



UEFA

*Union of European Football
Associations*

Official Study Guide



AGENDA

Assessing the viability of reforming the player loan system to preserve competitive integrity and sustainable development in European football

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Letter from the EB

Dear Delegates,

It is our privilege to welcome you to the UEFA Summit at JBCN Oshiwara MUN 2026. Over the course of this conference you will be asked to hold one of the most awkward conversations in European football, and you will be asked to hold it in public. The loan system began as a simple courtesy between clubs. A young player who could not yet hold a place in the senior side was sent somewhere he would actually play, he returned sharper, and both clubs benefited. That courtesy has since grown into a market of its own, worth thousands of moves every season, structured by option clauses, obligation clauses, buy back rights, wage subsidies and appearance triggers, and increasingly routed through networks of clubs under common ownership.

The question in front of this committee is whether that market still does what it was invented to do. When a nineteen year old spends four consecutive seasons in four different dressing rooms, is he being developed or is he being warehoused? When a club fighting relegation borrows five players in January from a rival's overflowing squad, has the league become fairer or has it become dependent? When a player moves between two clubs owned by the same investment group at a fee that only that group could justify, is that a transfer or an internal accounting entry? These are not rhetorical questions. They sit in front of FIFA, UEFA, national associations, the Court of Arbitration for Sport and, since the Diarra judgment, the Court of Justice of the European Union.

You will represent clubs, not countries. That distinction matters. A club is not obliged to be neutral, and it is not obliged to be popular. Chelsea, Manchester City and Real Madrid arrive with squad depth and global scouting networks that make a generous loan regime enormously useful. Bologna, Club Brugge, Girona and Feyenoord arrive knowing that borrowed talent can lift a season and also knowing that it can hollow out their own academy pathway. Athletic Bilbao arrives with a philosophy that makes much of this debate look alien. Udinese and Atalanta arrive as clubs who have made player trading into an art form. Your job is to argue your club's interest honestly, then find the compromise that a room of forty five rivals can actually sign.

We expect research. The study guide will give you the architecture of the problem, the rules currently in force, the cases that shaped them and the questions your resolution must answer. It will not give you your policy. That has to come from your own reading of your club's squad list, its financial reports, its academy record and its recent loan activity. A delegate who can name the exact loan clauses their club used last summer will always outperform one who speaks in general praise of youth development.

A word on conduct. Committee will run through moderated caucuses, unmoderated caucuses, position statements and a final resolution writing session. Speak with evidence, listen with patience, and remember that the delegate you interrupt today is the delegate whose signature you need tomorrow. Aggression is not the same thing as authority. The strongest speakers in this room will be the ones who can restate an opponent's argument better than the opponent did, and then dismantle it.

Football is the largest cultural institution in Europe and one of its more unusual labour markets. The people at the centre of it are frequently teenagers. Whatever framework this committee produces will be judged on whether it protects them while keeping the competition worth watching. We look forward to reading what you write.

Warm regards,

Director
Naitik Coudhary

Assistant Director
Aaron Shi

Introduction to the Committee

The UEFA Summit brings together the governing body of European football and the clubs that compete under its jurisdiction. UEFA, the Union of European Football Associations, was founded in 1954 and today has fifty five member associations. It organises the UEFA Champions League, the UEFA Europa League, the UEFA Conference League, the UEFA Youth League and the European Championship, and it writes the financial and integrity rules that clubs must satisfy in order to enter those competitions.

Summits of this kind are consultative forums rather than courts. They exist so that clubs, leagues and the administration can argue over rule changes before those rules are drafted into competition regulations. Historically the agenda of such meetings has covered calendar congestion, broadcast distribution, financial sustainability, squad composition, youth protection and competition format. The output is usually a set of recommendations that the UEFA Executive Committee can adopt, amend or reject.

In this simulation the committee is composed of forty five European clubs. Delegates should note two consequences of that composition. First, resolutions passed here are recommendations to the UEFA Executive Committee and, where the subject matter is international transfer regulation, to FIFA. This committee cannot unilaterally rewrite the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. It can, however, propose UEFA licensing conditions, competition entry criteria and financial rules, which is a very substantial power in practice. Second, clubs are commercial entities with declared financial interests, so delegates are entitled to argue self interest openly in a way a national delegation usually cannot.

UEFA's stated mandate

UEFA describes its purpose through the United for Success strategy adopted by its Executive Committee in February 2024, which sets the organisation's direction to 2030. The strategy commits UEFA to governing European football at every level, protecting the sporting integrity of its competitions, safeguarding player welfare with particular attention to minors, redistributing competition revenue toward grassroots and smaller associations, and defending the European sports model of open competition and promotion and relegation.

The bodies you will refer to

FIFA writes the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, which govern international loans. UEFA writes club licensing, financial sustainability and competition entry rules. National associations and leagues write domestic loan rules, which is where most loan activity actually happens. The Court of Arbitration for Sport hears appeals against decisions of both FIFA and UEFA. The Court of Justice of the European Union reviews whether any of it complies with European Union law, and since 2024 it has been doing so with real consequences.

List of Key Terms

Loan (temporary transfer):

An arrangement under which a player registered with one club is temporarily registered with another for an agreed period, after which registration reverts to the original club. FIFA formally calls this a temporary transfer.

Parent club:

The club that holds the player's permanent registration and to which the player returns when the loan ends. Also called the club of origin. Host club: The club receiving the player for the duration of the loan. Also called the new club or borrowing club.

Loan fee:

A payment made by the host club to the parent club for the temporary use of the player's registration. It is distinct from wages.

Wage contribution:

The share of the player's salary paid by each club during the loan. A parent club subsidising wages is effectively paying for the player to be developed elsewhere.

Option to buy:

A clause granting the host club the right, but not the obligation, to sign the player permanently at a pre agreed fee.

Obligation to buy:

A clause that converts the loan into a permanent transfer automatically once agreed conditions are met, such as a number of appearances or league survival. It allows a club to acquire a player now and pay later, which has significant accounting consequences.

Buy back clause:

A clause allowing the selling club to repurchase a player at a fixed price within a fixed window. Frequently used by large clubs selling academy graduates.

Recall clause:

A provision permitting the parent club to end the loan early, usually in a specified window, often used when injuries strike the senior squad.

Appearance clause:

A term requiring the host club to play the loanee a minimum number of minutes or matches, sometimes backed by a financial penalty. Designed to guarantee development value.

Sub loan (bridge loan):

Loaning on a player who is already on loan from a third club. Prohibited under the current FIFA framework.

Player hoarding or stockpiling:

The practice of registering more contracted players than a squad can use, then distributing them across other clubs on loan. The practice FIFA's loan limits were written to end.

Loan army:

Informal term for a very large group of loaned out players held by a single club.

Feeder club relationship:

A durable arrangement in which one club regularly receives loanees from a larger club, whether or not the two share ownership.

Multi club ownership (MCO):

A structure in which one investor, company or group controls or influences more than one club. Player movement inside such a group is the central integrity concern of this agenda.

Related party transaction:

A transfer or loan between two entities under common ownership or influence, where the price may not reflect an open market value.

Article 10, FIFA RSTP:

The provision of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players that governs loans, including numerical limits, minimum and maximum duration, the written agreement requirement and the ban on sub loans.

Article 19, FIFA RSTP:

The general prohibition on international transfers of players under the age of eighteen, subject to narrow exceptions. It applies to loans as well as permanent moves.

Article 5, UEFA club competition regulations:

The multi club ownership rule. It bars two clubs under common control or decisive influence from competing in the same UEFA competition and allows UEFA to impose conditions, including bans on player movement between related clubs.

Squad cost rule:

The UEFA financial sustainability rule limiting spending on wages, transfer amortisation and agent fees to a percentage of relevant club revenue. It was phased in at ninety per cent, then eighty per cent, and settled at seventy per cent.

Amortisation:

The spreading of a transfer fee across the years of a player's contract in a club's accounts. A loan with an obligation to buy postpones the start of that amortisation, which is why such deals are attractive to clubs near a spending limit.

Homegrown player rule:

The UEFA requirement that a squad registered for European competition include a minimum number of locally trained players. Time spent on loan can affect whether a player qualifies.

Training compensation:

A payment owed to the clubs that trained a player between the ages of twelve and twenty three, triggered on his first professional contract and on subsequent transfers.

Solidarity mechanism:

The distribution of five per cent of a transfer fee among a player's training clubs, in proportion to the years they trained him.

FIFA Clearing House:

The body established to process and pay training rewards, intended to ensure smaller training clubs actually receive what they are owed.

Competitive integrity:

The principle that the result of a match or competition is determined by sporting merit alone, and is not distorted by ownership links, selection restrictions or financial arrangements between the competitors.

Bosman ruling (1995):

The judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union establishing that out of contract players in the European Union may move freely, and striking down nationality quotas.

Diarra ruling (2024):

The judgment in FIFA v Diarra, Case C 650/22, holding that certain FIFA transfer provisions were incompatible with the free movement of workers and European Union competition law, and triggering the reform of the transfer system now underway.

Article 165 TFEU:

The provision of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union recognising the specific nature of sport, its social and educational function, and the protection of the physical and moral integrity of young sportspeople.

Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS):

The arbitration body in Lausanne that hears appeals against decisions of football's governing bodies.

Importance of the Agenda

The loan system is the least examined and most heavily used mechanism in European football. Permanent transfers attract the headlines and the fees, but in any given window the number of temporary moves is comparable and in many leagues larger. Almost every professional career passes through at least one loan. The system is therefore not a marginal technicality. It is the main road by which young players reach senior football, and it is also the main road by which wealthy clubs extend their influence over clubs they do not own.

This agenda asks whether that road needs rebuilding. Three pressures make the question urgent.

Pressure 1: development that does not develop:

The stated justification for loans is player development. The evidence is mixed. A well chosen loan at the right level with guaranteed minutes has produced outstanding careers. A poorly chosen loan produces a player who has changed clubs six times before turning twenty three, has never had a settled coach, and arrives back at a parent club that has already replaced him. The system produces both outcomes and currently distinguishes between them only loosely.

Pressure 2: competitive integrity:

A league in which several clubs field borrowed players from a single wealthy parent is not obviously a fair league. The problem sharpens where ownership links exist. If two clubs share an owner, the loan between them is negotiated by people on the same side of the table. The price, the wage split and the recall rights may all be set to serve the group rather than either club. UEFA has responded with restrictions on related clubs, but the underlying structure keeps growing.

Pressure 3: financial engineering:

Since the introduction of the squad cost rule, loans have become an instrument of financial planning as much as squad planning. A loan with an obligation to buy moves cost into a future accounting period. A loan out removes wages from the current one. Neither of these is inherently improper, but the further loans drift from sporting purpose toward balance sheet purpose, the harder it becomes to defend the system as a development tool.

Timeline of Events

1995 | The Bosman ruling (Europe wide)

The Court of Justice of the European Union held that players inside the European Union could move freely at the end of a contract and that nationality quotas breached free movement. Clubs lost the ability to hold registrations after expiry, transfer values migrated to players still under contract, and squads grew. Larger squads created the surplus that the loan market later absorbed.

2001 | The FIFA transfer framework is agreed with the European Commission

FIFA and the Commission settled a framework covering transfer windows, contractual stability, training compensation and the protection of minors. This became the modern Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and is the direct ancestor of every rule this committee will debate.

2005 | UEFA adopts the homegrown player rule

The UEFA Executive Committee required clubs in European competition to include a minimum number of locally trained players from the 2006/07 season. Clubs responded by expanding academies, which increased the number of young professionals needing competitive minutes, which increased demand for loans.

2009 | Article 165 enters into force through the Treaty of Lisbon

Sport gained an explicit legal basis in European Union law, including recognition of its educational and social function and the protection of young athletes. Any reform this committee proposes will be measured against it.

2010 to 2019 | The rise of the loan army

Chelsea became the defining example, loaning out thirty eight players in 2016/17 and reaching approximately forty one loanees at the peak of the strategy in 2019. Manchester City, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Everton and Brighton also operated large loan books. Players signed young, sent out repeatedly, and sold at a profit became a recognised revenue line rather than an accident of squad planning.

2014 | Italy abolishes co ownership

The Italian federation ended the *comproprietà* system under which two clubs could jointly hold a player's registration. Loans with options and obligations absorbed much of the activity that co ownership previously carried, a useful warning that closing one channel tends to open another.

2018 to 2019 | Sanctions expose the underside of youth recruitment

Chelsea received a transfer ban in 2019 for breaches connected to the registration of minors, later reduced on appeal. The case sharpened the argument that some clubs were acquiring young players faster than they could ever integrate them.

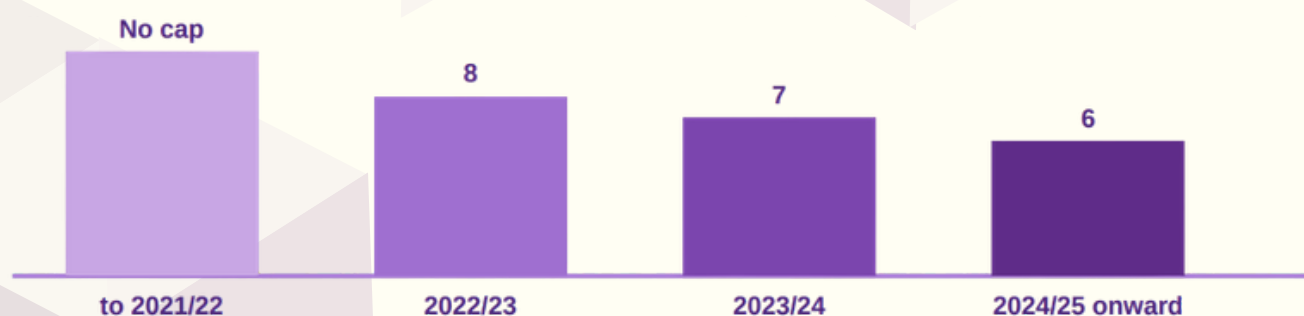
2020 | The pandemic delays reform

FIFA had endorsed international loan limits through its Football Stakeholders Committee with a planned start in July 2020. COVID 19 forced postponement while clubs absorbed the loss of matchday and commercial revenue. The delay mattered, because the financial stress of those seasons made cheap borrowed talent more attractive than ever.

1 July 2022 | The FIFA loan framework enters into force

Article 10 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players was rewritten. It introduced a written agreement requirement, a minimum duration of one registration period, a maximum duration of one year, a ban on sub loans, a limit of three players loaned to or from any single club at one time, and a phased numerical cap on international loans. Member associations were given three years, that is until 1 July 2025, to bring domestic loan rules into line with the same principles.

Phasing of the FIFA cap on international loans (in and out, at any one time):



4 October 2024 | The Diarra judgment

The Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Union held in FIFA v Diarra, Case C 650/22, that interlocking provisions of the transfer regulations were incompatible with the free movement of workers under Article 45 and with the prohibition on anti competitive agreements under Article 101. FIFA opened stakeholder consultation within weeks.

1 January 2025 | The interim regulatory framework

FIFA adopted an interim framework in December 2024 and applied it from the start of the winter window, including to pending cases before the Football Tribunal. The transfer system continued to function, but on openly provisional legal foundations.

2025 | Multi club ownership reaches the Court of Arbitration for Sport

Crystal Palace qualified for the Europa League by winning the FA Cup but were moved down to the Conference League because of ownership overlap with Olympique Lyonnais under Article 5. Comparable proceedings involved other clubs in the same competition cycle. UEFA subsequently consulted on a more flexible dual deadline system while keeping the 1 March assessment date.

10 June 2026 | A new Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players is approved

The Bureau of the FIFA Council approved a new set of regulations due to enter into force on 1 January 2027, developed with FIFPRO, European Football Clubs and the World Leagues Association, and described as the most significant reform of the transfer system since 2001. This committee therefore meets while the rulebook is being rewritten, which is precisely when recommendations carry weight.

Current Scenario

European football in 2026 operates a loan system that is regulated at the top and lightly governed underneath. International loans sit inside a clear numerical framework. Domestic loans, which account for the majority of moves, sit inside whatever each national association has written. Around that framework, a set of financial and ownership structures has grown which the framework was not designed to address.

What the rules currently require

- Numerical cap. A club may have a maximum of six professionals loaned out internationally and six loaned in internationally at any one time.
 - Exemptions. Players aged twenty one and under and club trained players fall outside the cap. A player must satisfy both conditions to be exempt, so a twenty two year old academy graduate still occupies a slot.
 - Club to club limit. No more than three professionals may be loaned out to, or loaned in from, any single club at one time.
 - Duration. A loan must last at least the period between two registration windows and may not exceed one year.
 - Written agreement. Every loan requires a written agreement setting out duration and financial conditions.
 - No sub loans. A player on loan cannot be loaned onward to a third club.
- Domestic alignment. National associations were required to introduce domestic loan rules consistent with these principles, in agreement with domestic stakeholders.

Where the framework is thin

Three gaps are visible to anyone reading the regulations alongside the transfer market.

The first is the exemption itself. The cap was written to stop the hoarding of players, but it exempts exactly the group most likely to be hoarded. A club can hold an unlimited number of loaned out players aged twenty one or younger. The provision is defensible on development grounds and simultaneously undercuts the numerical control it sits inside.

The second is domestic asymmetry. National rules vary widely. English top flight clubs may register no more than two players on loan from other English clubs at any one time and no more than four across a season, with no more than one at a time from the same club. Clubs in the English Football League may take an unlimited number but may name only five loanees in a matchday squad. Other associations are more permissive again. A rule that binds in one league and not the next produces an uneven market inside a single continental competition.

The third is that the regulations count players and say almost nothing about the terms attached to them. A loan with no minutes guarantee, a punitive recall clause and a wage split that the host club can barely afford is counted identically to a loan designed around a nineteen year old's development plan.

Anatomy of a modern loan

Understanding the clauses is essential to debating the agenda. The diagram below sets out the moving parts of a typical senior loan between two clubs in different associations.



The selection restriction problem

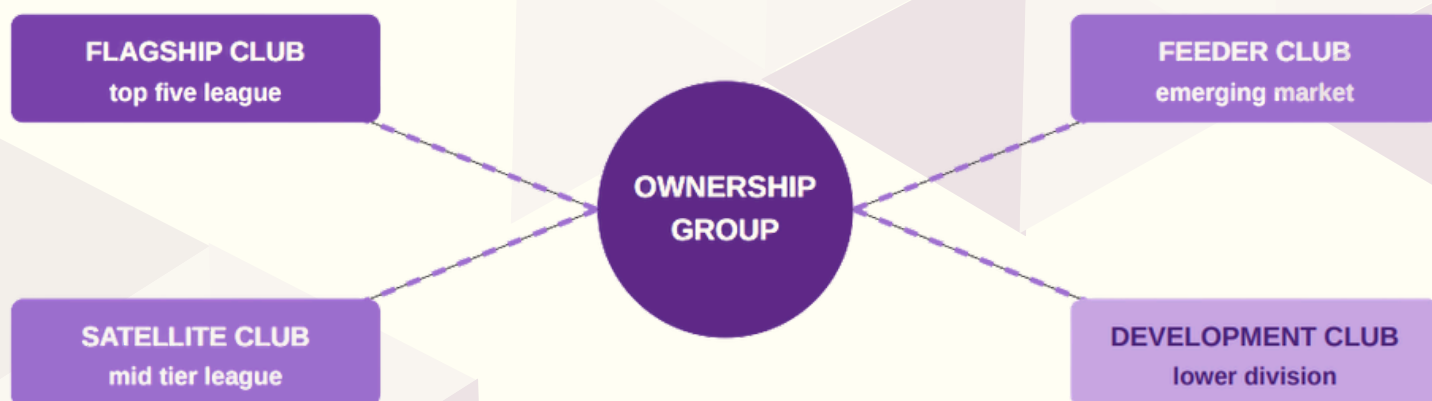
Loan agreements sometimes prevent a loanee from playing against his parent club. Where two clubs meet in the same league, that clause changes the strength of one team in one fixture, which changes the league table, which affects clubs that were never party to the agreement. Several leagues now restrict or prohibit such clauses, but practice across Europe is inconsistent. Delegates should treat this as one of the clearest and most solvable integrity issues on the agenda.

Financial mechanics

Under the UEFA squad cost rule, spending on wages, transfer amortisation and agent fees is limited to seventy per cent of relevant revenue. Loans interact with that limit in two directions. Loaning a player out removes some or all of his wages from the parent club's cost base. Loaning a player in with an obligation to buy allows a club to secure a signing while deferring the amortisation charge to a later accounting period. UEFA also caps the period over which a transfer fee may be amortised at five years, which closed an earlier route to the same result.

Multi club ownership and the internal loan

The most contested development of the last decade is the growth of ownership groups holding stakes in several clubs. Analyses published in early 2026 estimate that roughly three hundred and eighty clubs worldwide sit inside multi club structures, with a substantial share of clubs in Europe's five largest leagues holding cross investment or shared ownership ties. Loans inside such a group are negotiated by parties on the same side of the table.



UEFA regulates this through Article 5 of its club competition regulations. Two clubs under common control or decisive influence may not compete in the same UEFA competition, compliance is assessed as at 1 March preceding the season, and the club from the association with the lower coefficient is the one excluded where a conflict remains. In recent seasons UEFA has also imposed conditions on admitted clubs, including moratoria that prohibit any player movement between related clubs, permanent or on loan, direct or indirect, for a defined period.

Delegates should note the two competing arguments carefully, because this is where committee will divide. Owners argue that group structures fund clubs that would otherwise be insolvent, and that internal loans give young players a graded pathway across leagues of increasing difficulty. Opponents argue that a group can concentrate its best talent wherever it suits the group, that pricing between related clubs is not a market price, and that a supporter of a satellite club is watching a team whose ambition is capped by decisions taken elsewhere.

The legal ground is moving

The Diarra judgment established that transfer rules are subject to European Union law on free movement and competition, and that a governing body cannot justify restrictions merely by asserting sporting necessity. FIFA responded with an interim framework in January 2025 and then, in June 2026, approval of a new Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players to take effect on 1 January 2027, negotiated with players, clubs and leagues. Any loan reform this committee proposes must therefore be capable of surviving proportionality review, which in practice means it must be evidence based, no more restrictive than necessary, and applied consistently.

Current Scenario

1. Chelsea FC and the loan army

No club illustrates the argument for reform more completely. Between roughly 2012 and 2019 Chelsea operated the largest loan operation in football. The club loaned out thirty eight players in 2016/17 and reached approximately forty one loanees at the peak in 2019. The model was coherent on its own terms. Sign promising players early and cheaply, place them at clubs across Europe where they would play, monitor their progress, and either promote the small number who reached the required level or sell the rest at a profit. Player trading became a reliable revenue line, and the accounts showed it.

The costs were carried elsewhere. A generation of players spent their careers on rotation. One goalkeeper was, for a period, the club's longest serving player without ever appearing for the first team. Loanees arrived at host clubs on wages those clubs could not otherwise pay, frequently displacing a locally developed player from the same position. When the transfer ban imposed in 2019 forced Chelsea to promote from within, the club fielded academy graduates and performed competitively, which invited an uncomfortable question about whether the loan machine had been necessary at all.

2. Chelsea and Strasbourg under BlueCo

The successor question is ownership rather than volume. Chelsea's ownership group also controls RC Strasbourg. The relationship has produced genuine sporting improvement at Strasbourg, including a return to European competition after two decades. It has also produced organised supporter protest, with banners in Strasbourg describing a leading player as an asset of the group rather than of the club. Player movement between the two has been examined against UEFA's Article 5 requirements.

This case is the cleanest example of the central tension. The satellite club is measurably better off in results and revenue. The satellite club's supporters do not accept that this settles the matter, because the club's ambition is now bounded by decisions made for the group. Both positions are defensible and both will be argued in this room.

3. Crystal Palace and Olympique

Lyonnais Crystal Palace won the FA Cup in May 2025 and qualified for the Europa League on unambiguous sporting merit. Because the same investor held an interest in Crystal Palace and majority control of Olympique Lyonnais, which had also qualified for that competition, UEFA applied Article 5 and Palace were moved down to the Conference League. The Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld the outcome, and UEFA subsequently consulted on a dual deadline that would keep the 1 March declaration requirement while allowing until June to resolve overlaps.

The case is instructive for two reasons. First, it demonstrates that ownership rules already override sporting results, which weakens any argument that regulating multi club structures is unthinkable interventionist. Second, it demonstrates that rigid deadlines produce outcomes supporters experience as arbitrary. A committee designing rules on internal loans should learn both lessons at once.

4. Udinese, Watford and Granada under the Pozzo model

Long before multi club ownership became a talking point, the Pozzo family built a network across Italy, England and Spain, moving players between clubs and generating consistent trading profit from an unfashionable Italian city. Udinese survived and stayed in Serie A for decades on this basis. The model is a reminder that group structures are not new, that they have kept mid sized clubs solvent, and that a blanket prohibition would remove a lifeline as well as an advantage.

5. Atalanta and the loan as a development contract

Atalanta built one of the most respected development systems in Europe by placing young players on carefully chosen loans, tracking them closely and reintegrating them into a first team with a defined playing identity. The distinguishing feature is not the number of loans but the specificity of each one. Players are sent where the coach's system resembles Atalanta's, where minutes are agreed in advance, and where the club retains real influence over the player's programme.

6. Real Madrid and the graduated pathway

Real Madrid has used loans as a sequence rather than a disposal route. Young signings and academy graduates have been placed at Dutch, Spanish and English clubs in a deliberate order of increasing difficulty, with several returning to become senior contributors and others sold at multiples of their acquisition cost. The club has also used buy back clauses extensively, retaining an option on players it sells.

Delegates should notice how buy back clauses interact with the agenda. A buy back gives the selling club a cheap option on a player's future while the buying club carries the development cost and the risk. It resembles a loan in economic substance while sitting entirely outside the loan regulations. If this committee caps loans and says nothing about buy backs, activity will migrate.

7. Vitesse Arnhem and the dependent host

For years Vitesse hosted a steady stream of Chelsea loanees. The arrangement brought a level of talent the club could not have afforded and contributed to a period of relative success. It also created a squad whose composition was shaped by another club's needs, and the relationship attracted sustained scrutiny over how independent the club really was. Vitesse's later licensing and financial difficulties are not attributable to loans alone, but the case shows what happens to a host club that builds its identity around borrowed players and then loses access to them.

8. Athletic Club and the refusal to participate

Athletic Club recruits only players from the Basque Country or developed in its academies. The club does not participate in the loan market on anything like the scale of its rivals, and it has nonetheless remained in the Spanish top flight continuously and qualified for European competition. Its presence in this committee is a standing argument that a club can be competitive without depending on borrowed talent, and a standing counterargument that the model is not transferable to clubs without a comparable regional base.

Governing Articles and Rulings

1. Article 10, FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

The operative provision for loans. It requires a written agreement between both clubs and the player specifying duration and financial conditions. It sets a minimum duration equal to the period between two registration windows and a maximum duration of one year. It prohibits sub loans. It caps the number of professionals a club may loan out and loan in internationally at six each at any one time, with players aged twenty one and under who are also club trained exempt. It caps loans between the same two clubs at three in each direction. It requires member associations to establish domestic loan rules consistent with the principles of competition integrity, youth development and the prevention of hoarding.

2. Article 19, FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players

The prohibition on international transfers of players under eighteen, applying to loans as well as permanent moves. The exceptions are narrow. They cover parents relocating for reasons unrelated to football, moves within the European Union or European Economic Area for players aged sixteen to eighteen subject to guarantees on education, accommodation and welfare, and residence within fifty kilometres of a shared border. Applications are assessed through FIFA's Transfer Matching System, and refusals may be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

3. Article 5, UEFA club competition regulations

The multi club ownership rule. No club in a UEFA competition may hold securities in, be a member of, be involved in the management or sporting performance of, or hold power over another club in the same competition, and no individual may be involved in more than one such club. Compliance is assessed as at 1 March preceding the season. Where a conflict persists, the club from the association with the lower coefficient is excluded and may be admitted to the next competition down. UEFA may also impose admission conditions, including prohibitions on player movement between related clubs.

4. UEFA financial sustainability regulations

These replaced Financial Fair Play in 2022 and rest on three pillars, being solvency, stability and cost control. The squad cost rule limits spending on player and coach wages, transfer amortisation and agent fees to seventy per cent of relevant revenue, reached after phasing at ninety and then eighty per cent. Amortisation of a transfer fee is capped at five years. Loans affect all of these calculations, which is why loan reform is a financial question as much as a sporting one.

5. Training compensation and the solidarity mechanism

Clubs that train a player between the ages of twelve and twenty three are entitled to compensation when he signs his first professional contract and on subsequent transfers, and to five per cent of any transfer fee distributed among them in proportion to the years of training provided. The FIFA Clearing House was established to make these payments reliable. Delegates should note the gap that matters here. A club that develops a player during a loan spell, providing the coaching and the minutes that raise his value, has no automatic claim on the profit when his parent club later sells him.

6. Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

Recognises the specific nature of sport, its social and educational function, and commits the Union to protecting the physical and moral integrity of young sportspeople. It is the strongest legal footing for any welfare based restriction this committee proposes, and it is regularly cited by governing bodies defending restrictive rules.

7. The Bosman ruling, 1995

Established free movement for out of contract players inside the European Union and struck down nationality quotas. It is the reason squads grew and the reason the loan market has so much material to work with.

8. FIFA v Diarra, Case C 650/22, 4 October 2024

The Grand Chamber held that interlocking provisions of the transfer regulations were incompatible with Article 45 on free movement of workers and Article 101 on anti competitive agreements. FIFA opened stakeholder consultation, adopted an interim regulatory framework on 22 December 2024 which entered into force on 1 January 2025, and applied it to pending Football Tribunal cases. The judgment is the most consequential sports law decision in Europe since Bosman.

9. The 2026 reform of the transfer regulations

On 10 June 2026 the Bureau of the FIFA Council approved a new Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, due to enter into force on 1 January 2027 and negotiated with FIFPRO, European Football Clubs and the World Leagues Association with the participation of UEFA and CONMEBOL. It has been presented as the most significant reform of the transfer system since 2001, covering compensation methodology, contractual stability and player mobility, and it establishes social dialogue as the method by which the rules are made.

The practical consequence for this committee. A window is open. Recommendations that reach UEFA and FIFA while the framework is being rebuilt have a far better chance of adoption than recommendations made against a settled rulebook. Delegates should draft accordingly and should keep proportionality in mind at every clause, because whatever is adopted will be tested in court.

Blocs and Club Groupings

Clubs in this committee will not divide by nationality. They will divide by business model. The groupings below are a starting frame for research, not an instruction. Several clubs sit in more than one, and a delegate who can explain why their club straddles two groups will be well positioned to broker the final resolution.

Group A:

The squad depth clubs Clubs with large contracted squads, global scouting networks and the financial capacity to hold players they cannot immediately use. They benefit from a permissive loan regime and have most to lose from tighter numerical caps. Their strongest arguments are that loans create opportunity for players who would otherwise sit in a reserve team, and that restricting loans simply strands young professionals.

Group B:

The developer sellers Clubs whose financial model depends on producing or improving players and selling them upward. They want strong training compensation, solidarity payments and protection against the poaching of academy talent. They are often ambivalent about loans, welcoming quality loanees in the short term while recognising that a borrowed player blocks their own graduate.

Group C:

The host clubs Clubs that regularly receive loanees to raise squad quality beyond their own budget. They will resist caps that shrink the pool available to them and will be sensitive to any rule that makes loans more expensive or more conditional. Their vulnerability is dependence, and opponents will raise it.

Group D:

The network clubs Clubs inside multi club ownership structures. They will defend group synergies as legitimate investment and will resist rules that single out related party movement. They should expect sustained pressure on pricing transparency and on selection restrictions.

Group E:

The self sufficient clubs Clubs whose recruitment philosophy limits their participation in the loan market. They can afford to argue on principle and are natural authors of ambitious reform, but they must answer the charge that their model cannot be generalised.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

A resolution that does not address the following will be considered incomplete by the Executive Board. Delegates are not required to agree on the answers, only to answer.

1. Should the numerical cap on loans be lowered, raised or replaced with a different mechanism, and should the exemption for players aged twenty one and under be retained, narrowed or removed?
2. Should domestic loans be regulated on the same terms as international loans, and if so, by whom, given that national associations currently hold that competence?
3. What minimum conditions should attach to a loan involving a player under twenty three, for example guaranteed minutes, education and welfare provision, or a named development plan agreed between both clubs?
4. Should clauses preventing a loanee from playing against his parent club be prohibited outright across all UEFA competitions and their feeder leagues?
5. How should loans between clubs under common ownership or decisive influence be treated, and should they be capped, priced independently, disclosed publicly or prohibited entirely?
6. What financial return should a host club receive for the development work it performs during a loan, and should the solidarity mechanism be extended to cover loan spells?
7. How should loan fees, wage contributions and buy back clauses be treated under the UEFA squad cost rule so that loans are not used to defer or disguise spending?
8. What reporting and transparency obligations should apply, and should a central register of loan agreements and their key terms be established?
9. Which body should monitor compliance, and what sanctions should follow a breach, given that this committee can recommend but not legislate for FIFA?

10. How will any proposed restriction satisfy the proportionality test applied by the Court of Justice of the European Union following the Diarra judgment?

11. What transition period and support should be offered to clubs whose current business model would be made unviable by the reform?

12. How will the reform protect the welfare, education and career continuity of players who are loaned repeatedly before the age of twenty one?

Drafting advice.

A resolution that says loans should be fair will not pass. A resolution that names the article it amends, the number it changes, the body that monitors it and the consequence of breach will. Specificity is the difference between a document and a policy.

Sources to Use

Primary sources, always preferred

1. FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, and the explanatory notes published alongside the loan provisions, available through FIFA's document portal.
2. UEFA competition regulations, club licensing and financial sustainability regulations, available through documents.uefa.com.
3. UEFA club licensing benchmarking reports on European club finances.
4. Judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union, available through curia.europa.eu, and awards of the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
5. Published annual reports and financial statements of your own club.
6. National association and league handbooks, for example the Premier League Handbook, which set domestic loan rules.
7. FIFPRO reports on player workload, welfare and employment conditions.

Acceptable secondary sources

1. Established sports law commentary and law firm analysis, which is usually accurate on regulation and clearly dated.
2. Reputable news agencies and broadsheet football reporting, used for events rather than for interpretation of rules.
3. Transfer databases, used for factual loan and transfer histories only.

Sources that will not be accepted in committee

1. Fan forums, fan blogs and supporter media.
2. Social media posts, including those of accredited journalists, unless they reproduce an official document.
3. Wikipedia, which is useful for orientation and unusable as a citation.
4. Aggregator sites that do not name their source.
5. Transfer rumour pages of any description.

Preambulatory and Operative Clauses

Preambulatory clauses:

Acknowledging Affirming Alarmed by Approving Aware of Believing Bearing in mind Confident Congratulating Contemplating Convinced Declaring Deeply concerned Deeply conscious Deeply convinced Deeply disturbed Deeply regretting Deploring Desiring Emphasizing Expecting Expressing its appreciation Expressing its satisfaction	Fulfilling Fully alarmed Fulfilling Fully alarmed Fully aware Fully believing Further deploring Further recalling Guided by Having adopted Having considered Having considered further Having devoted attention Having examined Having heard Having received Having studied Keeping in mind Noting further.	Taking note Viewing with appreciation Welcoming Noting with appreciation Noting with approval Noting with deep concern Noting with regret Noting with satisfaction Observing Pointing out Reaffirming Realizing Recalling Recognizing Referring Reminding Seeking Taking into account Taking into consideration
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Preambulatory and Operative Clauses

Operative clauses:

Accepts	Designates	Recommends
Affirms	Encourages	Regrets
Approves	Endorses	Requests
Appreciates	Expresses its hope	Resolves
Asks	Further invites	Seeks
Authorizes	Further proclaims	Strongly affirms
Calls for	Further recommends	Strongly condemns
Calls upon	Further requests	Strongly urges
Condemns	Further resolves	Suggests
Congratulates	Hopes	Trusts
Confirms	Proclaims	Transmits
Deplores	Proposes	Urges

Portfolio Matrix

No	Club	No	Club	No	Club
1	AC Milan	16	FC Barcelona	31	Olympique Lyonnais
2	AFC Ajax	17	FC Bayern München	32	Paris Saint Germain F.C.
3	Arsenal F.C.	18	FC Internazionale Milano	33	PSV Eindhoven
4	AS Roma	19	Fenerbahçe SK	34	RB Leipzig
5	Aston Villa F.C.	20	Feyenoord Rotterdam	34	Real Betis Balompié
6	Athletic Bilbao	21	Fulham F.C.	36	Real Madrid CF
7	Bayer 04 Leverkusen	22	Galatasaray S.K.	37	S.L. Benfica
8	Bologna FC 1909	23	Girona FC	38	S.S. Lazio
9	Borussia Dortmund	24	Juventus FC	39	SC Freiburg
10	Brighton & Hove Albion F.C.	25	Liverpool F.C.	40	Sevilla F.C.
11	Chelsea F.C	26	Manchester City F.C.	41	Sporting CP
12	Club Atlético de Madrid	27	Manchester United F.C.	42	SSC Napoli
13	Club Brugge KV	28	Newcastle United F.C	43	Tottenham Hotspur F.C.
14	Como 1907	29	Nottingham Forest F.C.	44	VfB Stuttgart
15	Eintracht Frankfurt	30	Olympique de Marseille	45	Villarreal CF

Position paper requirements

Position paper requirements

- Times New Roman, size 12, single spacing, maximum two pages.
- Header stating committee, agenda and club represented.
- Section one, your club's model and its exposure to the loan system, supported by figures.
- Section two, your club's position on each of the twelve questions in section 10.
- Section three, the reform your club will propose or support, in operative clause form.
- Acronyms written in full on first use, formal third person throughout, sources listed at the end.