

CONNECT M3	
FIFA - Corruption In The GAME	

TB-6315B

Football, like nearly all sports, is a People's game – Not a Money game!

- 1 Many older ones, at least, will remember the days when all the big sporting occasions were shown live and free on the BBC – including F1 from down under, test matches at Lords, and football ties in the Champions League.

Watching big sporting occasions, among the other smaller ones, was something many sports fans greatly looked forward to. For them, it was the highlight of their week, their season or the year. But in more recent times, all that has changed. The sporting events have been captured by Big Biz and turned into a money game. generating more wealth for the Power Rich Class.



- 2 And now we learn of the plans being floated by FIFA's president – just after the latest episode of the Football World Cup – suggesting the game is heading for its latest cranking. That is, a cranking designed to deliver even more money and wealth for those keen to get their noses invested deeper in the money trough – a money trough which this sport of football is today.

And these plans haven't gone down well. That is partly due to the millions of fans seeing what happened recently on the world stage, showcasing this most prestigious of events. It was the **2026** Football World Cup tournament played out on the American continent – both north and south. So, what did happen – as some will ask?

Well, so much really – none of which sat well with those who watched the games play out. It began with the dubious, biased if you like, decisions made by so many referees on the field – and by the FIFA president himself in the Oval Office at The White House – as odd as that sounds.

- 3 Well by the time **Gianni Infantino**, of FIFA, was pictured with **Donald Trump** – two presidents in their own fields – the matches already played were showing signs of having been tinkered with.

For example, almost at the start of the tournament, a photo was shared around the world of an Australian VAR official pictured with a recognisable hand gesture. It was interpreted, by some, as meaning 'White Supremacy'. Others interpreted it differently, but with the same negative connotations. The match being officiated by him was the tie between Germany and Curacao. The result was a supreme win for Germany, 7-1 [[3A](#)]

And then we had the home nation – the USA – embroiled in controversy. One of their star players – **Folarin Balogun** – was red carded. The incident was looked at by experts and many concluded that the tackle didn't deserve the red card given, suggesting a yellow would have been more fitting. However, the decision on field was immediate and meant Balogun was sent off. The consequence of that being, that he was barred from playing in the next USA fixture against the much tougher team, Belgium. [[3B](#)]

Interestingly, the tackle by Balogun was compared with a similar one by **Lionel Messi** of Argentina in another match. Argentina was viewed as a top favourite to win the tournament and benefitted from some very favourable decisions – throughout every match Argentina played en-route to the Final. Lionel Messi didn't even get a caution for his similar tackle BTW. [[3C](#)]

PS: For those unaware – and somewhat miraculously – Argentina did reach the final and did so by beating England in the semi-finals. The 2-1 final score in that match came about by more dubious decisions being made by the referee and some outrageous on field tackles by Argentinian players. At least that's how many fans and commentators saw them.

- 4 Sticking with Argentina, an interesting media post emerged in which someone had clocked a series of unusual match statistics. **TalkSport** – a reputable analyst of sport – kept track of Argentinian fouls and VAR calls ruled against the team. Argentina led the table on both scores.

Fouls committed against opposing players by Argentina – **87**
VAR calls against Argentina – **ZERO**

It would have been interesting to see the other scores, but these alone are interesting, without question. [[6](#)]

- 5 Let's now return to the USA striker, banned from playing in the country's next match against talented Belgium. Well, **Donald Trump** has admitted not knowing much about the game of football, but said he felt a need to step in and express his own view about the foul committed. D.Trump judged, the foul did not deserve the red card from the referee and the match ban that was due to follow as a consequence thereof. In *Trump* style – not content to leave things there – he involved a high level and competent official to take another look at the incident.

That official was heaped with even more praise and respect - than he'd already been given apparently - when that official agreed with D.Trump's view of things. **Gianni Infantino** got his latest serving of praise and respect, by modernising the ref's decision on field. The result being, that it adjusted the red card penalty against player and country, such that the one match ban was annulled. D.Trump was quietly happy with that.

Yes. Unbelievable - and the world was stunned - but not into silence! [[5A](#)]

The overturn sparked fierce criticism around the globe - as one might expect - and set a different tone for the remainder of the tournament. The player at the centre was not in the least responsible for this quite outrageous outcome, but only felt total embarrassment from it all, as one might assume.

Embarrassment apart, what the world was given by this outrageous event, was a very clear lesson. A lesson that leaves a sour taste in the mouth and a sense that nothing in the world is as it should be - not even in the game of football. Football lost on the pitch and now there's a strong feeling of doubt, - given Gianni Infantino's announcement on the planned future for the FIFA World Cup - that football, as people know it today, could be lost in the coming months, forever!

- 6 It seems we are on the verge of football being played into the laps of the Power Rich Class who are now set to make even more money out of the game. And that money - made out of the game - will to a large extent, be paid for by the ordinary football fan paying huge prices to watch a game in the stadiums or live on TV at home.

A chunk of money will also be generated from all the allied deals done on a raft of commercial add-ons. Things like TV advertising during half-time breaks - cranked up with the newly introduced hydration break. These breaks, being new to the tournament, divided the games into 4 segments - quarters to use an American term - adding up to 5min to each of the two halves. In the stadiums they were all greeted with boos from the spectators, who consider they spoil the flow of the games and are really about more money-making opportunities for the organisers.

The need for hydration is not accepted by most - including the players. One solution to this invented need - if there was a need - might be to schedule matches in colder climes - later in the day - or even at a different time of year, as was done for the **2022** tournament in Qatar. Qatar of all places!

Was this Qatar thing a fix also - as many sensed it was? One of the hottest places on earth and it gets selected in **2010** to be host for the summer tournament. Utter madness, it was thought by many - until the scheduling was altered for it to be played in the winter - for the very first time in history.

Interestingly, Argentina won that **2022** tournament - with investigative questions being raised then too. Imagine - for a bit of fun shall we say - if Argentina were to win back2back tournaments with another win in **2026**. The bookies' payout could be massive!

- 7 The truth right now, is that next to no one understands the plan tabled by the FIFA president. We've also heard that not even the close committee members at FIFA know the details of the plan.

Clearly, as the days go by, more and more is going to be said on the subject. The strong likelihood is, that voices around the world are going to be speaking out loudly in opposition to whatever the plan might actually be. Among them, we can expect to see football greats – like Gary Lineker – contributing to the discourse. The call right now is – watch this space.

One commentator has captured the news perfectly in a short post on the whole affair. In under **3min** – **The Global Madridista** – says what everyone has been thinking and is thinking. He talks about the dubious bias towards Argentina – the influence of **D.Trump** on the rules of the game – and the investors circulating for a piece of the action. A piece which includes a close relative of D.Trump, no less.

Perhaps, the most important point Madridista makes on the issue is this one. Speaking on the topic of selling shares in the game – to parties the FIFA president nominates, with D.Trump advising – he says this...
"World Football is not his – or FIFA's – to sell", period!
Let that sink in for a minute – and then consider another point he makes.

There was a time in history, when dodgy deals done by the Power Rich Class were done behind closed doors – meaning no one was aware or even had an inkling of what was going on. In the short clip by Madridista – giving us his 5star analysis – he says this approach has changed.
The dodgy deals are now no longer hidden.
They don't have to be.
The reason being – there is nothing ordinary people can do about them.
How true this observation is. [[23](#)]

And it's not only true of the Power Rich Class – but true of governments also.

Is this time now, for people to reinvent how our world is orchestrated?
It feels like the perfect time!

- PS1 Another observation and commentary on this story came from **SKY NEWS** – disclosing yet another angle about the whole affair and its emergence from under the table. The plan has clearly been kept quiet and hidden until now. We might assume, the plan would never have been agreed to had it been tabled in a normal way, involving the committee for example. Committee members and Football Associations around the world were not in the loop.

It appears, a vast number of the world's **211** Football Associations have spoken out negatively on the plan, threatening to boycott future FIFA events. Recognising the strength of opposition, FIFA has offered a sweetener. Dissenting associations have been offered **\$40m** each to accept it, so long as they do so by **19sep26**. This sweetener gives a clue to just how much money could be available to the Power Rich Class if the plan goes through. [[PS1](#)]

PS2 And finally, for those really interested in this story and hungry for more, I share this informative piece by Miguel Delaney for **The Independent**. [[PS2](#)]

PS3 This Thought Byte has been about corruption in football. But since it relates to the recent World Cup tournament and Argentina in particular. It would seem right and opportune to add this postscript to the mix.

Firstly, Spain was crowned the World Champions, after a well-earned 1-Nil victory in a masterly display of football against the *favourites* Argentina. Not happy with that, Argentinian players thought it appropriate to start an on-pitch brawl with players of the Spanish team. **ITV Sport** captured it. To call it shameful doesn't describe it. What it will do, though, is place the Argentinian team in the rogues' gallery for many years to come. [[PS3A](#)]

See further in-depth analysis by **World Cup Arena** about the final matches for Spain, Argentina and England; the player's behaviour and the team tactics. See **THE HISTORY BOOK** under **SPORT – Spotlights** : linked below.

More detail about the Argentinian team – and a few players in particular – was provided in the analysis by **Ray Football**. Alas, in this great game of football, the images speak for themselves. Take a look. [[PS3B](#)]

To cap off an episode which could hardly be worse, there was yet another incident which FIFA is obligated to deal with. I refer to the political protest by the Argentinian team relative to Las Malvinas – the island group in the South Atlantic - a British colony called the Falkland Islands. Argentina and Britain entered military conflict over the outpost in **1982** after Argentinian forces invaded the island. **SKY News** gave the backstory on the conflict. [[PS3C](#)]

The question hanging now is, how will FIFA deal with this infringement of its own rules, which disallow all political protests by teams during the tournament. But don't hold your breath, since the chances are that nothing will be decided any time soon. FIFA will likely let the dust settle, allowing minds – in months and years to come – to forget all that actually happened.

PS4 And this is the last PS on this occasion.
It would be a missed opportunity to not mention a couple of other points which really should be dealt with. That is, points which FIFA and all Football Associations should be dealing with as a matter of urgency. I refer here to the rules governing the game on the field, which I believe are in desperate need of sharpening. It is astonishing to me that these matters are yet to be addressed - but given the spotlight now being placed on the game, aided by the last FIFA tournament, perhaps the world is becoming ready for some sensible changes. And these are my suggestions – just mine as far as I know.

1. Players wrestling in the box prior to and during corner kicks being taken. Grasping and tugging of players shirts being treated as a penalty offence or freekick for the defending side.
2. The offside rule is based on clear daylight between opposing players – rather than overlaps. The change will probably lead to more goals.

3. VAR analysis is put on stadium screens for all to see – like they are in international rugby matches. VAR and ref decisions being transparent.
4. The match clock starts and stops when the ball is in play. This should go a long way to ceasing time-wasting manoeuvres

So, that's my current thinking and opinion on this subject today – but I wonder - what are your thoughts?

By: **David Charles** Contact CONNECT: [HERE](#)

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In search of that TRUTH, we only pose questions – we have no answers.

- 3A [Yahoo Sports](#): Eagle-eyed fans spot Australian World Cup VAR referee making concerning gesture at Germany game
- 3B [CNN](#): The USA's red card controversy explained and why the decision won't be overturned
- 3C [NBC News](#): World Cup red card controversy
- 5A [ABC News](#): FIFA's reversal of red card ban puts target on US team: Analyst

- PS1 [SKY News](#): Former world football president criticises FIFA plan to sell \$4bn stake
- PS2 [The Independent](#): World Cup boycott? What comes next after Infantino's deal with Trump
- PS3A [ITV Sport](#): Paredes sent off & Molina throws a punch! Ugly scenes from some of the Argentina players
- PS3B [Ray Football](#): The Man who disgraced Argentina
- PS3C [SKY News](#): Falklands War veteran reacts to Argentina players' banner after beating England

A sample collection of analysis and commentary from the **2026** matches

- 1 Different rules when Argentina play? [1:17] [TB-6315A-01](#)
- 2 England didn't get a penalty here. [1:48] [TB-6315A-02](#)
- 3 Argentina Vs England - WorldCup2026 [1:25] [TB-6315A-03](#)
- 4 Selective officiating or not? [1:20] [TB-6315A-04](#)
- 5 Just put in Argentina shirt and what ever you do is valid [0:53] [TB-6315A-05](#)
- 6 Argentina's match score card for fouls and VAR decisions [TB-6315A-06](#)
- 7 England got Robbed I've checked the image [1:02] [TB-6315A-07](#)
- 8 We just want consistency [2:49] [TB-6315A-08](#)
- 9 Egypt Robbed? The VAR Decision Everyone is Ignoring [1:32] [TB-6315A-09](#)
- 10 The evidence is mounting. Is the World Cup fixed? [5:57] [TB-6315A-10](#)
- 11 VAR CHECKED ENGLAND'S GOAL FROM EVERY ANGLE... [1:03] [TB-6315A-11](#)
- 12 VAR at the 2026 World Cup is absolutely a joke [1:10] [TB-6315A-12](#)
- 13 Argentina Football Association and FIFA allegations [1:32] [TB-6315A-13](#)
- 14 After reviewing the full video footage. [TB-6315A-14](#)
- 15 Messi called out for moment of 'poor' sportsmanship [1:04] [TB-6315A-15](#)
- 16 Telegraph releases an article "**Argentina's 31 dirty tricks**" [TB-6315A-16](#)
- 17 Over 10million people sign petition. [TB-6315A-17](#)
- 18 Shocking behaviour. [0:26] [TB-6315A-18](#)
- 19 Poor referee judgement in the ongoing world cup [0:22] [TB-6315A-19](#)
- 20 Watch this – Messi and Bellingham [0:23] [TB-6315A-20](#)
- 21 FIFA Under Fire For Argentina's VAR Decisions [20:01] [TB-6315A-21](#)
- 22 Argentina gets automatic place in the 2030 World Cup [TB-6315A-22](#)
- 23 FIFA and Infantino Corruption are Killing Football [2:57] [TB-6315-23](#)

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