

FIFA



BACKGROUND GUIDE

HPSMUN2025

Note from the Secretary-General



In retrospect, my first MUN was pretty much a joke. I had no idea where to start my research, I didn't understand half the terminology, and my confidence was somewhere under the table. I was inexperienced, underprepared, and incredibly anxious. But today, when I look back at my most recent MUN as a delegate, everything stood in sharp contrast. I was confident, I was working with my atmosphere. I had a grasp on what I was doing — every last detail.

And yet, despite all that growth, I couldn't figure out what to write for this Sec-Gen note. Not because I didn't know how to write it. Believe it or not, I put off writing this one note for over a week simply because I was just not satisfied with what I was coming up with.

But then something caught my attention the other day. I looked across the table and saw my team working — quietly, diligently, brilliantly. It was a beautiful yet rare sight. And at that exact moment, I finally realized what it truly means to be a Secretary-General.

Being a Sec-Gen isn't about being the best delegate in the room. It isn't about delivering perfect speeches, or making resolutions, or position papers. It's about being someone people can rely on. Someone who gets things (shit) done. Someone who can spearhead an event of this significance and make it exceptional. And when I ask myself how I learned all of this — how I reached a point where I could humbly call myself a Sec-Gen — I realized something important. MUNs didn't just teach me confidence or reduce my anxiety. MUNs taught me how to organize, how to manage, and how to lead. People often think MUN is only about public speaking or writing resolutions. But that's just the superficial tip of the iceberg. MUN teaches you how to network, how to collaborate, how to lobby and how to enjoy doing it. The first Inter-School HPS MUN was never established just for awards, certificates, or recognition. It was created so you could learn, grow, and — most importantly — enjoy the journey. Because the moment you start having fun, you absorb more than any workshop or handbook can ever teach you. You learn how to build connections, make memories, and use those connections meaningfully.

It may not make sense to you now — but when you've played the delegate game long enough, everything comes together. It's like watching a painting come to life. Every MUN you attend becomes a stroke on the canvas. Every experience adds color, depth, meaning. And when you finally step back and look at the whole picture... you realize how beautiful the journey truly was. That's exactly what happened to me. And if there's anything I hope for, it's that each one of you gets to experience that same transformation — in your own way, at your own pace.

For now, this is all I can write as your Secretary-General.

And maybe... that's enough.

Note from the Chair



Jiteesh Reddy is the Director of Varsity Sports India and a national-level football player known for his dedication and leadership. He has been part of MUNs for over a year, serving in every role from delegate to secretariat to executive board. Passionate about the footballing world, he aims to make the FIFA Committee at HPSMUN a memorable and successful experience for all delegates.

Note from the Vice Chair



I am Siya, and with two years of experience in the MUN circuit, I've grown to truly love the art of debate and the thrill of thoughtful, meaningful discussion. MUNs have not only strengthened my confidence but have also shaped the way I understand people, politics, and perspectives—something I continue to explore with every committee I'm part of.

Outside the world of academics and conferences, you'll most likely find me curled up with a novel or rewatching Friends for what is probably the hundredth time. I enjoy music, discovering new hobbies, and finding small pockets of joy in everyday things. As an extrovert, I genuinely value meeting new people; every conversation that challenges my thinking or introduces me to a new viewpoint feels like a small adventure of its own.

I hope to bring this same spirit of curiosity, openness, and enthusiasm to the committee, encouraging every delegate to speak confidently, think critically, and engage wholeheartedly.

Note from the Rapporteur



Hi, I'm Arushi, a 16 year old student and an aspiring lawyer. From the dance floor to the sports field, I'm always up for trying new things and exploring new places. I have a passion for writing, reading, dance, music, movies, cooking and public speaking. With 5 MUNs under my belt, this is my third time on the EB and I look forward to hearing all of your thoughts on the agenda.

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

We, Jiteesh, Siya and Arushi, on behalf of the entire Secretariat, are delighted to welcome you to HPS MUN 2025 and to the committee of FIFA. It is an honor to serve as your Executive Board for what promises to be one of the most dynamic and contemporary agendas of the conference.

The purpose of this Background Guide is to provide you with a foundation and direction for your research. However, it is by no means exhaustive the true essence of your preparation lies in the depth of your independent research and the originality of your ideas. We strongly encourage every delegate to go beyond this document, engage critically with diverse sources, and arrive with a clear understanding of both the agenda and your assigned country's position.

As members of this committee, you will be debating issues that go beyond sports and questions of governance, integrity, political influence, and financial power that shape global football today. Our goal as your Executive Board is to facilitate meaningful, well-informed discussions that explore not only the complexities of this topic but also the human and economic impact it carries across the world.

We urge you to think creatively and develop innovative, practical solutions that reflect both realism and diplomacy. Rather than repeating established policies, strive to propose ideas that balance ambition with practicality solutions that could genuinely redefine the governance of world football.

For first-time delegates, we highly recommend researching the agenda and football framework, and aligning your arguments accordingly. Remember, the quality of debate comes not from the quantity of your research, but from how effectively you apply it.

As your Executive Board, our objective is to ensure a fair, engaging, and intellectually stimulating committee where every delegate's voice is heard. We look forward to witnessing well-researched arguments, sharp diplomacy, and collaboration that reflects the spirit of both football and international cooperation.

At the conference, you are expected to have sufficient knowledge of your portfolio's stance with the agenda being: **“Regulating Club Ownership, Political Influence, and Financial Power: Safeguarding Integrity and Freedom in Global Football”** The agenda was picked keeping in mind its relevance and its implications with respect to major events currently happening in the footballing world and more specifically their aftermath.

Please feel free to reach out to us for any assistance or clarification prior to or during the conference. We are here to help you learn, grow, and enjoy every moment of the experience.

Wishing you the very best for HPS MUN 2025 may this committee inspire you to think critically, debate passionately, and lead with purpose.

HPSMUN

Warm regards,

Jiteesh Reddy - Chairperson

Siya Thakkar - Vice - Chairperson

Arushi Baldwa - Rapporteur

Executive Board – FIFA Committee

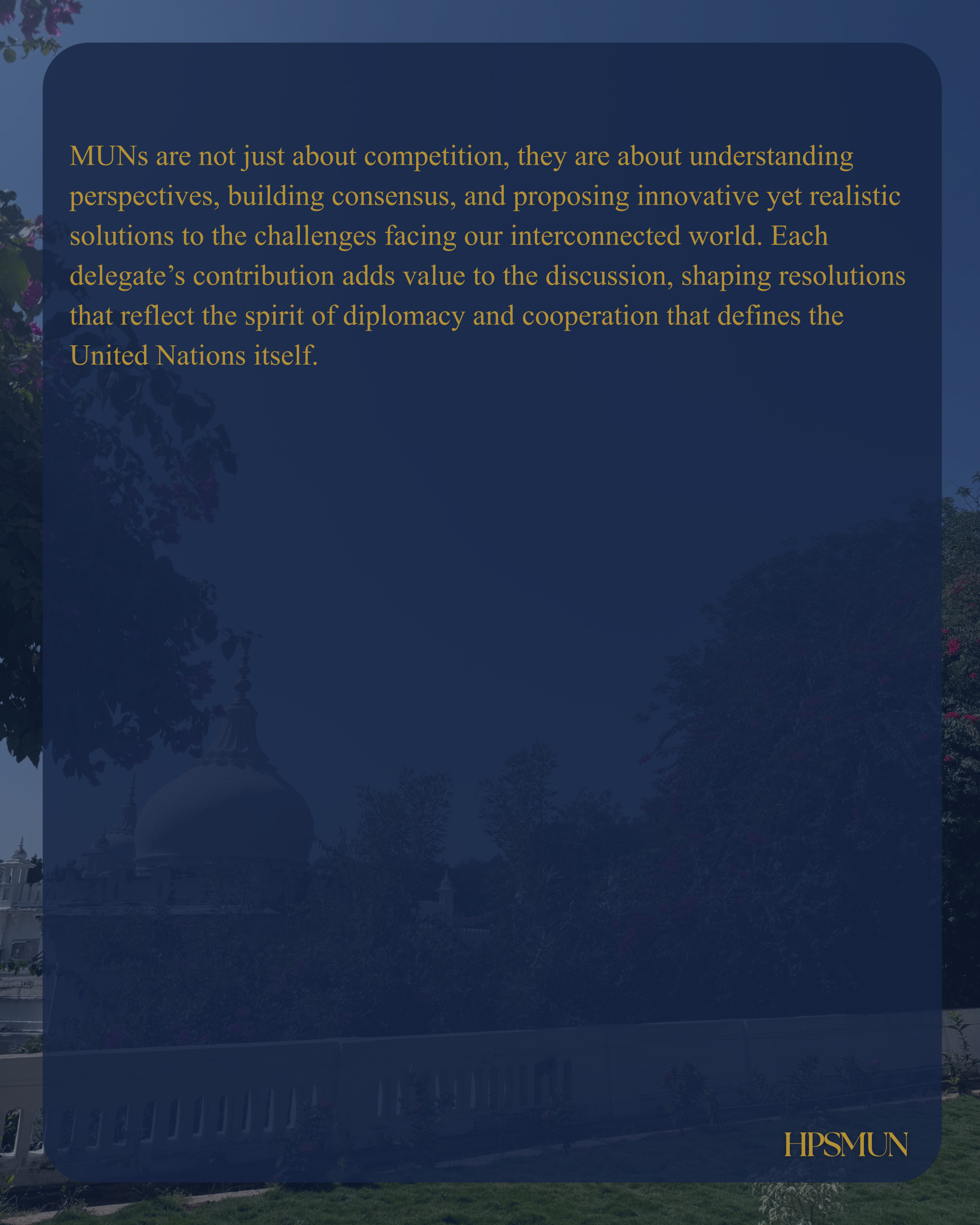
HPS Model United Nations 2025

What is a MUN?

Model United Nations (MUN) is an educational simulation of the United Nations and other international organizations where students step into the roles of diplomats, policymakers, or representatives. The purpose of an MUN is to help participants understand how global institutions function, how international decisions are made, and how diplomacy, negotiation, and collaboration can be used to address real-world challenges.

During an MUN conference, participants known as ‘delegates’ or ‘representatives’ debate pressing global issues, draft resolutions, form alliances, and attempt to find collective solutions while adhering to parliamentary procedure and diplomatic protocol. Through this experience, students learn critical skills such as public speaking, research, negotiation, leadership, and teamwork.

While traditional MUN committees simulate UN organs and countries, specialized bodies such as FIFA, Interpol, or the International Olympic Committee (IOC) allow delegates to explore global issues through the lens of specific organizations. In this FIFA Committee, participants represent individuals, clubs, and institutions rather than nations, applying MUN principles to the context of sports governance, ethics, and global management.



MUNs are not just about competition, they are about understanding perspectives, building consensus, and proposing innovative yet realistic solutions to the challenges facing our interconnected world. Each delegate's contribution adds value to the discussion, shaping resolutions that reflect the spirit of diplomacy and cooperation that defines the United Nations itself.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

This committee will be using UNA-USA Rules Of Procedure. Firstly, the committee will be setting the agenda and moving into formal debate. The verbatims mentioned below must be used to raise the motion.

Motions Setting the agenda:

- Setting the agenda: The Representative of ____ would like to raise a motion to set the agenda as ____.
- Establishing a GSL: The Representative of ____ would like to raise a motion to establish the general speakers list with an individual speaker's time of ____.
- Moderated caucuses: The Representative of ____ would like to raise a motion to suspend formal debate and move into a moderated caucus on the topic ____ for a total time period of __ minutes with individual speaker's time being ____.
- Unmoderated caucuses: The Representative of ____ would like to raise a motion to suspend formal debate and move into an unmoderated caucus for a total time period of __ minutes.
- Extension to informal debate: The Representative of ____ would like to raise a motion to extend the current moderated/unmoderated caucus by ____ minutes.
- Introduction of documentation: The Representative of ____ would like to raise a motion to introduce draft resolution/press statement

- Voting on introduced document(s): The Representative of _____ would like to raise a motion to table formal debate and move into voting on [document name].

Points:

Point of personal privilege

- Personal inconvenience e.g. inaudibility of some part of the speech of another delegate
- CAN interrupt an active speaker

Point of parliamentary inquiry

- Used to clarify doubts on the rules of procedure
- CANNOT interrupt a speaker

Point of Order

- Can be raised to point out a factual inaccuracy in a delegate's speech
- CANNOT interrupt a speaker
- Format of raising: The Representative of _____ said in their speech and i quote “_____” this is factually incorrect due to ‘reason’
- Logical fallacies are not accepted

Yields:

Yield to points of information

Yielding the remaining time to other delegates so that they can question you on the speech you made.

Yield to another delegate

Yielding remaining time to some specific delegate to let her/him make her/his speech. Delegates should be informed prior to this type of yield.

Yield to the executive board

Yielding the remaining time to the EB. Such yielded time is deemed elapsed by the EB but not always. Such time's usage is up to the discretion of the EB.

Tier 1: Primary and Official Sources

Includes:

- Any publication, statement, or document released by FIFA, UEFA, CAF, AFC, CONMEBOL, CONCACAF, or any other official football governing body.
- Official reports, audits, or financial statements from national football associations (e.g., the FA, AIFF, DFB).
- Verified public statements or press releases by government ministries, sports authorities, or recognized club owners and executives.
- The evidence falling in this tier is considered most reliable during the simulation.

Tier 2: State-Affiliated and Institutional Media Sources

Includes:

- News articles or broadcasts from state-owned or state-regulated media outlets such as BBC (UK), Prasar Bharti (India), Xinhua (China), Al Jazeera (Qatar), etc.
- Publications from reputable sports institutions or research organizations, such as CIES Football Observatory, Transparency International (Sports Integrity Division), or Amnesty International reports on football.
- Verified public statements or press releases by government ministries, sports authorities, or recognized club owners and executives.
- The evidence falling in this tier is considered most reliable during the simulation.

Tier 3 – Independent and Secondary Media Sources

Includes:

- Articles from internationally recognized media outlets such as Reuters, The Guardian, The New York Times, The Athletic, ESPN, Sky Sports, Bleacher Report, or Agence France-Presse.
- Reports or commentary by journalists and analysts known for credible investigative work in sports governance (e.g., Tariq Panja, Miguel Delaney).
- The evidence falling under this tier is considered the least reliable for the purposes of this simulation. Yet, if no better source is available in a certain scenario, it may be considered.

Personal Pronouns

In order to maintain decorum and professionalism, the **Executive Board** strongly discourages the use of personal pronouns such as “I,” “me,” or “my.”

As this is a representative-style committee, participants should refer to themselves in the third person, using their assigned name or position.

For example:

“The Representative of Gianni Infantino believes that...”

“According to the Representative of FC Barcelona...”

This ensures that debate remains formal, diplomatic, and focused on the perspective of the represented entity rather than the individual participant.

About the Committee

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) is the international governing body responsible for overseeing and regulating association football (soccer) worldwide. Established in 1904 and headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, FIFA currently comprises 211 member associations, making it one of the largest and most influential international organizations in the world.

FIFA's core mission is to promote, develop, and safeguard the game of football across all levels while ensuring fair play, integrity, and equal opportunity. It organizes global tournaments, including the FIFA World Cup, the Women's World Cup, and various youth and club competitions, which together generate billions in global viewership and revenue.

However, FIFA's role extends far beyond sport. It functions as a complex global governance institution, managing issues of finance, ethics, ownership, political influence, and international cooperation. In recent decades, controversies surrounding corruption, transparency, and external political interference have challenged FIFA's legitimacy and accountability. These issues have sparked global debates about how to regulate ownership models, prevent financial malpractice, and ensure that football remains free from undue political and economic influence.

In this committee, participants will simulate FIFA as a decision-making body, representing key stakeholders in the global football ecosystem including executives, club owners, political figures, journalists, and advocacy organizations. The goal of this simulation is to reform and rethink football governance, finding innovative and realistic solutions to preserve the integrity and freedom of the world's most popular sport.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA:

Regulating Club Ownership, Political Influence, and Financial Power: Safeguarding Integrity and Freedom in Global Football

The global football industry has evolved into a multibillion-dollar enterprise that extends far beyond the boundaries of sport. What was once a game defined by passion and competition has increasingly become shaped by financial dominance, political interests, and opaque ownership structures. Major clubs are now controlled by state-backed entities, multinational corporations, or private investors, each wielding immense influence over the sport's future direction.

While investment and commercialization have expanded football's global reach, they have also raised pressing concerns regarding transparency, fairness, and integrity. The rise of state ownership models such as sovereign wealth funds controlling clubs through complex financial networks has blurred the line between sports and geopolitics. Meanwhile, multi-club ownership groups like City Football Group and Red Bull have sparked debates over competitive balance, conflict of interest, and the concentration of power within elite football. Financial disparities across leagues have also deepened, with top European clubs commanding overwhelming resources compared to smaller or developing markets. Even with frameworks such as Financial Fair Play (FFP), regulatory loopholes and inconsistent enforcement have allowed financial manipulation and unsustainable spending to persist. This has fueled concerns over the erosion of competition and the sport's increasing detachment from grassroots development.

Furthermore, political influence in football governance remains a challenge. Governments and political leaders often use football as a tool of soft power, seeking to enhance national image or influence international perceptions. This intersection of politics and sport, while historically present, has now reached unprecedented levels impacting club ownership, tournament hosting, and even player representation.

In light of these challenges, this committee seeks to establish a framework for accountability, transparency, and ethical governance within global football. Representatives must evaluate the roles of governing bodies, owners, investors, and political entities, and work toward regulations that ensure financial integrity, protect sporting freedom, and preserve the competitive spirit that defines the game. The objective is to develop innovative, practical, and enforceable measures whether through independent oversight mechanisms, ownership transparency standards, or strengthened financial regulations that restore balance and trust in football's global ecosystem.

Historical Incidents

The evolution of football governance has been shaped by a series of landmark incidents that highlight the growing influence of **money, politics, and ownership structures in the sport**. These cases demonstrate the challenges FIFA and football institutions face in safeguarding integrity, financial fairness, and independence from external control.

a. The 2015 FIFA Corruption Scandal

- **Overview:** In May 2015, the U.S. Department of Justice indicted 14 top FIFA officials on charges of wire fraud, money laundering, and racketeering, exposing widespread corruption within the organization.
- **Impact:** The scandal led to the resignation of longtime FIFA President Sepp Blatter and the suspension of multiple senior executives.
- **Significance:** This incident revealed the need for stronger internal oversight, financial transparency, and ethical governance mechanisms within FIFA's structure.

b. State Ownership and Sportswashing – The Rise of Sovereign Investment (2008–Present)

- **Overview:** The acquisitions of Manchester City (2008) by Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour and Paris Saint-Germain (2011) by Qatar Sports Investments marked a new era of state-backed ownership in football.
- **Impact:** These takeovers revolutionized club spending, player wages, and sponsorships but also raised concerns over sportswashing, where nations use football to improve their global image.
- **Significance:** Sparked debate over FIFA's and UEFA's regulatory capacity to distinguish between legitimate investment and politically motivated influence.

c. The European Super League Controversy (2021)

- Overview: Twelve major European clubs, including Real Madrid, Manchester United, and Juventus, announced the formation of a breakaway European Super League (ESL).
- Impact: The move was met with massive backlash from fans, leagues, and FIFA/UEFA, who condemned it as a threat to competitive balance and football's democratic structure.
- Significance: The ESL controversy exposed deep rifts between elite club owners and football authorities, emphasizing the dangers of excessive financial power and privatized control in the sport.

d. Financial Fair Play (FFP) Controversies (2011–Present)

- Overview: UEFA introduced Financial Fair Play regulations to ensure clubs spend within their means. However, enforcement has been inconsistent.
- Cases: Manchester City (2020) and PSG faced investigations for alleged violations, though both were later cleared or had penalties overturned on technical grounds.
- Significance: These incidents demonstrated the ineffectiveness and loopholes within current financial regulations and highlighted the need for transparent, enforceable, and globally unified standards.

e. Government Interference and Political Influence

- Overview: Several governments have intervened in national football associations for political or administrative reasons.
- Examples:
 - In 2014, Nigeria was briefly suspended by FIFA over government interference in its football federation.
 - In 2016, Indonesia faced suspension for political meddling in team management.
 - In 2022, Kenya and Zimbabwe were sanctioned for government control of their football bodies.
- Significance: Such incidents underline the necessity for clear boundaries between political institutions and football governance, reinforcing FIFA's principle of autonomy in sports.

f. Multi-Club Ownership Models (2010s–Present)

- Overview: Companies like City Football Group and Red Bull GmbH now own or control multiple clubs across different continents.
- Impact: While this structure enhances talent development and global branding, it also poses ethical questions about conflict of interest, competitive fairness, and integrity in international tournaments.
- Significance: Calls have grown for FIFA to introduce ownership transparency and anti-monopoly guidelines to ensure fair competition.

International Frameworks & Relevant Resolutions

While FIFA operates as an independent international governing body for football, its regulatory and ethical responsibilities are deeply connected to broader international frameworks on **governance, transparency, and business ethics**. The following conventions, principles, and resolutions provide the foundation for addressing corruption, ownership regulation, and political influence in global sport.

a. UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)

Adopted in 2003, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption remains the most comprehensive international framework for promoting integrity, transparency, and accountability across both public and private sectors.

It provides mechanisms to prevent bribery, embezzlement, and abuse of power issues directly linked to historic corruption scandals within FIFA and other sports organizations.

Relevance: Encourages transparent financial reporting, ethical conduct, and anti-corruption frameworks that can guide FIFA's internal reforms and ownership regulations.

b. OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

These guidelines set standards for responsible corporate conduct in global business operations, including disclosure, anti-bribery, and fair competition practices.

Given the increasingly corporate nature of modern football ownership — involving holding companies, sovereign wealth funds, and multinational sponsors — the OECD framework provides a valuable reference for ethical and transparent ownership structures.

Relevance: Encourages clubs and owners to maintain transparency in funding, avoid monopolistic behavior, and respect fair competition.

c. UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)

Adopted in 2011, the UNGPs establish the global standard for responsible business conduct, emphasizing the state duty to protect, the corporate responsibility to respect, and the right to remedy.

Relevance: Applicable to football governance as clubs, investors, and sponsors are now recognized as corporate entities. The principles guide FIFA and its stakeholders to ensure that financial and ownership practices do not infringe upon ethical, social, or community rights.

d. Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention, 2014)

The first international treaty aimed at tackling match-fixing and corruption in sports. It calls for cooperation between governments, sports bodies, and betting organizations.

Relevance: Promotes integrity in sporting results and accountability in financial dealings vital to regulating ownership and financial power in football.

e. Transparency International's "Corruption in Sport Initiative" (2016–Present)

An ongoing global project assessing corruption risks, financial misconduct, and ownership opacity across major sports organizations.

Relevance: Provides data and policy recommendations that can support FIFA's reform agenda, especially regarding ownership transparency, governance independence, and financial accountability.

Goals of the Committee

The FIFA Committee at HPS MUN 2025 aims to address the growing imbalance of power, influence, and financial control within global football. The objective of this simulation is to develop a comprehensive, enforceable, and transparent framework that ensures fair competition, ethical ownership, and independence from political and financial manipulation.

Some guiding questions to assist representatives in structuring their research and policy proposals include:

- a. How can FIFA ensure ownership transparency and prevent conflicts of interest in multi-club or state-backed ownership models?
- b. What measures can be taken to limit political interference and prevent the use of football as a tool of soft power or national propaganda?
- c. Should FIFA establish a global financial regulation body or strengthen existing frameworks such as Financial Fair Play (FFP) to ensure accountability and fair competition?
- d. How can FIFA promote competitive balance and support smaller or financially weaker clubs in a market dominated by elite entities?
- e. What form of independent oversight mechanism can be created to monitor compliance with financial and governance standards?
- f. How can FIFA and national associations engage fans, players, and civil society in promoting ethical governance and transparency within football?

SUGGESTED RESEARCH LINKS

These are a few helpful resources to help you get started on research. These are NOT all the resources that are there but are rather complementary/ introductory to individual research.

FIFA Governance and Compliance Portal

<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/organisation/governance>

FIFA Financial Reports and Transparency Statements

<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/organisation/finance>

UEFA Financial Fair Play and Club Licensing

<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/protecting-the-game/club-licensing-and-financial-fair-play/>

Transparency International – Corruption in Sport Initiative

<https://www.transparency.org/en/projects/corruption-in-sport-initiative>

OECD – Sports Governance and Integrity Report

<https://www.oecd.org/gov/sports-governance-integrity.htm>

Council of Europe – Macolin Convention on Sports Manipulation

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/manipulation-of-competitions>

UNODC – Safeguarding Sport from Corruption

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/safeguardingsport/index.html>

CIES Football Observatory

<https://football-observatory.com/>

KPMG Football Benchmark

<https://www.footballbenchmark.com/home>

Reuters – FIFA and Football Business Coverage

<https://www.reuters.com/companies/FIFA>

The Guardian – The FIFA Files and Ownership Reports

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/series/the-fifa-files>

Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA)

<https://siga-sport.com/>

Play the Game – Global Sports Governance Hub

<https://www.playthegame.org/>

Amnesty International – Sports and Human Rights Reports

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/tag/sport/>

Josimar Football – Investigative Sports Journalism

<https://josimarfootball.com/>



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