

FairSquare

Mr Bruno Chiomento
ChairPerson Review Committee
Cc: Professor Chris Mihm
Ms Molly Rhone
Members of the Review Committee

Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee
Review Sub-Committee
Fédération Internationale de Football Association

13 August 2026

Dear Mr Chiomento, Professor Mihm, and Ms Rhone,

I am the director of FairSquare, a non-profit organisation with a focus on accountability in sport. We are writing in relation to the eligibility of Gianni Infantino to stand as a candidate for the FIFA Presidency in 2027, a matter that falls under the mandate of the Review Committee of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee. More specifically, we are writing to request that you rule Mr Infantino ineligible to run again for the FIFA Presidency on the basis that he is already serving his third and final term. A previous decision of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee to discount his first term clearly violates the letter and purpose of the FIFA statutory provision on presidential term limits.

Article 33(2) of the FIFA Statutes states that “no person may serve as President for more than three terms of office.” Gianni Infantino was elected FIFA President at an Extraordinary FIFA Congress in February 2016. The FIFA Congress has since re-elected him twice, in June 2019 and in March 2023. According to the FIFA Statutes, the presidential term that began in 2023 constitutes Mr Infantino’s third and final term in office, however at the 2026 FIFA Congress in Vancouver, Mr Infantino announced his intention to run for President in 2027. This fourth term of office appears to have been enabled on the basis of a decision or opinion issued by the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee (to which you also belong) in 2022. On 16 December 2022, the FIFA Council held a meeting in Doha, Qatar, after which FIFA published a press release which referred to this decision:

“The FIFA Council also unanimously confirmed its agreement with the view of the Governance, Audit & Compliance Committee that the period between 2016 and 2019 does not count as a term of office for the current FIFA President, who is therefore about to end his first term.”

The agenda for the FIFA Council meeting indicates that the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee had met in Doha on 1 December 2022 and indicates that the Council was provided with a



report from the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee “and on the decisions taken by correspondence”. We have been unable to find this report or any further information on the matter.

In relation to substance, the decision violates the letter and purpose of FIFA rules. The full text of article 33(2) reads as follows:

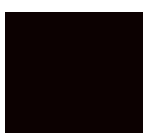
“The President shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four years in the year following a FIFA World Cup™. The term of office shall begin after the end of the Congress at which the President was elected. No person may serve as President for more than three terms of office (whether consecutive or not). Previous terms served as a vice-president or as a member of the Council shall not be considered in determining the term limits of a President.”

Article 25 of the Statutes states that “a Congress may be an Ordinary or an Extraordinary Congress”. Mr Infantino was elected president after an Extraordinary Congress in 2016, which was his first term of office. Neither the FIFA Statutes nor the FIFA Governance Regulations make any provision for a presidential term to be discounted because it did not last for the maximum period of four years. The statutes explicitly state that “no person may serve as President for more than three terms of office” without making any distinction as to those terms of office. The letter of the rule is clear and does not provide for any exception based on the complete or incomplete nature of the term of office, or with respect to the type of Congress - Ordinary or Extraordinary - at which the election took place.

An interpretation that would discount the first three years of office would also run contrary to the spirit and purpose of the rule. The spirit of the rule is clear and can be gleaned from the report of the 2016 FIFA Reform Committee, which proposed “significant modifications to its institutional structure and operational processes are necessary to prevent corruption, fraud, self-dealing and to make the organisation more transparent and accountable.” These recommendations were the basis of the changes to the FIFA Statutes made in 2016 in which the presidential term limit rule was introduced. The FIFA Reform Committee report states that FIFA Presidents should serve “no more than three terms of four years (whether consecutive or not) for a maximum of 12 years”. It should be noted that Mr Infantino served as UEFA’s representative on the 2016 FIFA Reform Committee.

The interpretation being relied on will allow Mr Infantino to serve 15 years - only two years less than his predecessor, Sepp Blatter, who resigned after the corruption scandal that prompted the 2016 Reform Committee to recommend strict presidential term limits. This was clearly not the purpose of the introduction of article 33(2) in the FIFA Statutes in 2016, indeed an interpretation that only four year terms count would, *de facto*, render the rule on term limits ineffective. An incumbent President could use his position within the FIFA Council, which has the power to call presidential elections, before the end of a full term to remain in power indefinitely. In view of Mr Infantino’s various abuses of power and the failure of the FIFA Council to hold him to account, such a scenario is plausible.

In relation to procedure, the apparent involvement of the FIFA Council in this decision is also concerning. FIFA’s statement on 16 December 2022 said that the FIFA Council “confirmed its agreement with the view of the Governance, Audit & Compliance Committee” and that Mr Infantino



was “therefore about to end his first term.” The wording of this statement suggests that the FIFA Council approved the decision of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee.

The Council, even if following an Opinion of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee at that time, has no competence to decide on the eligibility of candidates or to issue any binding interpretation of the Statutes. If the FIFA Council intervened in this matter that would constitute a breach of the separation of powers within FIFA and of the independence of the Review Committee. The only body that is competent to amend the limit of three terms of office is the Congress and, if that was the intention of this decision, such an amendment ought to have been proposed and voted on by the Congress.

In view of this lack of clarity over how this decision was taken and the FIFA Council's apparent involvement in it, we would encourage you to publish details of the engagement and position of your Committee in the “decision” approved by the FIFA Council in December 2022 and any reasoning supporting it.

We are aware that the composition and leadership of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee, and the Review Committee that sits as a sub-committee within it, have changed since 2022 and that the decision taken in 2022 may not reflect the current position of the Review Committee. The Review Committee remains fully competent to decide on this matter and is empowered to do so under article 27(1) of the FIFA Statutes, which states that any candidate for the FIFA Presidency “must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Review Committee in accordance with the FIFA Governance Regulations.” We hope you will do so in full compliance with the Statutes, and urge you to take into account that any exception to a rule aimed at restraining executive power should be considered with extreme caution and, in principle, discarded. This is particularly important if such an exception has been made without a clear legal basis, in a non-transparent manner and without any reasoning to support it.

In view of all of the above, we request that the Review Committee rule Mr Infantino ineligible to run for the FIFA Presidency on the basis that it would constitute his fourth term of office and therefore be in violation of the FIFA Statutes.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas McGeehan

