

Nicholas McGeehan
Director, FairSquare

07 September 2026

Reboot Advisory Board

Jules Boykoff
David Goldblatt
Keith Look Loy
Niamh O'Mahony
Bonita Mersiades
Steff Ndeji
Musa Okwonga

Investigatory Chamber
Ethics Committee
Federation International de Football Association

Legal Advisors

Dr Antoine Duval
Professor Michele Krech
Dr Jan Zglinski

Subject: Joint complaint regarding FIFA President Gianni Infantino's repeated breaches of the FIFA Code of Ethics

Dear Members of the Investigatory Chamber of the FIFA Ethics Committee,

We are writing on behalf of more than 100,000 individuals to request that the Ethics Committee initiate an investigation into the conduct of the FIFA President, Gianni Infantino, in light of his multiple breaches of the FIFA Code of Ethics (FCE).

Reboot is a campaign that is organised and coordinated by FairSquare, a UK-based NGO that submitted a previous complaint to the Ethics Committee on 8 December 2025. The Ethics Committee acknowledged receipt of that complaint on 12 December 2025, but has provided no update since.

The Reboot campaign launched in June 2026 by offering members of the public the opportunity to add their names to a follow-up complaint. At the date of writing, 102,956 people have requested that their names be added to this complaint.

This complaint lists eight incidents in chronological order. All of these incidents relate to Mr Infantino's connections to the US President, Donald Trump, and four of the incidents were included in the complaint that FairSquare submitted in December 2025. This updated complaint includes details of Mr Infantino's role in the so-called 'Balogun' affair during the 2026 men's World Cup, and Mr Infantino's efforts to sell the rights to FIFA's commercial and event operations to a private equity group with connections to President Trump.

Each of the eight incidents detailed in this complaint provides compelling evidence of at least one violation of the FCE, but these incidents are interconnected and should not be delinked.

Collectively, they provide compelling evidence that the FIFA President has, at a minimum, abused his power, violated his duty of political neutrality, and violated his duty of loyalty in his efforts to ingratiate himself with the US President. The evidence that he sought to gain personally from this pattern of behaviour adds to the seriousness of the allegations.

Article 15(1) of the FCE states: “In dealings with government institutions, national and international organisations, associations and groupings, persons bound by this Code shall, in addition to observing the basic rules of article 14, remain politically neutral, in accordance with the principles and objectives of FIFA, the confederations, associations, leagues and clubs, and generally act in a manner compatible with their function and integrity.”

Article 16(1) of the FCE states: “Persons bound by this Code shall have a fiduciary duty to FIFA, the confederations, associations, leagues or clubs. A breach of fiduciary duty occurs when, inter alia, someone who is placed in a position of responsibility or trust acts in a way that is detrimental to the interests of FIFA, the confederations, associations, leagues or clubs or is likely to damage their reputation.”

Article 26(1) of the FCE states: “Persons bound by this Code shall not abuse their position in any way, especially to take advantage of their position for private aims or gains.”

Articles 15(2), 16(2) and 26(2) provide for the same punishment for violations: “an appropriate fine of at least CHF 10,000 as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years.” Article 26(2) further states that “the sanction shall be increased accordingly where the person holds a high position in football, as well as in relation to the relevance and amount of the advantage received.” Any abuse of presidential powers is therefore considered by FIFA to be an aggravated breach of this provision. Article 11 of the FCE also states that any repeated breaches of provisions of the FCE “shall be considered aggravating circumstances” and empowers the Ethics Committee to “go beyond the maximum sanction provided for a violation of the relevant rule”.

In its acknowledgement of receipt of FairSquare’s complaint of 8 December 2025, the Ethics Committee secretariat stated that it was “not in a position to provide you with any further information regarding the state of the proceedings.” This follow-up complaint contains even more serious allegations and, taken as a whole, it is a body of evidence that points to serial dysfunction and misgovernance at the highest level of football governance.

We also draw the Committee’s attention to public and political concern about the issues addressed in this complaint. The Norwegian Football Federation wrote to the Ethics Committee in June requesting that FairSquare’s complaint be thoroughly and transparently handled, as did 50

Members of the European Parliament, who called on the Ethics Committee to “to prove its commitment to political neutrality, transparency, and accountability.” In July, the House Judiciary Committee in the US Congress requested that Mr Infantino appear before the committee in relation to its concerns over his connections to President Trump, and two committee chairs in the European Parliament have announced their intention to call FIFA representatives to appear before a joint hearing. The fact that 100,000 individuals added their names to this call for accountability is clear evidence of mounting public concern. As the independent judicial body tasked with the critical task of upholding the “integrity and reputation of football”, the Ethics Committee must not only act, it must be seen to act with appropriate haste, transparency and rigour.

Incident 1

On 20 January 2025, Mr Infantino published a short video on his Instagram account in which he thanked President Trump for inviting him to the presidential inauguration rally in Washington D.C. the previous day. Mr Infantino concluded the video by saying, “Together we will make not only America great again but also the entire world.” This statement, adopting the Trump administration’s political slogan and expressing commitment to its accomplishment, indicates support for Trump’s political agenda and constitutes a clear breach of Mr Infantino’s duty to remain politically neutral.

Incident 2

On 2 October 2025, FIFA announced the institution of a “FIFA Peace Prize” which it said was “to reward individuals who have taken exceptional and extraordinary actions for peace and by doing so have united people across the world”.

The FIFA Statutes indicate that the decision to introduce a FIFA Peace Prize should have been taken by the FIFA Council. Article 34(1) of the Statutes states that “the Council defines FIFA’s mission, strategic direction, policies and values, in particular with regard to the organisation and development of football at worldwide level and all related matters.” In line with article 35(2) of the statutes, the FIFA President’s role is to “ensure that FIFA’s mission, strategic direction, policies and values, as defined by the Council, are protected and implemented, in particular by the general secretariat.” He does not have the authority to unilaterally dictate the organisation’s mission, strategic direction, policies and values.

In the FIFA statement of 2 October 2025 in which they announced the introduction of the FIFA Peace Prize, there is no mention of the FIFA Council having been involved in the decision to launch a peace prize. There is also no mention of who would be involved in determining the winner, nor the criteria to be applied. Similarly, there is no mention of the FIFA Peace Prize in the

agenda of the FIFA Council meeting held on 2 October 2025. On 1 December 2025, The Athletic reported that the FIFA Council was not involved in the decision.

“Multiple sources familiar with the process, all of whom wished to remain anonymous to protect relationships, said the Council and FIFA’s vice-presidents were not consulted or involved in the creation of a FIFA peace prize and that it was not discussed at the prior FIFA Council. They have also not had input into the selection criteria for deciding a recipient. Some found out via a media release.”

On 5 December 2025, the New York Times reported similar information and alleged that Mr Infantino was personally responsible for the institution of the prize.

“Mr. Infantino, president of FIFA, soccer’s global governing body, who had publicly lobbied for Mr. Trump to receive the [Nobel] peace prize, simply had his organization establish its own. The announcement of the “FIFA Peace Prize — Football Unites the World” was so hastily arranged that it surprised several of the body’s most senior officials, including board members and vice presidents, according to four soccer executives briefed on the events.”

On 4 December 2025, The Guardian reported that a FIFA Committee would be involved in future decisions to award the Peace Prize, but would not be involved in the 2025 decision.

“The Fifa prize is seen internally as its version of the president’s award at Uefa, the European football body, suggesting Infantino’s say will be decisive. It is also understood that a new “social responsibility” committee within Fifa has been given the central role in devising the “process” through which winners will be chosen – but will not sit before this year’s recipient is announced.”

There is therefore compelling evidence that the decision to initiate a Peace Prize was taken unilaterally by Mr Infantino, and that he abused his powers as FIFA President in this regard.

Incident 3

On 9 October 2025, Mr Infantino publicly lobbied for President Trump to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2025. On his Instagram account, he wrote:

“Congratulations to the USA and President Donald J. Trump, Qatar, Egypt, Türkiye and all the countries that collaborated to make the ceasefire and agreement on the first phase of the peace process in the Middle East happen. Peace is great news and is giving new hope for all. Everyone around the world should now fully support this peace process. President Donald J. Trump definitely deserves the Nobel Peace Prize for his decisive actions.”

This was a clear personal endorsement of President Trump’s intervention in a highly contentious political situation and a breach of Mr Infantino’s duty to remain politically neutral.

Incident 4

On 5 December 2025, at the draw for the 2026 men's World Cup finals in Washington D.C., the FIFA President awarded the FIFA Peace Prize to President Trump. A FIFA video screened at the event highlighted President Trump's foreign policy efforts in multiple countries around the world.

The video voiceover stated:

"He has supported efforts to broker ceasefires and promote diplomatic engagement – actions that helped create conditions in which peace could take root. Under President Trump's leadership, the historic Abraham Accords were signed bringing the first real progress in the Middle East in decades. His leadership has ensured that peace exists between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, Cambodia and Thailand, Kosovo and Serbia, India and Pakistan, Egypt and Ethiopia, and Armenia and Azerbaijan. President Donald J Trump's actions have also ensured that peace exists between Israel and Hamas by brokering the Gaza peace plan, and he is making a continued effort to bring a lasting peace between Russia and Ukraine. This has been a presidency marked by actions to pursue peace around the world. ... For his exceptional actions taken in the cause of world peace that have helped unite people across our world, we congratulate the 2025 FIFA Peace Prize – Football Unites the World recipient, President Donald J Trump."

Mr Infantino then addressed President Trump on stage and said: "This is what we want from a leader...you definitely deserve the first FIFA Peace Prize for your action for what you have obtained in your way but you obtained it in an incredible way and you can always count Mr President on my support."

Mr Infantino's personal endorsement of President Trump's foreign policy in numerous countries and ongoing armed conflicts, and promise to always support him, constitutes a breach of his duty to remain politically neutral. The award of the Peace Prize to President Trump, which appears to have been taken unilaterally by Mr Infantino, constitutes an abuse of his position as FIFA President.

Incident 5

On 19 February 2026, Mr Infantino signed a partnership agreement between FIFA and President Trump's "Board of Peace" to "actively source investment from international leaders and institutions harnessing the power of football to support recovery, stability and long-term development in conflict-affected regions." Ranking members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Judiciary Committee have described the Board of Peace as "an opaque pseudo-governmental organization never authorized by Congress and controlled by President Donald Trump in his personal capacity as self-designated 'Chairman for Life.'"

Images of the event show attendees were given MAGA-style red hats with '45 – 47' marked on the side – a reference to President Trump's two presidential terms. Mr Infantino briefly donned the hat – the only attendee to do so. Mr Infantino posted a video of himself wearing the hat to [his Instagram account](#), and FIFA [posted the video](#) on their website.

Mr Infantino's decision to sign an MOU with the Board of Peace appears to have been done without the consent or approval of the FIFA Council in what would constitute an abuse of his position as FIFA President. Mr Infantino's donning of a MAGA hat at a public event where the international media were present constitutes a breach of his duty to remain politically neutral.

Incident 6

A report published on 2 July 2026 by Democratic staff of the [US House of Representatives' natural resources committee](#) produced clear evidence to show that FIFA allowed its official Fan Site for the 2026 men's World Cup to be used as part of a data-harvesting campaign for an organisation run by President Trump's former digital campaign manager. The news was first published in the [Washington Examiner](#) on 9 June 2026, two days before the tournament began.

As the report notes, "thousands of unwitting fans, including D.C. residents, Americans visiting D.C. from other states, and international World Cup attendees unwittingly gave their personal information to a partisan political entity, potentially enabling future targeted marketing and campaign outreach by Republican campaigns."

Gianni Infantino [personally promoted](#) this specific fan site on his Instagram account. At the time of the submission of this complaint, the post had not been removed.

It is inconceivable that Mr Infantino was unaware of the allegations that FIFA sites were being used for politically partisan purposes, and as such this appears to have been a breach of his duty to remain politically neutral.

Incident 7

On 1 July 2026, during the men's World Cup match between the USA and Bosnia & Herzegovina, USA player Folarin Balogun was issued a red card for serious foul play. The USA won the match and qualified for the next round of the competition, where they were scheduled to play Belgium on 6 July. In line with article 14(d) of [FIFA's Disciplinary Code](#), Balogun should have served an automatic one-match suspension. However, on 5 July 2026, [FIFA announced](#) that the FIFA Disciplinary Committee had suspended Balogun's one-match suspension, making him eligible to play in the match against Belgium. There is strong evidence to suggest the decision was [rooted in political pressure](#) applied by the US President to Gianni Infantino. At a press conference on 6 July

2026, President Trump announced he had intervened and asked Infantino for a review of Balogun's ban, saying:

"I spoke to Gianni [Infantino]. ...So I saw the play, and I'm a person that loves sports... and I understand sports really well.... and that wasn't a foul. ... Yes I asked for a review by FIFA. I spoke to a man who is highly respected. I asked for a review because I didn't think it was a foul. Again I'm good at this stuff, I didn't think it was a foul.... If they wouldn't allow a top player to play ... I think it would have had a big stain. ... and I relayed it.. I didn't tell him what to do, I can't tell him what to do."

UEFA issued a statement on 6 July 2026 stating that FIFA's actions "crossed a red line" and expressing "disbelief at such an unprecedented, incomprehensible and unjustifiable decision."

FIFA stated that the Disciplinary Committee applied Article 27 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code in arriving at its decision. On 12 July 2026, The Times reported that the decision to effectively waive the ban on Balogun was taken unilaterally by the chairman of FIFA's Disciplinary Committee, Mohammad Al-Kamali. They also reported that this is the first time that this chairman has been the sole arbiter in a case, and that "more important cases often involve three committee members sitting together to make a decision."

There is compelling evidence that Mr Infantino abused his position as FIFA President by intervening in this matter.

Incident 8

On 28 July 2026, FIFA announced that it planned to set up "a new FIFA-owned and controlled subsidiary consolidating FIFA's commercial and event operations." FIFA would retain "exclusive authority over football governance, competitions, match calendar, and all regulatory and sporting decisions", but private investors would be allowed to purchase "minority, non-controlling interests" in the new subsidiary, called FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE).

FIFA's press release stated that "Thrive Eternal, a permanent capital holding company, is expected to lead the proposed investor group for FFE." Thrive Eternal was launched in April 2026 by Joshua Kushner, the brother of Jared Kushner, who is the son-in-law of President Trump and whom Trump appointed as a "Special Envoy for Peace" in February 2026.

UEFA stated in a filing with the US District Court for the Southern District of New York on 27 August 2026 that Infantino and "a small circle of co-conspirators had conceived and reportedly been developing in secret for more than a year" and that the FIFA Council was not involved or consulted. The Times newspaper, which first broke the story, cited "sources with knowledge of the scheme" as saying that "the intention was for Infantino to become the chief executive or

commissioner after his presidency, with a basic salary — before any bonuses — of \$30 million a year.”

There is compelling evidence that Mr Infantino’s efforts with regard to the FIFA Forward Enterprise initiative constituted an abuse of his position as FIFA President, with ordinary decision-making processes being circumvented and FIFA’s own leadership as well as member associations kept in the dark. This incident also provides compelling evidence that Mr Infantino was in breach of his fiduciary duty, in that he acted in a way that is detrimental to the financial interests of FIFA, the confederations, and the member associations.

In this regard, we reiterate our request that the Ethics Committee treat these incidents as interconnected. As a whole, Mr Infantino’s conduct in the course of his professional relationship with President Trump has constituted a serious breach of his duties of loyalty and political neutrality, and an egregious abuse of presidential power.

For largely practical reasons, we have not included the names of all the individuals who have signed this complaint. Please let us know if you require further details on this or any of the matters of substance addressed in this complaint. We look forward to your response to this matter.



Nicholas McGeehan