

UEFA



SAMUN

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Letter From Presidents

Greetings honorable delegates,

Welcome to the XII version of SAMUN. Before starting let us introduce ourselves, our names are Raúl Salcedo and Luis Miguel De La Hoz, this year we have the honor to present to the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) committee.

We can not be more excited to have you all supporting SAMUN and selecting the FIFA committee as your place in this big event. The topics have been selected according to our passion for this beautiful sport and we hope all of you feel the same about the incredible sport that football is. Through the development of the committee, we expect active attendance and speaking therefore to be a fluent debate in which delegates declare positions and present solutions for the already known problems. We hope that you will join us in the incredible experience of SAMUN. We will be pleased if you read the background guide we have prepared for this committee for you to have a better understanding of the problems presented, and for you to begin extra research if necessary. Let's construct a unique and incredible committee for all of us.

We yearn that you will enjoy this committee and have a memorable experience throughout all SAMUN, begin searching and preparing to debate, and may solutions come through during the time we are together.

Sincerely,

Raúl Salcedo & Luis Miguel De La Hoz



Introduction to UEFA

The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) is the main governing body that controls football, futsal, and beach soccer in the continent of Europe. UEFA is one of the six continental confederations of world football's governing body FIFA and has a wide extension consisting of 55 national association members. The Union of European Football Associations has three main objectives: Developing football, running the football, and supporting football.

After a discussion between the Italian, French, and Belgian associations the UEFA was founded on 15 June 1954 in Basel, Switzerland. At first, only 31 members were presented to be part of the association but as time passed new members were integrated into the UEFA

The UEFA runs national and club competitions including UEFA European Championship, UEFA Nations League, UEFA Champions League, UEFA Europa League, UEFA Europa Conference League, and UEFA Super Cup.

Apart from organizing such massive and important events in the football world, the UEFA controls prizes, money, regulations, and media rights for every competition mentioned earlier.



Topic A: Is the Super League possible?

Key Concepts

UEFA:

The Union of European Football Associations is the administrative body for football, futsal, and beach soccer in Europe, as well as Armenia, Israel, and the Asian parts of some transcontinental countries. It is one of six continental confederations of world football's governing body FIFA.

Super League:

The European Super League, officially The Super League, was a proposed seasonal club football competition that initially would have been contested by twenty European football clubs, twelve of them being the competition's founding members.

UEFA Champions League:

The UEFA Champions League is an annual club football competition organized by the Union of European Football Associations and contested by top-division European clubs, deciding the competition winners through a round-robin group stage to qualify for a double-legged knockout format and a single-leg final.



FIGC:

The Italian Football Federation, known colloquially as Federcalcio, is the governing body of football in Italy. It is based in Rome and the technical department is in Coverciano, Florence. It organizes the Italian football league and Coppa Italia.

FFP:

The UEFA Financial Fair Play Regulations (FFP) were established to prevent professional football clubs from spending more than they earn in the pursuit of success, and in doing so not getting into financial problems which might threaten their long-term survival.

FIFA:

FIFA is a non-profit organization that describes itself as an international governing body of association football, futsal, and beach soccer. It is the highest governing body of association football.

RFEF:

The Royal Spanish Football Federation is the governing body of football in Spain. It is based in La Ciudad del Fútbol of Las Rozas, a municipality near Madrid. It was founded on 14 October 1909 as Federación Española de Clubs de Football and officially founded on 29 September 1913.



Introduction

The European Super League, or officially The Super League was a proposed midweek football competition that would have been initially contested by twenty European football clubs (including Arsenal, AC Milan, Chelsea, Atletico Madrid, Inter Milan, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, and Tottenham.).

The idea was founded on the 18th of April, 2021 but was canceled because of public intervention that was completely against creating a new distinction between the participating teams of the Super League and the rest of the world, also UEFA intervened and declare that any team that plays in The Super League will be banned from playing any UEFA tournaments such as the Champions League or the Europa League, which are two of the most renown tournaments in football alongside their domestic leagues. Also, national leagues from the founding clubs of the Super League were totally against this new and revolutionary idea and declared it a cynical project “That is founded on the self-interest of a few clubs at a time when society needs solidarity more than ever.” UEFA alongside the Premier League, the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), LaLiga, the Italian Football Federation (FIGC), and Lega Serie A declared that they will do anything to stop this event from occurring, even if it was necessary to move the case to judicial instances.



The creation of The Super League was to create a huge income competition that would have 15 permanent teams and five additional qualifiers based on their performances in the previous domestic season. Different entities and fans were against the creation of such a tournament due to the economical gap there might have been between the participant clubs and the rest. The announcement of the league created chaos, and thanks to these protests the fan voice was heard and they achieved their goal, to prevent the Super League from happening.

The day after this revolutionary announcement, the president of Real Madrid and the Super League accepted to attend an international television program “El Chiringuito de Jugones” to explain these decisions and why it is the best for football, the eyes of the football world were on him and everybody wanted to know what will he say, he went to the program and Josep Pedrerol started the interview.



One of the first things he talked about was how people think this was a league that will only benefit rich clubs and will help them become richer as previously stated, in this judgment he said that "This Super League is not for the rich, but it's to save football. If this continues, football will disappear and by 2024 we would already be dead. This is the only way to save everyone: big, medium, and small clubs". These claims were supported by arguments given him, such as that if the big clubs benefit economically, they will invest money in young talent from small clubs and this will increase small clubs' economic power. One of the fans' concerns was why he chose to make the league during the pandemic because it was very bad timing to present these ideas when the world was having a lot of troubles outside of football. He said that the pandemic has also affected football and the low income of these entities is killing them, so if you produce more competitive games there will be more profitable for them because their only income at that time was television rights. His main focus was that football needed to adapt because for Florentino, football was losing audience and interest, he claims that young people prefer to watch other things other than football because of the big amount of non-competitive games that regularly happen during the week, for him, it was time for a change, same as what Mr. Bernabéu wanted in the 50s with the creation of the European Cup that for many years the UEFA refused to and then became the worldwide phenom known today as UEFA Champions League. Finally, he said UEFA is monopolizing football and his goal was to end this because clubs are not owned by this entity so they are free to create their competition. For him, it is unfair that UEFA is the one to distribute the money they earn from the Champions League and he will also end that with this new competition. He finds it illogical how an organization that is not known for transparency can control and divide justly money for the clubs that participate in the league. With these arguments as the main focus, he presented the Super League.



Within the past few days, there has been new information that states that a relaunch of The European Super League is a fact and just a matter of time. Rumors talk about Real Madrid, Barcelona, and Juventus might be the three remaining clubs that are pursuing the continuation of the European Super League, this continuation can be followed by new guidelines in the European Super League for it to be well received by football fans and to not be canceled once again.



Current Situation and Approach

UEFA has established a dialogue with European clubs to discuss the possible creation of a new competition. This new competition will be arranged and discussed with clubs so it can be fair to all parties involved, the idea came up to preserve and give a new show to the audience. Many points need to be discussed for the new competition to come through and become a reality. Points such as how this competition will affect the calendar, how often the competition will be played, what clubs are going to participate and many more have been placed to be discussed during the committee. An important point to discuss and was the biggest problem to the development of the previous project is that the twelve founding teams will auto qualify for the league no matter any factor.

The creation of an extra competition also includes a new income for the participating clubs. The FFP was designed to ensure that clubs spend within their means, the rules were implemented by Uefa in 2011 to stop European teams from running up huge losses and debts, and encourage them to be financially prudent, the topic to be discussed is how much of the new income may the clubs use in their financial activities, like market movement and budget. The target of these measures is to ensure that the participants do not get an unmeasurable advantage over their domestic competitors.



Subtopic A: What are the parameters, structure, and rules?

The format of the competition is essential to start developing how the teams will advance and become champions, and knowing previously how the format will work, the number of teams will be selected. The following formats are considered to be optimal for the competition, but the dialogue is still open for new initiatives: Knock-out or Elimination Tournament, League or Round Robin Tournament, Combination Tournament.

The initial calendar and format proposed by Super League founders is the following. The most important thing and the biggest difference between these projects and any other International Competition are that the 12 founder clubs will have their guaranteed quota forever, it doesn't matter how good or bad they perform in their domestic league, they will always be in the Super League according to the initial plans. These decisions were made because these 12 teams guarantee entertainment and economic income because of the rivalry and popularity that exist between them. These teams are Manchester United, Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham, Manchester City, Liverpool, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Atlético de Madrid, Inter de Milan, Milan, and Juventus. This was a shocking announcement, especially for national leagues, because with these guaranteed to stay the leagues will lose an essential part of them that is the fight for international competition places like UEFA Champions, Europa, and Conference League. That's why clubs rejected these announcements because they thought it is unfair for them that only 8 spots will be available for a lot of teams that could compete in this Super League. The other 8 spots will be decided according to the performance of European teams in the national leagues. A total of 20 teams will each year compete to be crowned Super League Champion.



Florentino Pérez, the face, and president of the Super League also explained how the calendar will work and how it will not affect the normal calendar that for decades has been applied to the football world. The season will start in August, like every other year, a few days before the end of the transfer window. Every match since this month will be played mid-week so it does not interfere with the national leagues' calendar because the clubs will continue playing in these leagues according to the base plan of the development of the Super League. According to these statements, the calendar will not affect players' rest because it will follow the traditional way of playing, mid-week International leagues and weekend domestic ones.

The tournament will be divided into two groups of 10 teams that will play each other twice, one time as locals and the other one as visitors. The first 3 of their respective groups will immediately qualify for the quarter-finals. The fourth and fifth positions will play a 2 match playoff to define the 2 last classified teams. This is a similar model to other important sports competitions like NBA. Quarter-finals will be played on a round trip, same with semi-finals and then the final will be a single game on a neutral site at the end of May. It is expected that the whole amount of money in prizes will surpass 10 000 million euros which will give the participants an incredible amount of opportunities to increase their economic power. Teams that play this tournament will be in the obligation of accepting the financial criteria imposed by the founders of the league that will have a limited amount of spending framework and on behalf of the acceptance of these criteria, the Super League will give them 3,500 million euros just once in their whole history to spend it on infrastructure plans and to reactivate economic activities after COVID-19 pandemic.



QARMA'S

- What was your club's view about the previous Super League?
- What is your club's position in the new Super League initiative?
- What preference your club may have when it comes to the calendar, competition format, and participation?
- Does your club consider that FFP needs to be reordered to have a correct implementation of the system?

Questions

- Why does the public reject the Super League Project?
- Apart from the founding members of the Super League, which other football clubs were involved in its development of it?
- What economical advantages would the participating clubs have gained from the Super League?
- What is the main reason UEFA canceled the Super League?
- How would the Super League have affected the football calendar?
- What could be the reasons for domestic leagues to suspend the teams that participate in Super League?
- Is UEFA afraid of the Super League because of the economic power they will lose with its development of it?
- Does the involvement of major oil companies in football clubs such as Manchester City and PSG owners have something to do with the economic crisis of the sport?
- Why did UEFA create a new Champions League format very similar to the Super League but reject these leagues?



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Topic B: Financial Fair Play

Key Concepts

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Introduction

The Financial Fair Play was first introduced in 2009 and completely implemented in 2011-2012. The main purpose of the FFP was to improve the overall financial health of European club football since at the time FIFA felt the necessity to intervene due to net losses across Europe that stood at €1.6 billion, and on average, clubs were spending 64% of their income on player wages, and in extreme cases a 100%.

FFP stated that clubs are expected to spend only what they earn in revenue and nothing else to prevent clubs from getting into financial trouble that could affect their long-term survival caused debts. But there is a lot of criticism around FFP since many have agreed that the regulations imposed by the FFP are the rules creating a bias between the wealthiest clubs and teams fighting to right themselves a name in football history. Also, FFP has many more cons such as, discouraging investment into clubs, costs of monitoring FFP are arguably greater than the benefits gained, or sanctions can prejudice performance on the field among others.

It seems like FFP has brought solutions to some parts of the problem, but it is the method that the UEFA has to apply to have less disparity among clubs. Many have come through to state that FFP can be drastically changed to make it better. And even more when clubs are taking advantage of certain regulations to increase their wealth to become way bigger economically and inside the playing fields.



Current Situation and Approach

Thanks to COVID-19, everything has been affected, including football and its economical income, due to this, UEFA alongside FFP adjusted their rules in 2020 to “help” clubs. These measures were up to 2021 and were made to help clubs that had big amounts of losses, clubs were available to exceed 30 million euros losses, that before 2019 was not permitted, only if they can prove that these were due to the shutdown. UEFA said this was made to “give clubs more time to quantify and account for an unanticipated loss of revenues”. Now, in 2022 UEFA has openly discussed possible changes in the FFP regulations that will make the effort so clubs have a wider gap to spend money to achieve an economical balance once again.

UEFA has established an open talk to seek reasonable solutions with clubs all around Europe, but the football community is afraid of what could happen. Is not a mystery that the FFP often does not seem to be applied to the wealthiest clubs, since we can see that the market jewels are often always going to the same clubs in different leagues. Many smaller clubs have raised their voices to find equality but it seems that nothing has been done to help them become bigger and stronger economically and sportingly. Despite efforts on keeping equality among teams the gap is continuing to expand and is more likely to get bigger with time if new measurements are not taken. Within this week it seems like sanctions could get a change in the way they affect the clubs, and instead of continuing with a range of punishments from fines to limits on squad size and transfers, too, ultimately, a ban from European competition the new sanctions will be reflected in the economic side only, bringing a limit to the spending and if you go beyond that limit, you face a sanction. That sanction, however, will be purely financial. For example, if a club exceeds its cap by 20 million euros then the club will need to pay something denominated “luxury tax” on those extra 20 million euros, how much this tax is worth is debatable but it could range from 50% up to a 100%, but many have explained that this extra tax would not be a problem for the wealthiest clubs to affront thanks to their millionaire sponsorships and it seems that lower-income clubs will be the most affected by this.



Subtopic A: Reducing the economic gap between clubs

The economic gap between the wealthiest and the rest has been a constant problem among European teams, many have stated that the wealthy are not supposed to be absent from punishment due to over exceeding what is imposed by the rules. UEFA has worked on creating a system that allows the development of the smaller teams to make the sport as competitive as possible, but it seems these goals have not been reached yet even after the creation of the FFP.

Many have accused that the influence of club presidents and the financial power of most of them have made the FFP rules punishable for others but not for them. The constant fight to be at the top not only sportingly but economically has based football on the power of money, where the best players are disputed during the market by three or four big clubs. Another point to be noted is the wage cap many clubs have seen to be exceeding and no sanction is being imposed, many small clubs have felt that due to the new rules that are being discussed by the UEFA the gap between them and the wealthiest clubs might increase and that the sport will become even more based on the economical revenues than based on the creation of competitiveness.

Subtopic B: Today sanctions are sufficient to make clubs respect financial Fair Play or they need to be reformed for the financial fair play to be respected at all times.

Sanctions have been discussed in many ways and have never reached a certain value that may make teams afraid of trespassing what is permitted. In the past, these rules used to be harsh to the clubs, but due to COVID sanctions have been suspended and are now discussed to reduce them just to affect the economic area of a club but not the football side. The sanctions that are being discussed seem to be influenced by some renowned team presidents that are guiding these new sanctions to obtain an exit ticket from wage caps and other economic movements within the sport.

The football community is looking for more entertainment and more competitiveness in football and making these sanctions real may not achieve what the public wants. Football fans would not like that the best player always went to the same teams and these are the teams that are always winning, what people want is that many clubs have the same opportunities of winning tournaments as the bigger ones, what small clubs want is the same rights as the bigger teams, they want bigger teams to face the same sanctions in the scale of what they earned for football to be equal and to be in a constant competitive environment which will increase the viewers and followers for many teams.



QARMA'S

- Is FFP an essential component for the development of football?
- Is there an aspect of the FFP guidelines that may be changed to make it fairer?
- Would there be an advantage for small clubs to have greater development if FFP is not used anymore?
- Should the punishments for those who do not follow the FFP rules must be changed for them to be tougher?
- Must the FFP rules depend on the country in which the club is practicing football or must it be the same all around the world?
- How can UEFA avoid fraud and maintain equity between the finances of each club?

Questions

- How does the FFP work?
- Clubs that are against or in favor of FFP?
- In what ways do clubs avoid or take advantage of FFP?
- Since the implementation of the FFP how has this impacted the economy of football clubs and football in general?
- Is there any case where the rules in the FFP guidelines can be avoided?
- How has the FFP affected negatively the development of football clubs inside and outside the field?



Useful Links

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