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SPORTS LAW

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IN FOCUS

FIFA's US subsidiaries kept out of UEFA's Section 1782 bid

Decided on 12 November 2026· U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

FIFA President Gianni Infantino remains under fire over his controversial investment proposal, despite the plan being withdrawn months ago. On 12 November 2026, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York denied motions by FIFA's U.S. subsidiaries to intervene in UEFA's Section 1782 discovery applications, which seek U.S.-based evidence for a contemplated Swiss criminal proceeding against Infantino.

More on the Withdrawn Proposal

FIFA presented FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) as a subsidiary it would own and control, combining its commercial rights with the operational delivery of its tournaments. Infantino described the proposed subsidiary as a 'golden opportunity' to advance football development around the world. The consultation phase began on 28 July 2026 and was initially scheduled to run for seven weeks, with approval by a majority of its 211 member associations and the FIFA Council set as a precondition.

Following widespread backlash, a July 31 FIFA clarification insisted that "nobody is selling football". Later that day, reports indicated that the plan had collapsed, and Infantino confirmed within hours that the proposal would not proceed. An October 15 FIFA release confirmed the withdrawal was permanent and noted Infantino's apology for errors in how the project was conducted and communicated.

The Case: FIFA Subsidiaries' Bid to Intervene in UEFA's Section 1782 Applications

UEFA seeks discovery related to FFE from Thrive Capital Management, LLC and Joshua Kushner, and from four JPMorgan parties, for use in a contemplated Swiss criminal proceeding against Infantino, and possibly other FIFA officials, for criminal mismanagement under Article 158 of the Swiss Criminal Code.

Judge Jeannette A. Vargas held that FIFA's U.S. subsidiaries—FIFA (Americas) Inc. and FWC2026 US, Inc.—lacked a "direct, substantial and legally protectable interest" in the applications. Nothing in the record indicated that the subsidiaries, or FIFA itself, would be parties to the contemplated Swiss proceeding. The confidentiality interests they invoked belonged to their Swiss parent, and a parent-subsidiary relationship does not, on its own, entitle a subsidiary to assert them. A separate UEFA Section 1782 application against the subsidiaries in Florida did not alter that. Permissive intervention was also refused, as it would delay adjudication and prejudice UEFA. The order addresses only the intervention motions and does not rule on UEFA's discovery applications.

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Sports Governance

REGULATIONS · FEDERATIONS · GOVERNANCE REFORM

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Hockey: Sports Ministry forms League revival committee; Orissa HC stays federation elections

News report of 7 October 2026 · Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports · Hockey India League

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has formally constituted a seven-member committee to work on the revival of the Hockey India League (HIL). Separately, on 6 November 2026, the Orissa High Court stayed Hockey India's elections, in a petition by the Hockey Association of Odisha (HAO). The committee was constituted in early October 2026, following a September meeting between Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Hockey India officials and franchise representatives.

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Sports Ministry revises Assistance Norms for National Sports Federations; raises hosting support to up to ₹50 crore

15 October 2026 · Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports · Revised Assistance Norms for NSFs

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has issued operational guidelines [No.12-14/2026/ Gov-1], dated 15 October 2026, for the revised Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), effective from the date of issue. According to the Ministry, the Government has approved the continuation of the Scheme for 2026–27 to 2030–31, with an outlay of ₹7,386.74 crore. The Ministry announced the guidelines in a Press Release dated 16 October 2026.

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QUICK TAKES

IOA election row complicates India's 2036 Olympic push

Indian Olympic Association · 2036 Olympic bid

Ahead of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Executive Council polls on 5 December 2026, the election process has come under scrutiny after incumbent President P.T. Usha and several athletes—including Olympic champion shooter Abhinav Bindra—raised concerns about various aspects of the process.

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Business & Commercial

LEAGUES · SPONSORSHIP · BROADCASTING · COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Delhi HC finds prima facie infringement of Sourav Ganguly's personality rights by film 'Doosra'; directs ₹2 crore bank guarantee

6 November 2026 · Delhi High Court · I.A. 29441/2026 in CS(COMM) 1156/2026

The Hon'ble Delhi High Court, ruling on an interim injunction application, recently held that the use of Sourav Ganguly's identity and persona in the film Doosra and its promotion prima facie amounted to unauthorised commercial exploitation of his personality and publicity rights. Ganguly and the company holding rights to his proposed biopic sued the makers of Doosra, a docudrama following a fictional protagonist, Tara, alongside real cricketing events, including the 2002 NatWest Final and Ganguly's shirt-waving celebration at Lord's.

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QUICK TAKES

India intent on expanding presence in global sports manufacturing

28 October 2026 · Union Cabinet

To advance India's aspiration of becoming a leading sporting nation, the Union Cabinet has approved the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme. Backed by a ₹1,856.67 crore outlay from FY 2026–27 to FY 2033–34, the scheme strengthens the entire value chain through two pillars: incentives that support manufacturing and ecosystem-building interventions. As the official release notes indicate, upcoming major events will drive a decade of sustained demand for sports equipment.

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Manchester City audit: UK regulator reclaims matter from ICAEW

Letter of 14 October 2026 · Financial Reporting Council

The UK's Financial Reporting Council (FRC) has confirmed that it has reclaimed regulatory oversight of the audit of Manchester City FC from the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). The regulator took over the matter following an Independent Commission's findings that Manchester City had breached the Premier League's financial rules over a nine-season period.

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Gaming & Esports

REAL-MONEY GAMING · PREDICTION MARKETS · ESPORTS

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

SC dismisses review petitions against Tamil Nadu and Karnataka gaming ban judgments

15 October 2026 · Supreme Court · Batch of ten review petitions

The Supreme Court, by an order dated 15 October 2026, dismissed a batch of ten review petitions, led by Junglee Games India Private Limited, against its judgment of 27 May 2026 in State of Tamil Nadu & Ors. v. Junglee Games India Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. (2026 INSC 594).

Tamil Nadu, through the Tamil Nadu Gaming and Police Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 and the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Act, 2022, and Karnataka, through the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2021, extended their gaming prohibitions to betting on games of skill, including online rummy and poker. The Madras High Court struck down Part II of the 2021 Tamil Nadu Amendment Act on 3 August 2021, and later held, on 9 November 2023, that online rummy and poker were games of skill outside the 2022 Act, striking down the Schedule to the Act (which listed rummy and poker as games of chance) and reading down Sections 2(i) and 2(l)(iv) to exclude them from "online games of chance". The Karnataka High Court struck down the Karnataka amendments on 14 February 2022.

In its 27 May 2026 judgment, the Supreme Court allowed the States' appeals and set aside the High Court judgments. It declared Part II of the 2021 Tamil Nadu Amendment Act, Sections 2(i) and 2(l)(iv) and the Schedule to the 2022 Act, and Sections 2, 3, 6, 8 and 9 of the Karnataka Police (Amendment) Act, 2021 intra vires the Constitution. The Court held that the protection given to games of skill under Entry 34 (betting and gambling) of List II of the Seventh Schedule does not extend to betting on such games, and that the States' competence was also supported by Entry 1 (public order) of List II.

Separately, at the national level, the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, which prohibits online money games, came into force on 1 May 2026, together with the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026 notified on 22 April 2026.

The review petitions were filed with applications to condone delay and for listing in open court. The Court condoned the delay, rejected the requests for an oral hearing and dismissed the petitions, stating that it found "no merit in the Review Petitions". With the dismissal, the 27 May 2026 judgment upholding the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka laws stands.

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Courts & Disputes

SUPREME COURT · HIGH COURTS · CAS PROCEEDINGS

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

CAS' ice hockey ruling clashes with operational reality

30 October 2026 · Court of Arbitration for Sport

On 30 October 2026, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) upheld an appeal by the Russian Ice Hockey Federation (RIHF) and ordered the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) to allow the participation of Russian teams in five upcoming IIHF championships, starting with the World Junior Championship in Canada on 26 December 2026. The IIHF has said it disagrees with the ruling but will act in accordance with it.

According to a CAS media release, the IIHF Council decided in January 2026 not to reintegrate Russian teams for 2026-27, citing safety and security concerns. In May 2026, the IIHF Disciplinary Board annulled that decision and remitted the matter. The Council maintained its position in mid-2026. The parties agreed to bypass internal instances and refer the dispute directly to CAS, which heard it in Lausanne on 23 and 26 October 2026.

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FIFA Appeal Committee reduces Molina suspension, upholds Paredes and AFA sanctions

Statement of 6 November 2026 · FIFA Appeal Committee

The FIFA Appeal Committee has partially upheld an appeal by the Argentine Football Association (AFA) against sanctions imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee following incidents at the FIFA World Cup 2026. In a statement issued on 6 November 2026, the AFA said the Appeal Committee reduced the suspension and fine imposed on player Nahuel Molina and upheld the sanctions on player Leandro Paredes and the AFA.

The FIFA Disciplinary Committee had opened proceedings on 29 July 2026 against the AFA and members of the Argentine delegation. These included charges of assault under Article 14(1)(i) and unsporting behaviour under Article 14(1)(b) of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC), arising from a post-match confrontation at the World Cup final between Spain and Argentina at New York New Jersey Stadium on 19 July 2026.

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Global Sports Law

OLYMPIC MOVEMENT · ANTI-DOPING · INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Peptides are all over social media. Are they prohibited in Tennis?

7 October 2026 · International Tennis Integrity Agency

On 7 October 2026, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) issued guidance for players on peptides, which are heavily promoted on social media for weight loss, recovery, muscle growth and anti-ageing.

On whether peptides are prohibited in tennis, the ITIA notes that some are banned while others are not. The word “peptide” does not indicate whether a substance is permitted or prohibited, and the anti-doping status of each substance must be checked individually.

The guidance follows the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) publication of the 2027 Prohibited List, which takes effect on 1 January 2027 and now expressly lists peptides as examples of non-approved substances in class S0.

Where the Line Falls

The ITIA explains that some peptides are prohibited because they can help build muscle, speed recovery or confer an unfair performance advantage, while some peptide-based medicines are permitted. Class S0 of the WADA List covers pharmacological substances that are not addressed elsewhere in the List and have no current approval from any governmental health authority for human therapeutic use. WADA's explanatory note indicates that many peptides not approved for human use meet the criteria for inclusion and fall within S0 or other classes such as S2 or S4. A peptide that is not specifically named may still be prohibited.

GLP-1 receptor agonists such as semaglutide and tirzepatide are not currently prohibited in tennis. They remain on WADA's Monitoring Program for 2027, which does not constitute a ban, although their status could change.

One of the ITIA's major concerns is unregulated products bought online, which may contain incorrect doses, contaminants or undisclosed ingredients. Players are responsible for what they put into their bodies, and ignorance of a prohibited substance's presence is no defence against an anti-doping rule violation. Players are advised to consult a qualified healthcare professional who knows they are subject to doping control, check the anti-doping status of each substance, use licensed pharmacies and declare any use on the Doping Control Form.

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