



Specialized: Unraveling the Web of Corruption in European Soccer

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Dear delegates,

My name is Mohammed, a senior at Concord Academy, and I will be your chair for the specialized committee at CAMUN this year. I've been involved in Model UN since freshman year—I participated in conferences like NAIMUN, BUSUN, and YMUN. I joined the CAMUN staff in ninth grade, became a rapporteur in tenth, then co-chaired in eleventh. I can't wait to witness a joyous debate unfold in the historic town of Concord.

My name is Vee, a sophomore at CA, and I'll be your rapporteur. I've been involved in Model UN since freshman year and attended BUSUN and HMUN. I was a page last year at CAMUN, and like Mohammed, I can't wait to work with all of you in March.

As you prepare for the discussion, we challenge you to think about the current direction football is headed: the money influence, a huge group of football investors chasing money and leaving for Saudi. Players are playing more games than ever, and most importantly whether ESL is the right way to push UEFA to be better.

Please let us know if you have questions - feel free to email us. See you in March!

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Introduction

Football is a game that not just depicts skills, it stirs emotions that unite people. Be it someone in Bangladesh, or someone all the way in Chile, when the World Cup in 2022 took place in Qatar, the entire world united to crown the king with his final award. The beautiful game-filled historic Champions League nights in Istanbul, Kyiv, Anfield, Bernabeu, Camp Nou, San Siro, and Paris, yet like every good story a dark cloud is within the horizon of world football that is the corruption bought by the rich owners of PSG from Qatar, and Manchester City owners from UAE. Two clubs who inherited ownership leading them to become dominant forces, normalize 100M+ signings, and the ruins of small clubs, and Barcelona.

FFP Violations

FFP also known as 'Financial Fair Policy' is a rule meant to regulate the ins and outs within a soccer club's Europe set by UEFA. But the presence of powerhouses like PSG, and Man City backed by stacked owners allowed them to buy players without any trouble such as PSG transferring in Neymar for 222 million euro in 2017, or following it up with Mbappe's 180 million euro transfer in the same window. Both Man City and PSG have managed to get away by lying that most of this money is sponsor money. Truth is always uncovered and so was the truth behind these transfers as PSG was fined in 2019 for its sponsorship deals with Qatari entities, accused of inflating their value to meet FFP requirements.

On the other hand, their rival Manchester City was given a ban from the elite UEFA Champions League in 2020 which the capable lawyers of Man City group overturned. The club was just fined for breaking the rules. But as of 2023, the Champions League winner Manchester City was charged with 115 charges of breaking FFP and has potential punishments of revocation of titles won in the time period, relegation to the English fourth division, but as far this situation is concerned the corruption team will win once again and prevail the UEFA.

Influence on Transfer Market

These financially gigantic clubs influenced the European transfer market where players are sold or loaned by one club to another. The market opens twice, once from June 30th, to September 1st, and another from January 1st to 31st. More than paying an extensive amount of money to buy the players these clubs offer contracts that nearly make a million a week for players like Mbappe(PSG), Neymar(PSG) and Kevin Debruyne(Man City). The inflated market allows small clubs to put hefty

price tags on young players with crazy potential which led to huge trouble for a giant of Barcelona's size to buy players like Ousmane Dembele for 120 Million Euros, Griezmann, and Coutinho for 140 Million each. These expensive transfers from Barcelona did not replicate the magic they expected to produce after Neymar's departure but they caused a huge medical bill, a huge 8-2 deficit, and most importantly a billion-dollar debt. As of today, Barcelona is nearly selling everything to regain the financial stability of the club in order to stay competitive in the coming years.

Impact on Competitive Balance

These economic differences clearly affected a lot of teams, but football can be stolen but never killed. Despite Man City's insane roster, they lost to all European elites before getting their hands on the ears of the old lady. While PSG is still to defeat the elites. While Barcelona isn't in the debate of biggest clubs in this decade they surely are still very much a threat and capable squad to take on teams of Man City's strength, the only problem is sustainability and only very few clubs have done so really well, such as Liverpool And Real Madrid.

What is the solution?

The two greatest clubs have been through rough patches against these country-backed clubs, and hence they decided to co-joint all the elite European clubs to form a league of their own where the best will fight the best and each club will begin with a billion dollars and clubs like Barcelona can be out of a financial crisis while ensuring an equal playing ground for each team and competing on equal terms. While the idea was turned down after its initial introduction it broke apart as a lot of the clubs just left the league due to fans opposing the idea of such a league. But earlier in the fall of 2023 Madrid, and Barca returned with a revised idea of the league that will be divided in divisions, and have relegations. As of today, the league is set to launch in 2025.

Questions to Consider

1. What's the right way to move forward?
2. Should the ESL be allowed?
3. UEFA created a nations league that overschedules players (most top players play 70+ games per season) - is that ethical to do at the cost of player health?
4. UEFA proposed some 2024-25 updates to the Champions League - are those worse than the plans for the ESL?

Resources for Further Research

- <https://theathletic.com/5198425/2024/01/13/premier-league-ffp-financial-fair-play>
- [Why the secrecy around Man City's FFP case is so damaging - ESPN](#)
- [Manchester City's financial charges explained](#)
- [PSG Pres. Nasser al-Khelaifi acquitted again in FIFA retrial for alleged wrongdoing - ESPN](#)
- <https://en.as.com/soccer/what-is-psg-president-nasser-al-klelaifis-role-with-uefa-n>
- [How the proposed new-look European Super League would work | FOX Sports](#)

Committee Positions:

1. Florentino Perez (Real Madrid President, and Chairman of ESL)
2. Joan Laporta (FC Barcelona President, and Vice-Chairman of ESL)
3. Gianni Infantino (FIFA President)
4. Aleksander Čeferin (UEFA President)
5. Javier Tabares (La Liga President)
6. Richard Masters (Premier League President)
7. Dr. Marc Lenz (CEO of Bundesliga)
8. Dr. Steffen Merkel (CEO of Bundesliga)
9. Lorenzo Casini (Italian Serie A President)
10. Vincent Labrune (Ligue 1 Président)
11. Saad Al Lazeez (Interim CEO of Saudi Pro League)
12. John W. Henry (Owner of Liverpool, and Vice-Chairman of ESL)
13. Joe Glazer (Co-Chairman of Manchester United, and Vice-Chairman of ESL)
14. Stan Kroenke (Owner of Arsenal, and Vice-Chairman of ESL)
15. Yasir Al-Rumayyan (Newcastle owner)
16. Sheikh Mansour (Manchester City Owner)
17. Nasser Al-Khalefi (PSG Owner)
18. Andrea Agnelli (Former Chairman of Juventus FC, and Vice-Chairman of ESL)
19. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani (The Chairman of the bidding committee for the Qatar 2022 World Cup)
20. Arsene Wenger (Former Arsenal Manager)
21. Toni Kroos (Player Real Madrid)
22. Mesut Ozil (Retired German National Team Player)
23. Mark Goldbridge (Man United fan)



CONFERENCE POLICIES

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1. Position Papers

Position Papers are required for all delegations who wish to receive an award. Position papers should be emailed to the chair by March 29, 11:59 p.m. ET. Please email the chair with any additional questions regarding position papers.

2. Plagiarism and Pre-writing

Plagiarism is strictly prohibited at CAMUN. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, verbatim or near-verbatim copying from digital or physical sources. This rule applies to any document submitted by delegates throughout the conference, including position papers, draft resolutions, directives, and other documents. Additionally, CAMUN prohibits the use of artificially intelligent generators like ChatGPT in the creation of written documents. All work will be thoroughly checked for plagiarism.

3. Technology

CAMUN prohibits the use of technology in committee sessions, including but not limited to computer and cell phones, except during unmoderated caucuses as directed by the Chair.

4. Accommodations

For questions and requests related to disability and special accommodations, please email the CAMUN secretariat at ModelUN@ConcordAcademy.org. CAMUN will do its best to fulfill all appropriate requests.