



Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)



Topic:

Managing Fan Behavior
and Addressing
Disruptions During the
FIFA World Cup:
Strategies for
Maintaining Order and
Ensuring a Positive
Experience for All



Committee: FIFA

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Addressing Disruptions During the FIFA World Cup: Strategies for
Maintaining Order and Ensuring a Positive Experience for All

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I. Quorum

-Argentina	-Ghana	-South Africa
-Australia	-Italy	-South Korea
-Belgium	-Japan	-Spain
-Brazil	-Mexico	-Sweden
-Chile	-Netherlands	-Turkey
-Colombia	-Nigeria	-United Kingdom
-Costa Rica	-Paraguay	-United States
-Egypt	-Portugal	
-France	-Qatar	
-Germany	-Russia	



II. Committee Background

The International Federation of Association Football, or FIFA as an acronym from its French name, was founded by Belgium, France, Spain, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Switzerland, on May 21, 1904 in Paris, France, although Germany was not in the meeting in France it played a crucial role for the creation of FIFA, it was founded to provide unity among other soccer associations. It contains 211 members divided into 6 confederations, including:

- **CONCACAF** (North and Central America), most notably including Mexico, United States, and Canada.
- **AFC** (Asia), most notably including Japan, South Korea, and China.
- **CAF** (Africa), most notably including Egypt, Senegal, and Morocco.
- **UEFA** (Europe), most notably including Spain, Germany, and England. UEFA is arguably known for being the best of the six confederations.
- **CONMEBOL** (South America), most notably including Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay.
- **OFC** (Oceania), most notably including New Zealand, Tahiti, and New Caledonia, OFC is known for being the worst of the six confederations.

FIFA's headquarters are located in Zürich, Switzerland. FIFA "governs as an authority in football. It is the one responsible for all of the professional tournaments that occur over the years, updating and setting rules, establishing limits to player trades between clubs, etc. FIFA was created to establish various tournaments, both international and national, to promote football worldwide.



FIFA's most important tournament is the World Cup. In the 2022 World Cup 32 countries played in it; the winner of the 2022 edition was Argentina, but in the 2026 edition, 48 countries will be able to play. FIFA made a profit of over 6 million USD during the last World Cup held in Qatar.

Gianni Infantino is the current president of FIFA. he was elected in 2016, and he is still the president of FIFA to this day. Infantino has made some drastic and questionable decisions and changes to FIFA, he has been accused of corruption many different times, and he is known as one of the most corrupt presidents in FIFA's history.

III. History of Topic:

The first World Cup was held in Uruguay and started on the 13th of July in the year 1930. Only 13 countries participated in the tournament. The World Cup was founded because only amateur athletes were allowed to compete in the Olympics. some European countries were not able to travel to Uruguay for the World Cup, and in the end, only 3 European countries were able to participate in the 1930 World Cup.

Fans have been a crucial part of the World Cup, without them the atmosphere would not be the same, although sometimes fans get a little carried away by the game and do some unpredictable things, one example took place in the 1994 World Cup, Colombia was playing the US, they lost 2-1 because of an own goal of Andres Escobar. Many fans blamed him for the loss and for getting eliminated from the World Cup. When the Colombian soccer team went back to their country, he was assassinated by furious Colombian fans.



Most recently, during the 2022 World Cup, some fans were told that they could not wear LGBT-related clothing items, such as armbands, hats, and headbands. This action committed by Qatar infuriated the LGBT community and caused a very big controversy because Qatar had previously stated that everyone was welcome to the tournament.

Another scandal in the 2022 World Cup is that Qatar “bought” the fans of the World Cup. This accusation originally started even before the World Cup began. Qatar tried to justify this action by stating that they wanted to make fans feel welcome in the Country. The fans’ reactions were mixed; some thought that it was a nice action by Qatar to make them feel more comfortable in a foreign country, but some others criticized Qatar because the country did not make the World Cup feel “authentic”.

Overall, the World Cup has been around for a long time. Fans are a crucial part of the World Cup, although sometimes their enthusiasm can get out of control and cause some controversies that highlight their passion for football. As the World Cup evolves, FIFA needs to address these issues, promoting a better experience for all.

IV. Topic Information

Fans are the pinnacle of a full World Cup experience; their chants, passion, love, loyalty, and traditions are just on another level, but sometimes their passion and love for the game take them too far and begin acting poorly, causing controversies and fights.

There are 3 types of fans: loyal fans, casual fans, and negative fans.

- **Loyal Fans:** These fans are the backbone of every football team; they are dedicated and passionate, and they always support their team no matter how the team is doing.



- **Casual Fans:** These fans have a more moderate level of excitement toward the team they support; although their support is less than the loyal fans, they still support the team.
- **Negative Fans:** Sadly, not all types of fans are positive; these fans spread negativity and hate and make other fans feel bad. They are the kind that start fights, discussions, etc. Regularly, it's them that cause most of the negative feelings in football. It is crucial to address the negativity that these fans spread to avoid any further controversies.

Order in FIFA World Cups has been a problem for many years, but looking at the bright side of things, FIFA's tactics for combating this problem have worked, and there are fewer scandals regarding fans, although FIFA's efforts of making fans behave fans sometimes behave poorly on games.

Order is not lost only during the World Cups; most recently, in the final of the Copa America between Argentina and Colombia, many fans without tickets tried to enter the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami. The game was delayed more than an hour because of the fans trying to sneak into the match.

This is a big concern for FIFA because the next World Cup will take place in less than 2 years. "We are going to have to increase the security profile for these types of events and treat them as what they are, they are global events with massive magnitude and reach." Stated Jim Hayes, leading expert in global security.

This highlights that these kinds of events need a lot of security, and with the 2026 World Cup just around the corner, it is essential that the security organization responsible for the 2026 World Cup



organize their strategies more than ever and prepare for the unexpected.

V. Current Issues

Germany:

Germany has been amid controversies, including both fans and players. Recently, in the 2022 World Cup held in Qatar, German players covered their mouths during a team photo before their game against Japan. The players performed this action because Qatar had threatened to book all the players wearing a “*One Love*” armband or accessory. This action implied that Qatar had no freedom of speech, but this problem did not end there. In a later game, Qatari fans held up pictures of Mesut Özil; this was a response to the previous action of the German players. Qataris chose Mezut Özil because he stated, “When we win, I am another German player, but when we lose, I am just a Turkish immigrant.”

Mexico:

Mexico implemented various policies on its local league to combat fans acting poorly. Some policies include:

- Grita... Mexico!!
- Grada Zero

Grita... Mexico!!: It is a double sense policy; on one hand, it celebrates the passion that Mexican fans have for their team, but it is also associated with the fight against a racial slur that fans have been saying during games in la Liga MX.

Grade Zero: This policy enforces a zero-tolerance stance against fan violence, racism, and discrimination within stadiums. The policy states: “Fans who engage in this kind of action will be banned from attending future matches.” This aims to create a safer and more comfortable environment for fans at the stadium.



United States of America:

The US has implemented a Fan Code of Conduct, which all fans are expected to follow. This code states: “U.S. Soccer Fans have a right to a safe, respectful, and enjoyable experience, and U.S. Soccer is committed to keeping its games safe and comfortable for all fans. All Fans are expected to abide by this Fan Code of Conduct in addition to all stadium rules.” It also states that there is zero tolerance for any form of harassment or discrimination towards any fan or player. The Fan Code also states that there are certain things that a fan is expected to follow during a match. These include:

“Sit only in their ticketed seats and show their tickets when requested, not stand in aisles or obstruct others from viewing the game, cheer, sing, and otherwise support their team while remaining respectful and courteous to all players, referees, and other fans, including the opposing team promptly return a ball that enters the stands responsibly consume alcoholic beverages, follow directions from venue staff regarding stadium policies and emergency procedures, and display good sportsmanship.”

England:

English fans sang a very controversial chant at Euro 2024 regarding what happened in World War II. Despite appeals from both English and German authorities to stop singing the chant, it was later heard at England's opening match in Frankfurt. However, German police have limited power to intervene because the chant is not something illegal. Some fans see the chant as a harmless chant, others get very offended by it. Also, at the Euros, some English and German fans were seen fighting after Germany's elimination from the Euros 2024.



Argentina:

Argentinian fans are known to be very wild during international matches, leading them to be part of many controversies over the years. Recently, in November of last year, Brazilian fans entered in a brawl with Argentinian fans in the World Cup qualifiers. Normally, at Maracana Stadium, where the match was played, the away team fans are usually seated in a corner of the stadium, but not for this match. Some fans warned about this before the match, but they were ignored. Police entered the stands with batons, hitting Argentinian fans in a desperate attempt to calm things down, but it just made things worse. Due to this the match was delayed half an hour, Argentinian captain Lionel Messi led his team to the changing room, and after the game he said that the organization of the match was poorly made and that the police entered too aggressively into the stands, after Argentina won 1-0 Messi stated: “Great victory at the Maracana although it will be marked by the repression of Argentina fans once again in Brazil. This madness can’t be tolerated, and it has to end now!”

VI: UN Actions

UNESCO: UNESCO has combated the problem of racism in football for a very long time, even promoting social change and inclusion within academies. It uses soccer as a tool to promote inclusion and, therefore, end racism and discrimination.

UNESCO’s Sport for Development and Peace (SDP) program focuses on fostering inclusivity through sports, including football. Although UNESCO does not govern football like FIFA, it still manages to support various initiatives meant to deal with discrimination,



racism, etc... UNESCO believes that football has the power to promote inclusion, respect, equality, and equity.


UNESCO has even created an International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination, celebrated on May 21st. UNESCO and many of its partners, including FIFA, highlight the importance of ending racism through many events hosted by them.

OHCHR: The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, or OHCHR for short, plays a crucial part in promoting human rights and inclusive and respectful environments into football. OHCHR's support it helps to solve the causes of reckless fan behavior, such as racism and physical violence.

The OHCHR has also suggested some recommendations to FIFA, including:

- **Stronger enforcement of sanctions:** Make penalties harsher on teams, players, and fans that commit act of racism or violence. Some sanctions include fines, stadium bans, and point deductions.
- **Zero tolerance policies:** Enforce zero tolerance policies to any racist act in any instance of the game, no matter if it's a local game or the World Cup Final.

Volker Turk, High Commissioner of the OHCHR, stated, "Sport, including football, should be a platform for fostering respect, understanding, and social cohesion, not a space where hate and violence have a place. Racism, discrimination, and abuse in football stadiums and among fans are a violation of human dignity, and we must all work together to stamp them out." This reflects on the general stance of the OHCHR on addressing racism and violence in football.





VII: Conclusion

In conclusion, the FIFA World Cup is the most prestigious and important football tournament of all time, showing football fan's passion and love for the game, but sometimes their passion can get out of hand and end up leading to controversies or accidents, some examples include: The murder of Andres Escobar, England fans singing World War 2 related chants, etc... These controversies show that people should treat this type of events with more seriousness regarding security. Although FIFA and different national teams have been implementing policies and strategies, there is still more to be learned from these experiences. With the 2026 World Cup right around the corner, FIFA must have a solution planned if any kind of unexpected scenario regarding fan behavior shows up. FIFA must continue to create an atmosphere of respect, safety, and enjoyment for all.

VII. Guiding Questions

1. What historical examples of fan behavior have shaped FIFA's current strategies for managing disruptions during the World Cup?
2. How do political and cultural differences among host nations influence the perception and behavior of fans?
3. What are the social and economic consequences of fan disruptions on host countries and local communities during major tournaments?
4. How does fan behavior impact the safety and well-being of players, officials, and other fans in stadiums?



5. What role do national policies, such as Mexico's Grada Zero or the U.S. Fan Code of Conduct, play in promoting positive fan behavior during international events?
6. How effective are FIFA's current measures in addressing fan violence, discrimination, and other disruptions during the World Cup?
7. What strategies can FIFA implement to better anticipate and manage security challenges for the 2026 World Cup?
8. How can international organizations like UNESCO and OHCHR collaborate with FIFA to foster inclusivity and combat racism during tournaments?
9. What innovative technologies or approaches could be used to monitor and mitigate fan-related incidents during the World Cup?
10. What challenges might arise when balancing the enforcement of strict behavioral policies with maintaining the vibrant atmosphere that fans bring to the World Cup?

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