



AHP MUN

SEPTEMBER 25-26

BACKGROUND GUIDE



FIFA CONGRESS

Specialized Committee



KNOWLEDGE • INTEGRITY • COMPASSION

AHPMUN May 24th and 25th

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Letter From the Secretariat

Letter From the Secretariat

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the entire Secretariat, we are thrilled to welcome you to the twelfth session of AHPMUN! This year, we've worked harder than ever to make AHPMUN bigger and better than any conference before it, and we cannot wait to share it with you.

As the executive team—Arina Petrushina, Jonathan Schwartz, and Mason Cohen—alongside our dedicated faculty advisor, Mr. Mark Gruskin, we've poured countless hours into building two days of challenging debate, meaningful collaboration, and global problem-solving that you'll remember long after the gavel falls.

Model UN isn't just an extracurricular for us — it's genuinely our favorite part of high school, and that passion is exactly why we've pushed so hard to make this year's conference the best one yet. Every detail, from committee topics to logistics, was built with you in mind.

At AHPMUN, we hold every delegate to a high standard of **integrity, respect, and diplomacy**. Please remember that **plagiarism and prewritten material are strictly prohibited**. Your work should be your own, and your words should reflect thoughtful research and genuine engagement with your committee's topics.

Respectful and constructive debate is expected at all times — our goal is to foster a space where ideas can be challenged, but people are never disrespected.

Position papers are required to be eligible for awards, and should be submitted on time. That said, we want to stress that awards aren't the heart of this conference. What matters most is that you grow as delegates, thinkers, and global citizens. We cannot wait to see the energy, enthusiasm, and creativity you bring to this year's conference. Whether you're a first-time delegate or a seasoned veteran, AHPMUN XII is for you, and we hope it becomes a true highlight of your MUN journey.

See you soon!

Sincerely,

Arina Petrushina, Jonathan Schwartz, and Mason Cohen

AHPMUN XII Executive Team

Mr. Mark Gruskin

Faculty Advisor





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Letter From the Chair

Hi everyone! My name is Enrico Zangari, and I'm excited to be chairing this FIFA Congress Specialized Committee at AHPMUN. I'm a senior at American Heritage and have been involved in MUN since last year, and I'm looking forward to seeing the debates, negotiations, and (hopefully) a little bit of chaos that comes with a FIFA committee.



Outside of MUN, I'm the President of my school's Young Investors Society, where I enjoy learning about investing and entrepreneurship. When I'm not doing that, you can probably find me playing soccer or pickleball, watching movies, gaming with friends, or listening to Drake.

As chair, I hope to see delegates think creatively, negotiate diplomatically, and embrace the unpredictability that makes FIFA Congress so much fun. I can't wait to see the ideas you bring to committee for the better of the beautiful game. Best of luck, and remember: Neymar > Messi.

Feel free to contact me with any comments or concerns at pl1000626@ahschool.com



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Letter From the Chair

Hi everyone! My name is Adam Ginsburg, and I'm excited to serve as one of your chairs for the FIFA Congress Specialized Committee. I joined the Heritage Model UN team this past year, and it has quickly become one of my favorite parts of high school. Through MUN, I've had the opportunity to travel, compete, debate important global issues, and meet some of my closest friends. It has been an amazing experience, and I'm excited to help create the same experience for all of you at AHPMUN.



Outside of Model UN, I'm heavily involved in Patriots TV, my school's daily live news program, where I help produce broadcasts and tell stories. I also enjoy photography, video production, journalism, politics, and working on creative projects. In my free time, you'll usually find me filming or editing something, watching sports, spending time with friends, or finding a new project to work on.

As chair, I'm looking forward to seeing delegates bring strong debate, creative solutions, and plenty of energy to FIFA Congress. This committee should be competitive, diplomatic, and fun, so come prepared to negotiate, collaborate, and defend your ideas. I can't wait to meet everyone and see what you bring to committee!

Feel free to contact me with any comments or concerns at pl1001929@ahschool.com



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Letter From the Co-Chair

Hi everyone, my name is Anthony Rodriguez, and I'm eager to be co-chairing this FIFA Congress Specialized Committee at AHPMUN. I joined MUN through this competition as well my sophomore year, and since then it has been quite the journey, from not placing to getting outstanding, but always having an amazing time with the team!



When I'm not in committee, I'm studying math as part of the school's Mu Alpha Theta team, going to the gym (205 bench btw), and playing games. I love The Weeknd and Ariana Grande, and can't wait to see the creativity you guys bring to this FIFA-themed committee.

For me, I love to see creativity and amicability blossom during the committee, so I expect to see you all making intense, yet diplomatic, discussion, all while appreciating that Spain (and not Argentina) won the world cup this year!

Feel free to contact me with any comments or concerns at pl1003594@ahschool.com

Staff List:

Enrico Ranieri
Zangari - Chair
Adam Ginsburg -
Chair
Anthony Rodriguez -
Chair



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Conference/Committee Policies

AHPMUN is committed to providing a welcoming, inclusive, and professional environment in which all delegates can participate confidently, develop their skills, and enjoy the conference experience. Every participant is expected to treat fellow delegates, chairs, members of the Secretariat, staff, and guests with respect and courtesy throughout the conference. Delegates are expected to engage in debate in a diplomatic and constructive manner. Delegates must respect differing opinions and any form of bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or any personal attack will not be tolerated at AHPMUN. Professional conduct and respectful language should be maintained at all times, both during formal committee sessions and in informal interactions.

All participants must follow these conference rules, committee procedures, and any other instructions given by the Secretariat or committee chairs. Behavior that disrupts committee proceedings or negatively affects the experience of any other participants will not be tolerated. By attending AHPMUN, all delegates agree to uphold these standards and contribute to a respectful, collaborative, and enjoyable conference for everyone.

Thank you, and we look forward to a wonderful conference!

Our Committee policies:

- FIFA Congress committee will operate following a General Assembly Model UN procedure
- Delegates will represent existing countries that take part in the international federation known as FIFA, and are expected to act according to each country's cultural, economic, and geographic situations.
- To begin the conference, delegates will deliver opening speeches introducing their positions and advocating for which topic to be discussed first, followed by a voting procedure to determine the beginning topic of discussion.
- Delegates should work diplomatically, forming blocs and writing resolution papers for a topic's specific issues.
- There may be short directives and updates to add crisis to the committee, but the general goal will be towards resolution paper creation and advocacy.
- This Background Guide serves as a baseline for the committee's chairs, topics, and research opportunities.



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Topic A: Ensuring Player Welfare in International Football

Introduction Topic A

For decades, global football ran on a simple, silent rhythm: domestic leagues owned the weekends, continental cups claimed the midweeks, and every four years, FIFA brought the world together for one glorious month in the summer. Everyone got rich, the fans stayed hungry, and the players got time to breathe.

Today, that rhythm is dead. The broadcast cameras never turn off, and the calendar never closes. An elite midfielder steps off a ten-hour flight from Montevideo to Manchester, plays 90 minutes on a fatigued leg, and boards another plane 48 hours later. Between UEFA's bloated European formats, a month-long 32-team Club World Cup, and an expanded 48-team World Cup, the sport's architects have engineered a 70-match annual grind that treats human anatomy as an infinite resource.

Now, the ecosystem is fracturing. FIFPRO and domestic leagues have dragged FIFA into court, player strikes have shifted from quiet whispers to open threats, and teenage prodigies are tearing ACLs before their 22nd birthdays. You do not represent distant governments; you are the club executives, national directors, confederation chiefs, and union reps holding the levers of a multi-billion-dollar machine. You have a calendar, a table, and a choice: construct an enforceable framework that protects the human beings on the pitch, or watch the game break under the weight of its own greed.



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Background Topic A

The seeds of today's calendar crisis were sown by the rapid commercialization and globalized broadcasting explosion of the early 21st century. Historically, the International Match Calendar (IMC) relied on informal consensus between FIFA, regional confederations (UEFA, CONMEBOL, etc.), and domestic leagues. However, lucrative media deals and global sponsorships prompted competition organizers to expand group stages and replace traditional friendlies with high-stakes competitive fixtures like the UEFA and CONCACAF Nations Leagues.

The modern elite footballer exists in an environment of unprecedented match congestion. The expansion of continental club competitions, the addition of international match windows, the launch of a 32-team FIFA Club World Cup, and the expansion of the FIFA World Cup to 48 teams have created a calendar where top athletes routinely accumulate over 70 appearances a season. Players frequently travel over 100,000 kilometers annually across multiple time zones, leaving virtually no time for physiological recovery or structured pre-season preparation.

As fixture density increased, medical research repeatedly warned that playing twice weekly with under 72 hours of recovery exponentially increases soft-tissue injuries, fatigue, and burnout. Yet, regulatory safeguards lagged behind. FIFA established rules for transfers and player status, but omitted binding limits on total appearances, travel caps, or compulsory off-season rest. Concurrently, player unions like FIFPRO (representing over 65,000 players worldwide) were largely excluded from calendar governance because FIFA's voting bodies remained dominated by national associations.



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Issues to Consider Topic A

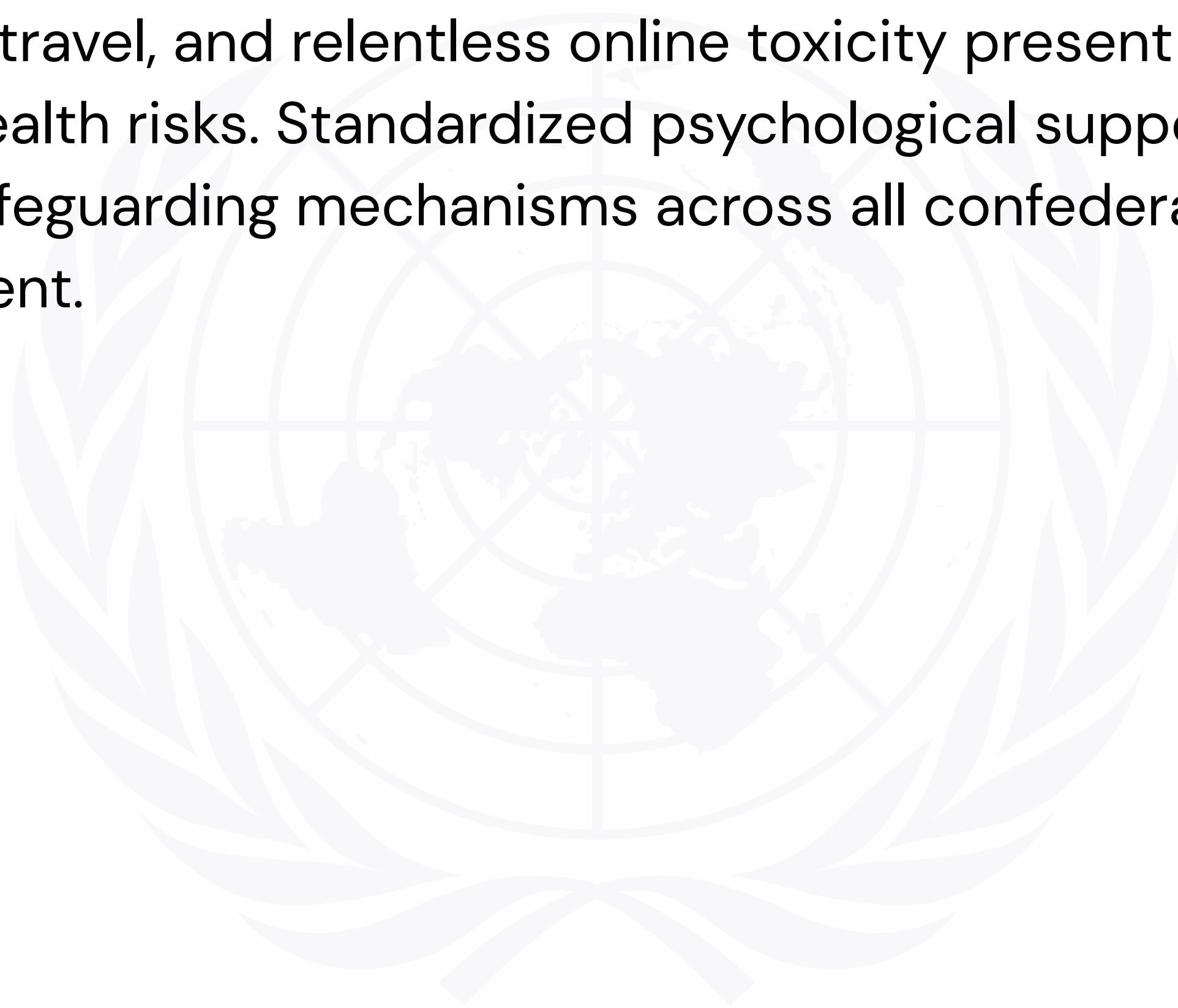
- **Match Congestion and Physical Limits:** Shortened recovery periods (under 72 hours) between matches cause compounding muscle fatigue, elevated micro-tears, and higher injury rates. Delegates must determine whether to establish hard caps on match appearances per individual per season.
- **Commercial Expansion vs. Athlete Health:** Tournament organizers depend on broadcasting revenues from expanded competitions, while clubs and players shoulder the physical strain. Balancing commercial viability with human limits remains the central governance conflict.
- **Fragmented Governance and Lack of Collective Bargaining:** FIFA currently sets the global calendar without formal, binding collective bargaining agreements with player unions or domestic leagues. Resolving who holds legal and regulatory authority over fixture scheduling is essential.
- **Youth Player Exposure and Vulnerability:** Teenage prodigies are playing excessive minutes before their skeletal and muscular structures fully mature, leading to chronic knee, hamstring, and tendon injuries. Specialized safeguards for players under 21 are urgently needed.



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Issues to Consider Topic A

- Environmental Risks and Climate Protocols: Rising global temperatures subject athletes to dangerous heat stress during summer tournaments. Current cooling-break guidelines may be insufficient without strict heat-index thresholds for match postponements.
- Mental Health and Safeguarding Frameworks: Burnout, isolation, constant travel, and relentless online toxicity present severe mental health risks. Standardized psychological support and robust safeguarding mechanisms across all confederations remain inconsistent.





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Possible Solutions Topic A

One potential approach is the introduction of Mandatory Rest and Recovery Safeguards. FIFA and confederations could establish binding global standards requiring a minimum 28-day mandatory consecutive off-season break, alongside a compulsory 28-day pre-season reconditioning period. This regulation would prevent clubs and national teams from calling up players during protected recovery windows, regardless of tournament schedules.

A second solution focuses on Individual Player Workload Caps. Rather than reducing total matches scheduled by competition organizers, governing bodies could implement an individual appearance cap (e.g., maximum 55–60 appearances per player per calendar year) and mandatory 72-hour rest windows between appearances. A centralized digital passport tracking system managed by FIFA Medical and FIFPRO could automatically render players ineligible if workload limits are exceeded.



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Possible Solutions Topic A

Delegates might also pursue a Global Tripartite Governance Structure. To resolve legal disputes regarding calendar creation, FIFA could establish a binding International Match Calendar Committee composed equally of FIFA/confederation representatives, domestic league associations (World Leagues Association), and player unions (FIFPRO). Under this framework, any addition or modification to the calendar would require majority approval from all three stakeholder pillars.

Finally, the committee could establish Comprehensive Environmental & Safeguarding Protocols. This framework would introduce automated match postponement triggers based on Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) heat metrics, mandatory independent concussion spotters with temporary substitution rules, and dedicated funding for mental health infrastructure and digital abuse protection across all member associations.



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Questions to Consider Topic A

As delegates prepare, they should research these questions in depth and be ready to defend their position on each:

- Should global football establish a hard cap on the number of matches an individual player can compete in per season?
- How can FIFA balance the financial revenue generated by expanded international tournaments with the physical capacity of athletes?
- What legal role should player unions (FIFPRO) and domestic leagues play in approving changes to the International Match Calendar?
- Is a mandatory 28-day off-season break achievable given the current overlap of domestic, continental, and international competitions?
- What specific physiological safeguards should be implemented to protect elite teenage and youth players from burnout and early career degradation?
- How should governing bodies address extreme heat and environmental hazards during summer international tournaments?
- What enforcement mechanisms or financial penalties should be imposed on clubs or national associations that violate player health and safety limits?
- Should financial compensation or revenue redistribution models be adjusted for players subjected to high-density match schedules?



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Topic B: The Future Structure of International Club Competitions

Introduction Topic B

For most of football's history, club competitions lived in the shadow of the national team game. Today that has reversed. UEFA's Champions League distributes over two billion euros annually, elite clubs draw audiences that rival World Cups, and FIFA's newly expanded 32-team Club World Cup has placed club football on a genuinely global stage for the first time.

Growth has outpaced governance. Europe's giants increasingly treat continental and global competitions as the real prize, smaller confederations watch their own tournaments get squeezed for calendar space and sponsorship money, and a handful of wealthy ownership groups have made "competitive balance" feel like a relic of an earlier, poorer sport. Host selection for these lucrative tournaments has become its own geopolitical battleground.

You represent federations, leagues, and confederations that stand to gain or lose enormous sums depending on how the next decade of club football is structured. The question is not whether these competitions will keep expanding, but who designs that expansion, who profits, and who gets left behind.



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Background Topic B

The European Cup began in 1955 as a simple knockout of domestic champions. UEFA steadily commercialized it, rebranding it as the Champions League in 1992 and introducing group stages and coefficient-based qualification that rewarded historically successful clubs and leagues with extra entries. Other confederations built their own flagship tournaments, from the Copa Libertadores to the AFC and CAF Champions Leagues, each with vastly different revenue bases.

FIFA's Club World Cup was long a minor afterthought until its 2025 relaunch as a 32-team, month-long global event with prize money exceeding one billion dollars. This immediately raised questions about how slots should be split between confederations of unequal strength, where the tournament should sit in an already crowded calendar, and how revenue should be shared with the domestic leagues and federations that develop the players.

UEFA also overhauled the Champions League in 2024, moving to a 36-team "Swiss model," driven partly by pressure from clubs that had floated a breakaway Super League in 2021. Underlying all of this is a widening financial gap: a handful of elite clubs now out-earn entire domestic leagues elsewhere, raising the question of whether club competitions can reflect a truly global sport or will simply formalize existing dominance.



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Issues to Consider Topic B

- **Tournament Size and Frequency:** A 32-team Club World Cup every four years generates major revenue but strains an already congested calendar. Delegates must weigh a larger, less frequent tournament against a smaller, more regular one.
- **Qualification Systems:** Should slots be based on sporting merit, market size and broadcast value, or guaranteed confederation representation? Each produces very different winners and losers.
- **Revenue Sharing:** Prize money and broadcast revenue flow disproportionately to wealthier confederations. Delegates must decide whether solidarity payments or revenue floors should support less commercially developed regions.
- **Calendar Placement:** Club competitions must now share space with an expanded international calendar and domestic seasons. Poor scheduling risks fixture pile-ups and direct conflict with domestic leagues.
- **Host Selection Criteria:** Hosting rights are increasingly driven by state investment and geopolitical prestige rather than football tradition. Delegates must weigh what criteria — human rights, sustainability, existing infrastructure — should govern host selection.
- **Competitive Balance:** A small number of wealthy, heavily backed clubs increasingly dominate the sport's most lucrative competitions. Delegates must consider whether tools like salary caps or stricter financial fair play rules fit a global game with no single regulatory tradition.



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Possible Solutions Topic B

One approach is a Tiered Qualification and Revenue-Sharing Model. FIFA could combine continental performance with a guaranteed baseline of slots per confederation, rewarding merit while preventing any one region from crowding out the rest. A mandatory solidarity fund could support youth development and league sustainability in lower-revenue confederations rather than flowing only to already-qualified clubs.

A second solution is Calendar Rationalization. FIFA, confederations, domestic leagues, and player unions could jointly negotiate a global calendar with fixed, non-overlapping windows for club and international competitions, alongside a moratorium on new formats introduced without multilateral approval.

A third approach is a Rotating, Criteria-Based Host Selection Framework. Hosts could be required to meet minimum standards on labor rights, sustainability, and existing infrastructure before bidding, evaluated by an independent panel rather than FIFA's executive committee, reducing reliance on state financial leverage.

Finally, the committee could pursue Competitive Balance Mechanisms, such as soft salary caps, luxury taxes redistributed to smaller clubs, or stricter financial fair play enforcement with real sporting sanctions. Delegates should weigh the challenge of enforcing such measures across dozens of legal jurisdictions.



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Questions to Consider Topic B

As delegates prepare, they should research these questions in depth and be ready to defend their position on each:

- What is the ideal size and frequency for a global club competition, balanced against player welfare and calendar congestion?
- Should qualification prioritize sporting merit, guaranteed confederation representation, or commercial value?
- How should revenue from global club competitions be split between clubs, domestic leagues, and developing confederations?
- What role should FIFA play in coordinating a shared calendar with confederations and player unions?
- What criteria should govern host selection for major club tournaments, and who should enforce them?
- Should salary caps or luxury taxes address competitive imbalance, and how could they be enforced globally?
- How should FIFA balance its authority over club competitions with confederation autonomy?
- What lessons should be drawn from the 2021 Super League collapse?



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