

FIFA

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Chair: Roshan Malladi

Secretary: Nick York

Introduction:

Welcome Delegates to the LIMUN XXXII FIFA Committee! My name is Roshan Malladi and i'm very excited to be able to chair LIMUN's second iteration of FIFA. I had the opportunity to be a delegate my freshman year in FIFA's first appearance at LIMUN, and ever since all i wanted to do was to bring it back. A few things about me: This is my third year doing MUN here at LAMP, I am a film addict and love a good documentary, I am a political junkie, and I am a huge fan of the beautiful game. My two favorite teams are Borussia Dortmund and Liverpool, the two hardest working teams in Europe.

My goal for this committee is for it to be fun, exciting, and engaging. I hope each of take the opportunity to get in depth with the topics and promote a good debate. I cannot wait to see all of you in committee!

Roshan Malladi
Chair of FIFA

Hey guys waddup it's your favorite secretary Nick York and I'll be Roshan's right hand man for LIMUN XXXII. Worry not pupils, you are in very capable hands- I will instill in each of you more knowledge than your brains may be able to physically handle. You may take solace that this committee will be the best two days of your life, or I can't be friends with you anymore. As a current captain of the LAMP soccer team, you best believe my general knowledge of the ins and outs of the beautiful game is unrivaled. Looking forward to a great committee boys.

Nick York
Secretary of FIFA

History of FIFA:

The International Federation of Association Football is the world's governing body of international soccer. FIFA oversees the various international tournaments that take place, most notable of all being the World Cup. Founded in 1904, FIFA's main goal was to promote international soccer competition. 114 years later, FIFA has done just that.

Throughout the years, however, many FIFA has implemented many changes to the way they structure their international tournaments. For instance, the first World Cup held in Uruguay in 1930 only had 13 teams participating. And in fact the US placed third in that tournament: still their highest ever finish in a World Cup. It wasn't until 1998 when the World Cup expanded to its current size of 32 teams, which is soon to be expanded again to 48 teams. The goal of FIFA has always been to connect the world through soccer, and the World Cup does just that.

FIFA also had a history of not willing to budge when it came to new technology and soccer. After much controversy FIFA finally implemented goal line technology during the 2014 World cup, and in the 2018 World Cup FIFA implemented the Virtual Assistant Referee system. Now, FIFA seems to be on the side of technology and wishes to use it to help better the beautiful game.

FIFA, however, is not without its controversies. In 2015 FIFA's corruption was exposed globally with the DOJ and other international law enforcement agencies charging and arresting many FIFA council members on counts of bribery and extortion.

FIFA is still feeling the effects of this today, almost all of its members were removed due to involvement with corruption, and the council largely had to start back from scratch. But, FIFA has begun to regain its footing and is starting to make strides to become more transparent.

It is now up to you to decide what direction FIFA shall go in...

Position Papers:

In order to be considered for awards, you must write a position paper on each topic. I encourage each of you to do this, as it allows you to be properly versed and prepared on the stance and direction you will take during committee. Again position papers are highly encouraged as it allows you to properly research each topic and be properly prepared for the committee. I expect you all to write a paper on each topic. Position papers should be single spaced and approximately one-half page long per topic, and include a header with the Character/country name, committee name, and topic.

Position paper rules and outline can be found on the LIMUN website here:

https://www.limunconference.com/uploads/1/1/2/1/112115965/stem_gender_equality__1_.pdf

Parliamentary Procedure:

I expect each of you to be well informed and understanding of the parliamentary procedure that takes place at LIMUN. In order for debate and committee to run smoothly you must use correct and proper procedure. I expect a good debate and good competition amongst all delegates in committee.

Helpful links:

<https://bestdelegate.com/model-un-made-easy-top-20-important-terms-to-know-in-committee/>

https://www.limunconference.com/uploads/1/1/2/1/112115965/limun_rules_of_procedure.pdf

The FIFA Council:

1. Gianni Infantino (Italy)
2. Prince Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa (Bahrain)
3. David Gill (England)
4. Ahmad Ahmad (Madagascar)
5. Victor Montagliani (Canada)
6. Alejandro Domingue (Paraguay)
7. Lambert Maltock (Vanuatu)
8. Prince Tengku Abdullah (Malaysia)
9. Chung Mong-gyu (South Korea)
10. Zhang Jian (China)
11. Kozo Tashima (Japan)
12. Reinhard Grindel (Germany)
13. Alexey Sorokin (Russia)
14. Evelina Christillin (Italy)
15. Aleksander Ceferin (Slovenia)
16. Hany Abo Rida (Egypt)
17. Tarek Bouchamaoui (Tunisia)
18. Lydia Nsekera (Burundi)
19. Constant Omari (DR Congo)
20. Carlos Cordeiro (USA)
21. Pedro Chaluja (Panama)
22. Luis Hernandez (Cuba)
23. Ramon Jesurun (Colombia)
24. Maria Sol Munoz (Ecuador)
25. Fernando Sarney (Brazil)
26. Claudio Tapia (Argentina)
27. Sandra Fruean (American Samoa)
28. Fatma Samoura (Senegal)
29. Zinedine Zidane (Ambassador)
30. Jurgen Klopp (Ambassador)
31. Pele (Ambassador)

Topic A. Further Implementation of VAR

Virtual Assistant Referee, or VAR, is the new “instant replay” system seen being used in leagues and tournaments around the world today. Its intended use is to prevent unnecessary penalties, disallow non-goals, and to ensure that the beautiful game is kept fair and balanced. Its first major use was seen in the 2018 World Cup. However, it was not without its controversies.

Many argued that the VAR System was not effective enough, citing many miscalled and even in some cases, some unnecessary and bad calls with the system itself. One instant still brought up today is the missed call in the highly contested quarter final game between Belgium and Brazil. The instance in question was the uncalled foul on Gabriel Jesus, which would have given Brazil a penalty and could have possibly changed the direction of the game. Many argued that the VAR system was useless, as even in one of the tournament’s most important games, it wasn’t even used to see a clear foul. Many others, however, cited that the system was just raw and with the years to come it will grow to be better and become a vital part of world soccer.

With VAR planned on being implemented in the Premier League for the first time during the 2019-20 season, and with plans to use the system in the knockout stages of the 2018-19 Champions league, it seems that VAR seems as if it is here to stay.

Although VAR may have its critics, it is critical in maintaining that fair play is kept in soccer. But it is no secrets that are issues with the system and that is what the committee must address.

Here are some questions to consider:

1. Should FIFA make VAR a requirement for all international tournaments and leagues?
2. Should the instances where VAR is used be limited even more or expanded to other situations?
3. What specific areas of the system should be overhauled and fixed?
4. Should the system be completely overhauled entirely?
5. How often should the referee be inclined to use the VAR system in game?
6. What are ways the FIFA Council can take in making VAR more effective?

Topic B. Inclusion of Disputed States in International Tournaments

Recently, FIFA moved to allow the disputed nation of Kosovo to be a recognized FIFA nation member, and thus be allowed to compete in international tournaments. This decision had much political weight to it, as Kosovo is only a partially recognized state as much of the international world have yet to recognize Kosovo's declared independence. Most notably, is the dispute between Kosovo and Serbia. Kosovo is a state located in southern Serbia, which is home to many ethnic Albanians, who claim that they do not belong to the Serbian state. Therefore, the nation of Kosovo was established, which Serbia to this day continues to deny and refuse to accept as an independent nation. In Kosovo's first international game as a fully recognized member of FIFA and UEFA, Kosovar fans took the stage as an opportunity to stage a statement and burned a Serbian flag as a form of protest. As can be imagined, this caused much political turmoil.

It has always been FIFA's goal to grow and expand the game, and thus it feels it must allow all nations to be included on the national stage. But what nations should be included and should FIFA be involved in this very political decision making? This is the question you as a committee must answer.

The fact is that this issue is not getting any simpler, and the number of the disputed regions seeking recognition in their independence grows larger and larger. With recent independence movements in places such as Catalonia, where many believe they are an independent state, many call on FIFA to allow them be a fully recognized and independent member. Many of these areas have unofficially recognized national teams already in place.

Research beyond the mainstream disputed regions, such as: Catalonia, the Basque Country, and Kosovo. As a committee come to a consensus on how to tackle this issue.

Questions to consider:

1. Should FIFA allow more disputed regions to be fully recognized members?
2. Should FIFA change its stance on not allowing players to change their nationality once capped on the senior level, if they happen to also be a national of the disputed region? (EX. Shaqiri not being allowed to play for Kosovo)
3. Should FIFA even be involved in these types of decisions?

Topic C. Reviewing the Decision to Expand the World Cup to 48 Teams

In April of 2018, the FIFA Council voted to expanded the World Cup to 48 teams, with the 2026 World Cup planned on being the first to see this expansion. Creating a format that sees 16 groups of 3 teams each, moving on from the current format of 8 groups of 4. The new format plans to have each team playing each other once, thats 3 games per group, with the top 2 teams advancing to a 32 team knockout round in which it will follow the current knockout round format that the World Cup currently follows.

With talks that the 2022 world cup should also hold 48 teams, should FIFA go ahead with this and allow it, or should the decision to expand the World Cup be redacted?

Many argue that this decision effectively diminishes the prestige that qualifying for the World Cup once had. Many see it as a cash grab decision by FIFA, as it would almost certainly allow for the qualification of teams such as China and India, securing FIFA the largest population markets in the world. Nevertheless, there are good and bad points to the decision. The World Cup does become more inclusive, opening the door to teams that have never qualified before, but this decision does give the opportunity to diminish the tournament itself as hosting rights and other decisions could be made based on the sake of profits.

Some questions to consider:

1. Does this decision give way to awarding hosting rights to countries who are not prepared/do not need to host the World Cup just because it would give FIFA a boost in profits?
2. Should the planned format be revised and a new tournament format be implemented?
3. Should the decision be redacted?
4. Should there be plans for further expansion?
5. Should the 2022 World Cup have 48 teams participating?

Helpful Links

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2017/jan/10/48-team-world-cup-fifa-plan-2026>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/14/sports/world-cup/banned-flags-kosovo-world-cup.html>

<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/committees/committee=1882019/index.html>