



JACMUN 2024

FIFA Gate

The 2015 FIFA Corruption Scandal

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to acknowledge that John Abbott College was built upon the unceded Indigenous lands of the traditional territory of both the Kanien'kehá:ka, "Mohawk," and the Anishinabeg "Algonquin," peoples. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather there, and we thank the many generations of people who have taken care of this land and these waters. Tiohtiá:ke, Montreal, is historically known as a gathering place for diverse First Nations; thus, we recognize and deeply appreciate the historic and ongoing Indigenous connections to, and presence on, these lands and waters. We also recognize the contributions Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples have made in shaping and strengthening our communities.

It is JACMUN's great honour to be able to host its conference on this territory. We commit to building a sincere relationship with Indigenous peoples based on respect, dignity, trust, and cooperation, in the process of advancing truth and reconciliation.





Dias Letter

Dear Delegates,

My name is Leo Boudreau and on top of being the USG of GA/SA for this conference, I will also be your head chair for this FIFA Gate committee.

This conference will mark the end of my 7th year of Model UN. My journey with Model UN has been full of ups and downs, it's become such a big part of my life to call it a club activity would be a disservice. I've met some of the most amazing people and become a person I never thought I could because of this hobby. For many of you, this is one of your first if not your first conference. I am honoured to be with you in the early stages of your Model UN career, and for those experienced, I'm happy to be with you as you add to your resume.

Even for how long my love of MUN has been, my love of sports has been double that. While Qatar 2022 may have had one of the best final matches of any World Cup, nothing will beat the feeling I had as a child watching the 2014 Brazil World Cup, if there was a game on I was glued to my dad's laptop. Even for those who aren't sports lovers like myself, FIFA is a name almost no one can avoid. That is why I thought this would be a perfect committee, there is so much debate that can be created from this topic. I implore all of you to be creative with your solutions and be passionate about your character's position. For me Model UN is not always about a necessary solution, the greater joy for me is the debate, which is why I encourage you to disagree and make sure your voice is heard, instead of rushing and agreeing simply to get a paper finished. If I have any regrets from Model UN, my biggest is not making my voice bigger at times, so I hope you're all fighting to be the loudest in the room.

I am so excited to meet you all!

Sincerely,

Leo Boudreau

Head Chair of FIFA Gate



CURRENT SITUATION: A FIFA IN TURMOIL

The lingering stench of the FIFA Gate scandal, exposed in May 2015, continues to cling to FIFA. High-ranking officials have been indicted, sponsors have fled, and the very foundation of FIFA's legitimacy has been shaken. Public trust is at an all-time low, casting a dark shadow over the beautiful game.

Sepp Blatter's resignation in June 2015 offered a glimmer of hope, but the stain of corruption remains. The ongoing investigations and legal proceedings threaten to further cripple the organization. Internally, a fierce power struggle is brewing between those seeking genuine reform and those clinging to the status quo.

The beautiful game itself seems almost overshadowed by the ugliness of the scandal. Fans are disillusioned, questioning the integrity of the sport they love. Sponsors are wary and hesitant to associate their brands with an organization embroiled in such controversy. The very future of FIFA hangs in the balance.

This is the context in which our newly formed committee finds itself. The task before us is monumental. We must not only restore public trust in FIFA but also dismantle the corrupt structures that allowed such abuses to flourish. It is a daunting challenge, but one we must undertake with unwavering commitment and a clear vision for a brighter future.



INTRODUCTION

In 2015, the football world was rocked by a series of corruption scandals collectively called FIFA Gate. High-ranking FIFA officials were accused of bribery, money laundering, and racketeering, casting a dark shadow over the sport's governing body. One particularly shocking revelation involved unmarked envelopes stuffed with cash allegedly handed to football executives in exchange for votes to secure lucrative World Cup hosting rights.

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) is the global governing body for the sport of football (soccer). With 211 member associations, FIFA holds immense power, organizing the world's most widely-viewed sporting event – the FIFA World Cup – alongside numerous other international football tournaments. This power, coupled with vast financial interests, creates the potential for corruption.

In response to the devastating impact of the FIFA Gate scandal on the integrity of the sport, an emergency meeting has been convened with a specially selected FIFA Corruption Task Force. This task force, composed of representatives from member associations, independent ethics experts, and legal professionals, will work diligently to propose comprehensive reforms and ensure accountability within FIFA. The primary goals of this task force are to investigate the full extent of the corruption within FIFA, propose reforms to prevent future scandals and determine how to best restore trust and public confidence in the organization. Throughout this process, the task force will address two critical topics:

- Topic A Addressing Systemic Corruption within FIFA: This will involve a deep examination of the factors that allowed corruption to flourish within the organization, including weaknesses in governance, a lack of transparency, and potential conflicts of interest.
- Topic B Awarding of Hosting Rights and the Bidding Process: A thorough review of the bidding process for major tournaments, particularly the World Cup, will be undertaken to identify vulnerabilities to corruption and establish a fairer, more transparent system.

The task force hopes that through open discussions and a collaborative approach, they can develop a roadmap for a stronger, more ethical FIFA that upholds the beautiful game's spirit.

Understanding FIFA's Governance Structure

FIFA is the international governing body of association football (soccer), futsal, and beach soccer. Its complex governance structure is crucial to understanding how corruption became so deeply entrenched within the organization:

- The Executive Committee: Historically, FIFA's Executive Committee held immense power, making major decisions on everything from tournament hosts to financial dealings. This concentration of power in the hands of a select few became a breeding ground for corruption.
- President and the Congress: The FIFA President sits at the organization's helm, while the Congress, composed of all member associations, primarily serves to ratify decisions.
- Confederations: Six regional confederations (e.g., CONCACAF, UEFA) operate with significant autonomy within their territories. This decentralized structure created further opportunities for corrupt officials to escape oversight.

Key Takeaway:

This governance structure, with its concentration of power, lack of independent oversight, and regional autonomy, fostered a culture of unchecked power that enabled the systemic corruption exposed by FIFA Gate.

Topic A

Addressing

Systemic

Corruption

within FIFA

The FIFA Gate scandal of 2015 became a watershed moment in exposing the depths of corruption plaguing the world's governing body of football. The revelations of widespread bribery, racketeering, and money laundering schemes shattered trust within the global football community. Investigations implicated numerous high-ranking FIFA officials and influential figures within sports marketing. FIFA Gate underscored an urgent need for drastic reforms to address the factors enabling such systematic abuse of power and to rebuild FIFA's severely damaged reputation.

Key Issues for Topic A

- **Lack of Transparency and Accountability:** Past decision-making processes within FIFA were shrouded in secrecy, creating a fertile ground for corruption. Decisions regarding media rights deals, World Cup hosting, and internal governance lacked effective oversight.
- **Weak Ethics Framework:** The ethics committees and investigative bodies within FIFA lacked real independence and the capacity to investigate and sanction corrupt officials. There was often a culture of protecting those in power rather than holding them accountable.
- **Concentrated Power and Influence:** Decision-making power was highly concentrated among a small group of officials, particularly within the FIFA Executive Committee. This created opportunities for abuse and made it easier for a corrupt few to manipulate the system.
- **Conflicts of Interest:** Lines between FIFA's commercial interests and its responsibility to uphold sporting integrity became blurred. The focus on financial gain fostered an environment where bribery and unethical deals became commonplace.

Note: These key issues are interconnected. Successful reform will require addressing them holistically, rather than focusing on isolated solutions.

FIFA's Similar Scandals From The Past

1978 World Cup Host Controversy

Argentina's selection as the host for the 1978 FIFA World Cup sparked widespread allegations of corruption and vote manipulation. These allegations arose within a troubling context: Argentina was under the rule of a brutal military dictatorship (the National Reorganization Process) that seized power through a coup d'état in 1976. Human rights abuses, disappearances, and suppression of dissent were rampant throughout the country.

Allegations surfaced that Argentina had influenced the voting process in their favour through bribes, intimidation tactics, and underhanded political pressure to secure the necessary votes. Critics argue that the military junta sought to use the World Cup for propaganda purposes, hoping the event would distract global attention from their regime's atrocities and portray a positive image of Argentina to the world.

While the accusations persisted, concrete evidence of vote-buying has remained elusive. However, this case highlights a historical vulnerability to manipulation within the World Cup bidding process and raises ethical questions about awarding major sporting events to countries with repressive or authoritarian governments.

2010 World Cup Vote-Selling Scandal

In the lead-up to the 2018 and 2022 World Cup hosting decisions, FIFA Executive Committee members Amos Adamu (Nigeria) and Reynald Temarii (Tahiti) were caught in a vote-selling scandal. Undercover reporters from The Sunday Times (UK) posed as lobbyists seeking to influence the bidding process. Both Adamu and Temarii were secretly filmed appearing to solicit bribes for their votes. Adamu requested funds for a personal project, while Temarii asked for support for a sports academy.

The scandal generated intense backlash and scrutiny. FIFA immediately suspended Adamu and Temarii and launched an investigation by its Ethics Committee. It further fueled long-held suspicions about the integrity of FIFA's bidding processes and sparked questions about the vulnerability of the system to corruption and manipulation.

FIFA Gate Summary

The FIFA Gate scandal erupted in 2015, exposing a vast web of corruption at the heart of FIFA, football's international governing body. It marked a culmination of long-standing allegations and culminated in a sweeping U.S. Department of Justice investigation that indicted numerous high-ranking FIFA officials and sports marketing executives on charges including racketeering, wire fraud, and money laundering.

At the center of the scandal were schemes spanning decades, where officials and their associates accepted bribes and kickbacks worth millions of dollars. They rigged deals for television and marketing rights, influenced the selection of World Cup host nations, and enriched themselves from the sport they were meant to oversee.

FIFA Gate's fallout was immense. Dozens of officials were indicted, with several pleading guilty. FIFA's long-time President, Sepp Blatter, was forced to resign in disgrace. The scandal tarnished FIFA's image, and reforms were necessary.

Key Charges in FIFA Gate:

- **Racketeering (organized crime):** By framing the activities of FIFA officials and their associates as an ongoing criminal enterprise, prosecutors were able to pursue a wider range of illegal activities and target a greater number of individuals with severe penalties.
- **Wire fraud:** Defendants were accused of using electronic communications (emails, bank transfers, etc.) to facilitate their corrupt schemes. This charge relates to both the transmission of bribes and the misleading of potential sponsors or business partners.

- **Money laundering conspiracies:** Prosecutors alleged that the defendants hid and disguised the source of their illicit payments, moving money through various financial channels to conceal its origins.

Note: While The Department of Justice did not charge anyone with bribery, bribery was one of the primary accused crimes.

Why These Charges Matter:

These specific charges allowed prosecutors to:

- Demonstrate a long-running pattern of systemic corruption rather than isolated incidents.
- Aggressively pursue the seizure of assets gained through illegal activity.
- Highlight the complex and international nature of the financial schemes involved.

Scope

FIFA Gate exposed a shocking level of corruption within the world's leading football governing body. The scandal revealed bribery and fraudulent schemes totalling over \$150 million, indicating the significant financial gain that fueled this corrupt system. The primary forms of accused bribery were used in an attempt to influence clothing sponsorship contracts, the selection process for the 2010 FIFA World Cup host, and the 2011 FIFA presidential election. However, the investigation revealed that these schemes weren't isolated incidents but persisted over decades, suggesting that corruption was deeply ingrained within FIFA's practices.

The international reach of the scandal was also alarming. Officials from multiple confederations across the globe were implicated, exposing the lack of accountability and oversight on a global scale. Critically, corruption was not limited to one event or area. It contaminated media and broadcasting deals, the selection of World Cup host nations, and even FIFA's internal decision-making processes.

FIFA Gate's expansive scope utterly tarnished FIFA's reputation and made it clear that urgent and fundamental reform was necessary. The extent of the corruption revealed a toxic and pervasive culture within world football's leadership, undermining trust in the organization and the sport itself.

Key Players in FIFA Gate

FIFA Officials:

- **Chuck Blazer (Former CONCACAF General Secretary and FIFA Executive Committee member):** Blazer's high-ranking position within both CONCACAF (the governing body for football in North and Central America and the Caribbean) and the FIFA Executive Committee demonstrates the extensive reach of corruption within FIFA's leadership. His cooperation with investigators proved crucial in exposing the networks of bribery and fraud.
- **Jack Warner (Former CONCACAF President and FIFA Vice-President):** As president of CONCACAF and a FIFA vice-president, Warner wielded significant power and influence. He was accused of widespread bribery and racketeering schemes, highlighting the vulnerability of regional governing bodies to corruption.
- **Jeffrey Webb (Former CONCACAF President and FIFA Vice-President):** Webb's rise to the CONCACAF presidency and FIFA vice-president showcased his climb within the ranks of FIFA leadership. His eventual guilty plea on multiple charges exposed the deep-seated nature of corruption within the organization.
- **Sepp Blatter (FIFA President from 1998 to 2015):** Blatter's long tenure as FIFA president placed him at the center of the organization for decades. His forced resignation amidst the scandal and subsequent ban from football activities underscored the level of culpability that extended to the very top of FIFA's hierarchy.

Sports Marketing Executives:

- **Alejandro Burzaco (Head of Torneos y Competencias):** Burzaco's leadership role at Torneos y Competencias, a major sports marketing company, placed him at the heart of the alleged bribery schemes. His guilty plea to charges including racketeering conspiracy highlighted the involvement of private companies in facilitating corruption within FIFA.
- **Traffic Group (Marketing Group):** Traffic Group, a prominent multinational sports marketing company based in Sao Paulo, Brazil, was allegedly involved in core bribery schemes. The indictment of key executives exposed the bridge between sports marketing firms and corrupt FIFA officials.

Important Note: This list represents some of the most prominent figures but dozens of officials and executives were implicated.

Questions to Consider

- What are the root causes of systemic corruption in FIFA?
- What specific reforms are necessary to ensure greater transparency, accountability, and ethical oversight?
- How can FIFA effectively balance its commercial interests with the integrity of the sport and the interests of fans, players, and member associations?
- Should FIFA be restructured entirely to prevent future concentration of power within individuals or specific committees?
- Can effective oversight mechanisms be implemented to minimize the potential for bribery and influence-peddling in decisions concerning tournament hosting and broadcasting rights?

Topic B

Awarding of

Hosting Rights

and the

Bidding Process

The awarding of FIFA World Cup hosting rights is an event of immense global significance, with countries competing fiercely for the prestige and economic opportunities associated with this mega-event. However, the bidding process has historically been plagued by allegations of corruption, bribery, and undue influence. Recent scandals, including those surrounding the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bids, have cast a dark shadow over the selection process, undermining its integrity. Topic B will focus on reforming this process to ensure fair, transparent, and ethical decision-making in the future.

Key Issues for Topic B

- **Vulnerable Bidding Process:** The bidding process often lacked transparency, with decisions allegedly influenced by bribes, vote-trading, and external pressures from powerful individuals or political interests.
- **Criteria and Evaluation:** Evaluation criteria were often unclear or inconsistently applied, leaving the process open to manipulation and bias.
- **Backroom Deals:** Undue influence from powerful individuals and lobbyists has compromised the process, with some bids winning or losing based on factors beyond their stated merits.
- **Legacy and Ethical Considerations:** Recent scandals have raised questions about FIFA's priorities in choosing hosts, with concerns about the long-term social and environmental impacts, and human rights records of some host nations.

The Bidding Process for FIFA World Cup Hosting Rights

The awarding of hosting rights for the FIFA World Cup is a complex and prestigious procedure. Here's a brief and simple breakdown of the typical bidding process, highlighting its vulnerabilities:

1. Candidacy and Bidding Announcement:

- FIFA issues an official invitation to member associations to express interest in hosting a future World Cup.
- Interested nations submit a formal declaration of candidacy, outlining their initial plans and commitment.

2. Bid Preparation and Submission:

- Candidate nations develop detailed bid packages addressing essential aspects like infrastructure, stadiums, accommodation, transportation, and financial guarantees.
- These packages must follow FIFA's bidding regulations and specific requirements outlined for that particular World Cup edition.

Vulnerability: The complexity of bid packages creates opportunities for manipulation and a lack of transparency in how bids are evaluated against the criteria.

3. Evaluation and Inspection:

- FIFA establishes an evaluation task force to assess each bid based on predefined criteria (infrastructure, finances, government support, etc.).
- On-site inspections are conducted to verify the information presented in the bid packages and assess the readiness of potential host nations.

Vulnerability: The evaluation process has been criticized for a lack of transparency in scoring and the potential for subjective interpretations of criteria by FIFA officials. Additionally, there have been concerns about conflicts of interest during inspections.

4. Final Selection and Vote:

- The FIFA Executive Committee (or an alternative voting body depending on reforms) considers the evaluation reports and recommendations before casting their votes for the preferred host nation.
- A simple majority vote is typically used, with potential run-off rounds if no candidate receives the required number of votes.

Vulnerability: Historically, the voting process lacked transparency, with allegations of vote-trading and undue influence on individual voters.

5. Announcement and Awarding of Hosting Rights:

- The winning bid is officially announced, and FIFA works closely with the chosen nation to finalize the hosting agreement and prepare for the World Cup.

Vulnerability: The post-selection period can be susceptible to further corruption, with the potential for last-minute changes or backroom deals influencing contracts and project development.

Ongoing bidding controversies

Russia's 2018 World Cup Bidding Controversy

The decision to award Russia the hosting rights for the 2018 FIFA World Cup was immediately shrouded in controversy. Accusations emerged alleging a secret vote-trading pact between Russia and the Spain/Portugal (joint) bid, a potential violation of FIFA's bidding rules. Investigative reporting by The Sunday Times (UK) suggested that Russia had colluded with other bidding nations to trade support, undermining the integrity of the selection process.

Adding to the suspicion, Russia's bidding committee proved uncooperative during subsequent investigations. They claimed that computers containing crucial information related to their bid had been leased and then destroyed, making independent verification of the process difficult. This obstructionist stance further damaged Russia's reputation and intensified scrutiny of the bidding practices.

The 2018 bidding controversy highlighted several key issues within FIFA's system. It raised concerns about potential collusion between bidding nations and the vulnerability of the voting process to manipulation. Furthermore, Russia's lack of transparency and potential destruction of evidence fueled suspicions of wrongdoing and demonstrated the urgent need for greater accountability and oversight within FIFA's bidding procedures.

Qatar's 2022 World Cup Bidding Controversy

The awarding of the 2022 FIFA World Cup to Qatar sparked intense backlash and allegations of corruption on an unprecedented scale. At the center of the controversy were accusations that Qatari officials had systematically bribed FIFA Executive Committee members to secure their votes. Whistleblowers, leaked documents, and investigative journalism painted a picture of favours, lucrative business deals, and under-the-table payments designed to influence the bidding process.

Beyond the alleged bribery, Qatar's bid faced serious practical and ethical questions. The country's extreme summer heat and limited existing football infrastructure raised concerns about its ability to host the tournament logistically. The promise of constructing numerous new stadiums led to accusations that Qatar was essentially 'buying' the World Cup through lavish spending rather than legitimate sporting merit.

Most troubling were the allegations of horrific treatment of migrant workers involved in the massive construction projects required for the tournament. Human rights organizations decried the exploitative conditions, dangerous worksites, and lack of basic protections for workers, many of whom came from impoverished nations. FIFA was criticized for turning a blind eye to these human rights abuses in the selection process.

The 2022 Qatar controversy exposed the troubling intersection between financial power, political influence, and disregard for human rights within FIFA's bidding system. It highlighted the need for stringent ethical considerations and greater transparency to prevent the World Cup from being awarded based on factors beyond a nation's genuine ability to host the tournament responsibly.

Questions to Consider

- What specific mechanisms can be implemented to ensure complete transparency throughout the bidding process?
- How can independent oversight bodies effectively monitor bids, evaluations, and the final vote?
- How can the evaluation criteria be made clearer, more objective, and better aligned with promoting the development of football globally?
- How can FIFA make human rights, labour practices, and sustainability central to its evaluation process?
- Should nations with concerning records in these areas be automatically disqualified from bidding?
- How can stakeholders beyond FIFA officials (e.g., players' associations, fans, NGOs focused on sports ethics) have meaningful input into the host selection process?
- What should FIFA prioritize when assessing a bid's legacy?
- How can host nations be held accountable to ensure lasting positive social and economic benefits for their communities from hosting the World Cup?
- How can FIFA balance financial considerations associated with hosting rights with responsible development of the sport and preventing nations from essentially "buying" the World Cup?

Character List

Government Representatives:

- **Loretta Lynch (United States Attorney General):** Served as Attorney General from 2015–2017, overseeing the DOJ's investigation into FIFA.
- **Michael Lauber (Swiss Attorney General):** Led the Swiss investigation and worked closely with the US officials on the FIFA case.
- **Greg Dyke (Former Chairman of England's FA):** Very vocal during the scandal, calling for Blatter's resignation and reforms.
- **Hassan Al-Thawadi (Secretary-General, Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy):** Key figure in Qatar's World Cup organization. Will likely be defensive given Qatar's ongoing scandals and involvement.

FIFA:

- **Sepp Blatter (Banned FIFA President):** The disgraced former leader of FIFA, was forced to resign amidst the scandal. A controversial figure, Blatter may want to defend his reputation and will likely oppose any major reforms.
- **Michael Platini (Former UEFA President, Acquitted but Banned):** Platini's position is more complex. He was acquitted of criminal corruption but remains banned from football activities. Platini could be a critical voice against FIFA's leadership while seeking to clear his name and advocating for reforms that would allow him to return to the sport.
- **Issa Hayatou (Acting FIFA President):** Served as interim FIFA president after Sepp Blatter's suspension. He represents the old guard of FIFA, potentially resistant to major reform.
- **Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa (AFC President):** Head of the Asian Football Confederation. Could be critical of the scandal but also potentially defensive of how his confederation operates.
- **Sunil Gulati (CONCACAF President):** President of CONCACAF, the regional body most directly implicated in the scandal. Might be focused on restoring credibility to his region after numerous officials from the area were arrested.

Character List

- **Wolfgang Niersbach (Former DFB President):** President of the German Football Association (DFB) during the scandal. A powerful European voice conflicted between reform and protecting FIFA's status quo.
- **Vitaly Mutko (Former Head of Russian Football Union):** Russia hosted the 2018 World Cup. Will likely defend Russia's bid against bribery allegations, or someone trying to work with reformers in order to protect the 2018 tournament's image.
- **Mark Pieth (Chairman of FIFA's Independent Governance Committee):** Involved in creating reform proposals. He could represent those seeking compromise to maintain FIFA's functionality.

NGOs:

- **Cobus de Swardt (Managing Director of Transparency International):** A vocal figure about sports corruption, could be a strong advocate for anti-corruption measures.
- **Kevin Miles (Representative of Football Supporters Europe (FSE)):** FSE is a large umbrella organization representing football fans across Europe. They would likely demand a greater voice for fans in FIFA's decision-making and a stronger focus on the needs of everyday supporters.
- **Phaedra Almajid (Former FIFA Media Relations Officer):** A whistleblower who exposed corruption surrounding Qatar's World Cup bid. Later recanted under pressure, offering a complex perspective.
- **Danny Jordaan President of the South African Football Association (SAFA):** He led the bid and was the chief executive officer of the 2010 World Cup held in South Africa, which was alleged to involve bribery during the bidding process. He would likely be defensive of both himself and SAFA.



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THANK YOU FOR
ATTENDING JACMUN 2024

**We hope to see you
again next year!**

