctions ready.

I can't wait to meet all of you, hear your ideas, and see the committee come to life. See you in committee!

Jeremy

Hello everyone,

I am **Jeremy Baffour-Agyei**, one of your chairs for this year's FIFA committee. This is my fifth MUN and first as a chair. MUN - especially DPS MUN - has been a wonderful learning experience for me over the years. It's greatly helped with my confidence, public speaking and my ability to work under pressure. I've also really enjoyed the fun of all of it, the heated debates with other delegates and sometimes even the chairs, the sanctions and all the other awkward and random moments during committee sessions. And I can't forget the friends I made along the way.

The FIFA committee actually has a special place in my heart, it's a committee I've been a part of twice and where I got my first MUN award; now I have the opportunity to chair this committee. I can't wait for the captivating debates on our topics and those inevitable moments where we wonder slightly off-topic while discussing our football issues.

A committee where all delegates are all contributing and feel free is always one of the best and I hope that is exactly what we get in this FIFA committee, all delegates expressing themselves wholly while just about staying within the bounds of procedure.

I know we're all going to have the best experience and keep the FIFA committee's reputation of being the best.

If you would like to reach me before the conference, you can always come up to me in school or through my telegram: @J_ba16

1.3 General Overview

Founded in Paris in 1904 and headquartered in Zürich, Switzerland, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) is the global governing body for association football, futsal, and beach soccer.

Operating as a non-profit association under Swiss law, FIFA encompasses 211 national member associations organized into six continental confederations. Its supreme legislative organ is the FIFA Congress, an annual assembly where each affiliated national football association holds one equal vote, regardless of geographic size or sporting stature. Guided by the FIFA Statutes, the organization holds the mandate to regulate, govern, and promote global football, oversee international player transfers, establish uniform laws of the game, and organize major international competitions, including the men's and women's FIFA World Cups. Supported by the strategic FIFA Council and the operational General Secretariat, FIFA possesses binding regulatory authority over its member associations, national leagues, and registered sporting participants. Through its standing committees and independent judicial bodies—including the Ethics, Disciplinary, and Compliance Committees—FIFA sets international standards for sporting integrity, commercial governance, and the protection of the sport from systemic economic exploitation.

Topic 1

Evaluating the Expansion of the FIFA World Cup from 48 to 64 Teams: Balancing Global Inclusion with Competitive Integrity

The FIFA World Cup is the biggest football spectacle in the world, FIFA's quadrennial premier football tournament that brings together 48 of the best football nations in the world.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico is the 23rd edition of the World Cup since the first one in 1930 and the first 48 team tournament. The FIFA World Cup had used the 32 team format for 24 years up until 2026 when it was changed to 48. The expansion was meant to increase global representation and introduce new nations to the tournament, with FIFA executives praising the format for giving more countries the opportunity to compete on football's biggest stage. When the expansion was first announced, it arrived with a lot of backlash, mainly from European teams and UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin, with complaints about the quality of the tournament reducing.

After the tournament concluded FIFA's Chief of Global Football Development, Arsène Wenger declared the expanded 48-team tournament a "great success" and an ethical necessity, asserting that fears over a dilution of quality proved completely unfounded. Wenger emphasized that global technical advancements and improved coaching have significantly narrowed the gap between traditional powerhouses and smaller nations, citing competitive performances from debutants and emerging teams. The TSG highlighted key tournament trends, including a doubling of goals scored from outside the penalty box due to low defensive blocks and goalkeepers increasingly favoring punching over catching in congested penalty areas.

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In 2025 CONMEBOL brought a proposal to increase the number of participating teams in the World Cup to 64 from 2030 which was initially ignored by most of the footballing world; that all changed after the relative success of the 2026 World Cup where most of the pre tournament concerns were disproved. A further expansion of the World Cup would immensely benefit smaller nations aspiring to qualify for the tournament, the money they would receive from just qualifying for one World Cup could change the football landscape of those nations, the type of money they could reinvest into stadiums, youth facilities and scouting programs. One of the main criticisms of the 48-team tournament was the reintroduction of third-place group finishers potentially moving on to the knockout phase.

The odd math of the top eight third-place finishers from 12 groups moving on led to some confusing scenarios in the final days of group play, not to mention some teams waiting several days to learn their round of 32 opponents. But then for the bigger nations and star players, a 64 team World Cup would mean a more congested club season in an already tightly packed club season where players are at the greatest injury risk ever due to the high intensity of games played and the sheer volume of the games in a season, with the best club players playing close to 60 games a season and some playing 3 games a week. In its initial 16-team format, the World Cup was hosted by smaller nations like Uruguay, Hungary and Sweden.

Those days have already long departed. But the 128-match calendar of a 64-team field -- necessitating the use of at least 20-22 stadiums -- would mean only a few nations could truly host the event themselves.

And if co-hosting becomes the norm, that would be a considerable departure from the past. The 2026 tournament was only the second to be hosted by two or more nations (following Korea-Japan in 2002).

Finally, the constant changing of the football calendar and qualifying campaigns is making football more and more volatile, a major problem we as a committee are striving to solve.

Historical Context

In 1929, it was decided that the first ever World Cup would take place in Uruguay from 13 July to 30 July 1930. Thirteen nations would be participating after accepting invitations – no qualifications took place. The second World Cup in football took place in Italy between 27 May and 10 June. In 1934 and 1938, the World Cup initially had 16 teams but had some countries drop out due to wars and other issues. Unlike the last time the World Cup was held in South America most of the European top nations in football would partake – this time transatlantic flight had emerged that made the long trip easier (Italy would, however travel by sea, understandable after the tragic air disaster that the year before wiped out the entire Torino football team).

From 1950 to 1982 all the World Cups had 16 teams that participated. The expansion of the FIFA World Cup from 16 to 24 teams for the 1982 tournament in Spain was one of the most pivotal structural shifts in international football history. Spearheaded by FIFA President João Havelange (building on earlier ideas proposed by Sir Stanley Rous in 1970), the move aimed to make the tournament a truly global event by opening up berths for emerging footballing nations. The 1982 World Cup was expanded so the tournament would have broader global representation. Prior to 1982, the 16-team format heavily favored UEFA (Europe) and CONMEBOL (South America).

The expansion added 8 additional spots, giving expanded access to Africa (CAF), Asia/Oceania (AFC/OFC), and North/Central America (CONCACAF). The expansion allowed five nations to make their World Cup debuts in 1982: Algeria, Cameroon, Honduras, Kuwait, and New Zealand. The 1982 tournament introduced a unique, multi-stage structure to accommodate 24 teams: Initial criticism focused on potential competitive imbalances. Press coverage highlighted record scorelines, such as Hungary's 10–1 victory over El Salvador, as evidence that the gap between elite and developing nations remained wide.

Conversely, articles frequently celebrated performance breakthroughs by smaller nations. But this expansion to 24 teams came with one problem; one of the most infamous days in World Cup history, popularly known as the Disgrace of Gijon.

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Playing a day after Algeria and Chile, Germany took a 10th-minute lead in Gijon through Horst Hrubesch. Then, in scenes of infamous high farce, more or less nothing happened. Neither team attempted to play with any attacking purpose and certainly did not try to score. Fans barracked the players, with Algerian supporters inside El Molinon waving banknotes. Local newspaper El Comercio published the match report in its crime section.

Following this, the last group game of subsequent tournaments have been played at the same time.

After 1982, every World Cup was 24 up till 1998 in France when it was expanded again to 32 teams and again this came with more backlash.

When FIFA expanded the World Cup to 32 teams for the 1998 tournament, critics voiced strong concerns over diluted match quality, political motives, and increased physical and logistical burdens. Opponents feared that adding more nations would result in lopsided group-stage fixtures and predictable outcomes, while placing undue physical strain on elite players already facing demanding club schedules. Furthermore, FIFA executives faced accusations of using expanded regional spots as political leverage to secure votes in presidential elections, framing the move as a commercial cash grab prioritized over sporting integrity. Additionally, the massive infrastructural requirements of a 64-match calendar effectively priced smaller countries out of hosting the event independently, while extra qualifying berths removed much of the traditional tension and high-stakes drama from continental qualifying campaigns. But in the end, with all these concerns, the new format was extremely successful, especially with it going back to a symmetrical knock out stage qualifying.

The World Cup moved to 48 teams for the 2026 World cup and again it came with the backlash as previous tournament expansions, but this one, more than any other tournament, showed how the gap between the traditionally "big" nations and the smaller ones, with Cape Verde, DR Congo, Egypt and Morocco impressing.

This is a big part of why FIFA is now seriously considering another expansion.

| Current Situation

The expansion of the FIFA World Cup to 48 teams—which made its debut at the 2026 tournament across North America—ultimately proved to be a major success by democratizing global football while preserving high-stakes drama. Despite initial fears that adding 16 teams would dilute the competition's quality and exacerbate player fatigue, the new format unlocked unprecedented global inclusion, highlighted by historic performances from emerging nations and a dominant collective showing from African teams advancing to the new Round of 32. With an expanded schedule of 104 matches, the tournament delivered record-breaking attendance, immense goal tallies, and thrilling underdog storylines that captivated millions worldwide. While valid criticisms lingered regarding steep ticket prices, demanding travel logistics, and occasional conservative group-stage tactics, the expansion successfully demonstrated that broadening international access elevates the global spectacle without sacrificing the sport's competitive spirit. The expanded World Cup was implemented by dividing 48 teams into 12 groups of four—adding a Round of 32 across 104 total matches—while awarding more qualification spots to regions like Africa and Asia, and co-hosting across regional travel clusters in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Following the launch of the 48-team format, talks have emerged regarding a proposal to expand the 2030 FIFA World Cup to 64 teams. Championed by CONMEBOL President Alejandro Domínguez as a fitting way to celebrate the tournament's centenary anniversary, the idea has gained traction with FIFA President Gianni Infantino hinting that governing committees will evaluate further expansion. Scheduled to be co-hosted across Spain, Portugal, and Morocco—with special opening centenary matches in Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay—a 64-team tournament would increase the fixture count to 128 matches over roughly six weeks, raising fresh debate around fixture congestion, player fatigue, and host logistics.

The proposal to expand the FIFA World Cup to 64 teams faced swift pushback from prominent football administrators, managers, and media figures. Key executives like UEFA President Aleksander Čeferin and CONCACAF President Victor Montagliani warned that over-expanding would severely dilute the quality of the competition and render continental qualification almost meaningless. Veteran managers, including Carlos Queiroz, argued that continually swelling the tournament's footprint risks turning the world's premier football spectacle into an ordinary event, while sports journalists slammed the idea for exacerbating player fatigue, increasing skill disparities, and creating lopsided fixtures that compromise the sport's competitive integrity.

Subtopics

1.4.4.1 Sporting Integrity & Competitive Quality

Examines how expanding the tournament to 64 teams affects the level of play and overall tournament structure. Adding 16 more nations risks diluting match quality, potentially leading to lopsided scorelines and uncompetitive fixtures in the early rounds. Easier qualification paths could also diminish the intensity, drama, and commercial value of continental qualifying campaigns. Furthermore, designing a balanced 64-team format poses severe structural challenges, as configuring group stages—whether through two-team groups or massive multi-group setups—can introduce fairness issues and cagey, uninspiring tactical play.

1.4.4.2 Player Welfare & Congestion

Focuses on the physical and mental strain imposed on athletes by an expanded match calendar. Extending the World Cup to accommodate 128 matches over roughly six weeks forces players to navigate extra knockout rounds alongside an already bloated domestic and international club schedule. Drastically reduced off-season recovery time significantly increases the risk of fatigue, burnout, and career-threatening injuries among elite players, ultimately undermining the quality of play across both club and international football.

1.4.4.3 Financial & Economic Impact

Highlights the tension between FIFA's commercial incentives and the financial realities faced by host nations. For governing bodies and broadcasters, a 64-team spectacle offers unprecedented revenue opportunities through expanded media rights, global corporate sponsorships, and ticket sales. However, host countries must absorb colossal expenditures to construct or upgrade world-class stadiums, training facilities, and public transit networks, raising serious questions about whether long-term economic returns justify such massive public investment.

1.4.4.5 Logistics & Infrastructure

Addresses the daunting operational demands required to host a 128-match tournament. The sheer footprint of a 64-team event makes multi-country hosting bids virtually mandatory, requiring seamless cross-border coordination, unified security protocols, and vast transport networks. Additionally, the constant long-distance travel required for 64 national squads and millions of traveling supporters across multiple host nations generates a massive carbon footprint, presenting major environmental and logistical challenges for organizing committees.

1.4.4.4 Global Representation vs. Fan Experience

Weighs the benefits of broader international inclusion against the day-to-day realities for traveling supporters. Expanding qualification spots democratizes global football by granting smaller or historically overlooked nations a platform on the sport's grandest stage, driving grassroots growth worldwide. Conversely, the skyrocketing costs of attending a longer, multi-national tournament risk pricing out traditional match-going supporters in favor of corporate hospitality, threatening the authentic fan culture that makes the World Cup unique.

| Questions a Resolution Must Answer

- 1 How will adding 16 more teams impact the overall quality of play, and does the risk of lopsided early-round matches outweigh the benefits of broader participation?
- 2 What group and knockout structure would be required to accommodate 64 teams, and can it prevent cagey, low-incentive group fixtures?
- 3 How will an expanded 128-match schedule affect player fatigue, injury rates, and off-season recovery within an already crowded global football calendar?
- 4 Can a six-week tournament window fit into domestic league schedules without causing severe disruptions to club competitions worldwide?
- 5 Which nations or multi-country coalitions actually possess the required number of stadiums, base camps, and transport networks to host 64 teams?
- 6 Will the increased broadcast and sponsorship revenues generated by FIFA translate into tangible financial benefits for host governments and local economies?
- 7 How significantly will adding 16 guaranteed World Cup spots devalue the competitive intensity, viewership, and commercial appeal of continental qualifying tournaments?

Regulating Sport Betting Sponsorships in Football

| Background Information

FIFA's integration into the multi-billion-dollar sports wagering industry marks a landmark shift in how modern football governance operates. Historically, football's governing body strictly insulated itself from bookmakers and betting operators to safeguard the perceived integrity and fairness of global competition. However, this cautious stance underwent a major commercial realignment ahead of the 2022 tournament in Qatar. Driven by widespread legal shifts—most notably the 2018 U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning federal bans on sports gambling—FIFA recognized online wagering as a major driver of commercial expansion and fan engagement.

The initial commercial breakthrough occurred during the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, when Betano (operated by Kaizen Gaming) signed as FIFA's first-ever official sports betting operator for the European market. Following that initial agreement, the commercial alliance deepened across subsequent cycles. Betano expanded its involvement to serve as an Official Partner of the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup and returned as an Official Tournament Supporter for Europe and South America during the 2026 FIFA World Cup. FIFA's commercial leadership emphasized that this ongoing collaboration reflects a shared commitment to digital fan interaction, responsible gaming practices, and structured integrity safeguards across regional markets.

Beyond traditional sportsbooks, FIFA has simultaneously expanded its broader betting infrastructure by centralizing live, real-time match data distribution and establishing commercial partnerships with prediction market platforms. While this commercial strategy has unlocked record sponsorship revenues across expanded 48-team, 104-match tournament formats, it has also sparked controversy. Integrity organizations, such as the Council of Europe, have expressed concern over the rapid growth of micro-moment in-play markets, pointing out that wagering on isolated match actions increases vulnerabilities to spot-fixing. Despite these ongoing regulatory debates, sports wagering and event-trading platforms remain anchored as permanent commercial pillars within international football governance.

Historical Context

Pre-2005: Strict Separation and Ethical Prohibition

FIFA historically maintained a strict separation between football governance and gambling. Players, referees, and match officials were prohibited from betting or maintaining financial ties with gambling organizations. Betting companies were viewed primarily as threats to football's integrity because of their potential connection to match-fixing and illegal gambling. FIFA's priority was therefore to protect the neutrality and credibility of match results.

2005–2017: Defensive Monitoring and the Early Warning System

The rapid growth of online betting made gambling markets increasingly difficult to ignore. In 2005, FIFA established the Early Warning System GmbH (EWS) in Zurich, an independent, non-commercial organization designed to detect suspicious betting activity. EWS worked with more than 400 bookmakers and betting providers, which supplied information about unusual betting patterns. During this period, FIFA interacted with betting companies primarily as partners in monitoring and fraud prevention, rather than as commercial sponsors.

2018: The Catalytic Shift – Murphy v. NCAA and PASPA Repeal

A major change occurred on May 14, 2018, when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) in *Murphy v. NCAA*. The decision allowed individual U.S. states to legalize and regulate sports betting. This transformed the economic environment surrounding sports wagering, encouraging major sports organizations to consider betting as a legitimate commercial opportunity rather than solely an integrity threat. The growing North American market became particularly significant ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

2022–Present: Commercial Integration and the Betano Era

FIFA's relationship with sports betting subsequently shifted toward commercial sponsorship. In 2022, Betano, operated by Kaizen Gaming, became a FIFA wagering partner. The partnership expanded to major competitions, including the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup and the 2026 FIFA World Cup. FIFA and Betano have emphasized sporting integrity and responsible betting as part of their collaboration. This represents a fundamental transformation in FIFA's approach: sports betting has evolved from an activity viewed primarily as a threat to football's integrity into a significant source of commercial partnership and global sports entertainment.

| Current Situation

In May 2026, FIFA announced Betano as an Official Tournament Supporter of the FIFA World Cup 2026™ for Europe and South America. This marked the third consecutive FIFA–Betano partnership, following Betano’s role as FIFA’s first official betting operator at the 2022 World Cup and its partnership during the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup.

The agreement covers the 104-match, 48-team World Cup, with FIFA using a regional sponsorship model rather than granting one company global rights. Betano’s focus on Europe and South America reflects Kaizen Gaming’s existing football presence. In South America, Betano sponsors Brazil’s Série A, Flamengo, River Plate, and the Argentine national team. In Europe, it partners with major clubs and competitions, including Bayern Munich, FC Porto, Tottenham Hotspur, and UEFA competitions.

Despite the 2026 World Cup being hosted partly in the United States, Kaizen Gaming has chosen not to enter the U.S. betting market, citing the high financial risks faced by international operators attempting to establish themselves there. The partnership also reflects the growing restrictions on gambling sponsorships. With the Premier League banning front-of-shirt gambling sponsorships from the 2026/27 season, alternative models are becoming more important. Betano’s Tottenham partnership, for example, focuses on training-wear sponsorship rather than retail shirts.

FIFA also emphasizes responsible gambling and consumer protection. Betano’s tournament activations include tools such as deposit limits, activity-time controls, and customer support.

Overall, the partnership demonstrates how sports betting sponsorship is evolving through regionalized rights, alternative sponsorship models, and stronger responsible-gambling measures.

Subtopics

Spot-Fixing & In-Play Betting Risks

Unlike traditional match-outcome betting (e.g., picking the winner), modern sportsbooks emphasize in-play micro-betting. Fans can wager on hyper-specific moments: who takes the next throw-in, whether a player receives a yellow card, or how many corner kicks occur in a five-minute window. Integrity officials point out that micro-betting dramatically increases vulnerability to spot-fixing. It requires only a single rogue player or official to trigger a payout without changing the final score. Regulators warn that expanding these markets during massive events like the 48-team World Cup creates significant enforcement challenges across global jurisdictions.

The Rise of Crypto & Decentralized Prediction Markets

Beyond traditional online sportsbooks, FIFA's foray into prediction market partnerships (such as its deal with ADI Predictstreet) represents a shift toward peer-to-peer trading platforms. Simultaneously, unlicensed or decentralized platforms like Polymarket and Kalshi process billions in volume around FIFA matches.

Because many prediction platforms utilize cryptocurrency, pseudonymous accounts, and off-shore hosting, tracking money trails becomes vastly more complex than watching licensed domestic sportsbooks. Researchers highlight risks like wash-trading, rapid money laundering through digital wallets, and regulatory gray zones where platforms operate outside traditional gambling oversight.

Data Rights Monetization & Real-Time Feeds

To fuel the global betting industry, FIFA monetizes its most valuable operational asset: official match data. Fast, low-latency data feeds are essential for sportsbooks to offer live odds adjustments during a game.

FIFA licenses its real-time tracking feeds to major sports data companies (like Stats Perform). In exchange for multi-million dollar rights fees, these companies distribute official, millisecond-accurate match stats directly to thousands of sportsbooks worldwide. This data infrastructure turns every FIFA match into a live financial asset for bookmakers globally.

Regulatory Resistance & European Shirt-Sponsor Bans

While FIFA embraces gambling commercialization at the international level, European domestic leagues and national governments are moving in the opposite direction due to public health concerns around gambling addiction. For instance, the English Premier League agreed to voluntarily ban front-of-shirt gambling sponsorships beginning in the 2026/27 season, while countries like Spain, Italy, and the Netherlands have enacted strict laws limiting gambling advertising during sports broadcasts. This dynamic creates an ideological and operational clash between FIFA's global commercial agenda and domestic regulatory frameworks.

International Governance & Political Backlash

FIFA's aggressive commercialization of gambling has led to unprecedented public friction with international political bodies.

Organizations like the Council of Europe have publicly criticized FIFA, alleging that stadium-integrated prediction partnerships and micro-moment betting open an "open door to fraud". Governing bodies are increasingly demanding formal integrity dialogues and updated regulatory frameworks before future major tournaments (such as the 2030 World Cup) to prevent political pressure and commercial interests from undermining the sport's credibility.

| Questions a Resolution Must Answer

- 1 Should FIFA allow sports betting companies to sponsor official tournaments, or should gambling sponsorships be completely banned?
- 2 If betting sponsorships are allowed, what strict limits should be placed on advertising (such as banning logos on jerseys, stadium boards, or youth broadcasts)?
- 3 How can FIFA prevent "spot-fixing," where players or referees are bribed to manipulate small match events like yellow cards or throw-ins?
- 4 Who should be responsible for monitoring global betting markets for suspicious activity—FIFA itself, independent third-party integrity agencies, or national law enforcement?
- 5 What strict penalties should players, referees, and team officials face if they share private team information or participate in gambling?
- 6 Should FIFA be allowed to sell real-time match data directly to sportsbooks, or does making money from live odds create a conflict of interest?

Useful Sites and Documents

TOPIC 1: Expanding the FIFA World Cup to 64 Teams

FIFA Legal & Governance Division

Key Resource: FIFA Statutes (Article 22: Admission of Member Associations) and the official FIFA Legal Portal.

FIFA Technical Study Group (TSG)

Key Resource: Technical studies on World Cup tournament formats, competitive balance, scheduling, and the implications of tournament expansion.

FIFPRO (International Federation of Professional Footballers)

Key Resource: Player Workload Monitoring (PWM) Reports and Calendar Safeguards Briefings, focusing on player welfare and workload.

UEFA & Continental Confederation Executive Committees

Key Resource: Joint Statements and Confederation Policy Briefings on International Match Calendar Reform, including scheduling and qualification considerations.

Journal of Sports Economics / International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics

Key Resource: Peer-reviewed research on mega-sporting event economics, tournament expansion, and host-city cost-benefit analyses.

TOPIC 2: Regulating Sports Betting Sponsorships in Football

FIFA Legal & Compliance Division

Key Resource: FIFA Code of Ethics (Article 15: Integrity of Matches and Competitions) and the official FIFA Legal Portal.

Council of Europe — Secretariat of the Macolin Convention

Key Resource: Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention).

International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA)

Key Resource: IBIA Annual Sports Betting Integrity Report, covering suspicious betting activity and threats to sporting integrity.

INTERPOL — Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre (IFACC)

Key Resource: INTERPOL Match-Fixing Task Force Operational Manuals and Briefings.

| Glossary

Topic 1: Regulating Sports Betting Sponsorships in Football

Betting Sponsorship — A commercial partnership where a betting company financially supports a football club, competition, or event in exchange for promotional exposure.

Gambling Advertising — Promotional content encouraging or informing audiences about betting or gambling services.

Match-Fixing — Deliberately manipulating the outcome or events of a football match for financial or other benefits.

Integrity — The protection of football from corruption, manipulation, conflicts of interest, and other practices that undermine fair competition.

Responsible Gambling — Measures designed to reduce gambling-related harm and promote informed, controlled participation.

Conflict of Interest — A situation where personal or financial interests could influence someone's professional decisions or responsibilities.

Betting Regulation — Laws, rules, and policies governing how betting companies can operate, advertise, and partner with football organizations.

Topic 2: Expanding the FIFA World Cup to 64 Teams

World Cup Expansion — Increasing the number of national teams participating in the FIFA World Cup beyond the current 48-team format.

Qualification — The process through which national teams earn a place in the World Cup.

FIFA Member Associations — The national football associations that are members of FIFA and represent their respective territories.

Competitive Balance — The degree to which participating teams have relatively equal opportunities to compete successfully.

Slot Allocation — The distribution of World Cup qualification places among FIFA's different confederations.

Player Welfare — Measures protecting players' physical and mental well-being, particularly concerning workload, travel, scheduling, and recovery.

1.6 References

TOPIC 1

[Gianni Infantino opens door to 64-team World Cup - BBC Sport](#)
[FIFA World Cup 2026™](#)

[As FIFA Explores A 64-Team World Cup, Some Potential Pros And Cons](#)

[Football World Cup 1934 in Italy](#)

[A bigger World Cup is a better World Cup - by Nate Silver](#)

[Disgrace of Gijon, explained: Revisiting 1982 World Cup controversy with Austria, Algeria and West Germany - Yahoo Sports](#)

[New faces, gulfs in class and flawed drama: how 48 teams changed the World Cup](#)

[Six host countries & 64 teams! 2030 World Cup expansion claim made by CONMEBOL president following the end of 48-nation tournament | Goal.com](#)

[Will the 2030 World Cup expand to 64 teams? What FIFA's Infantino says.](#)

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[Conmebol presses FIFA for a 64-team 2030 World Cup and more matches in South America — MercoPress.](#)

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[Betano unveiled as Tournament Supporter of FIFA World Cup 2026™ for Europe and South America](#)

[FIFA extends early warning system for monitoring sports betting As part of its efforts to safeguard the integrity of the game of](#)

["No FOMO": Inside Kaizen Gaming's sponsorship playbook](#)

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[FIFA renews Betano ties ahead of World Cup 2026 - Sportcal](#)

[Fifa gives fraud 'an open door' with betting, says Council of Europe chief](#)

[U.S. Supreme Court Strikes Down PASPA, Opening the Door to State-Authorized Sports Gambling - Insights - Proskauer Rose LLP](#)

[Early Warning System GmbH](#)