

FIFA World Cup Selection

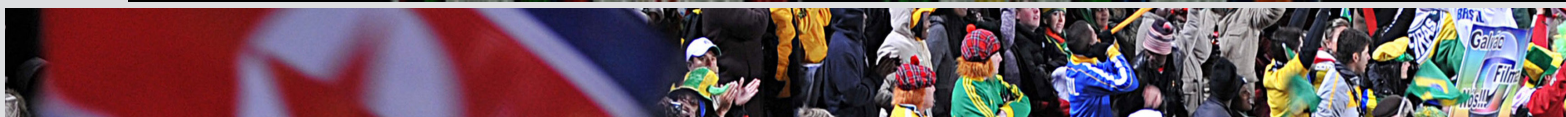
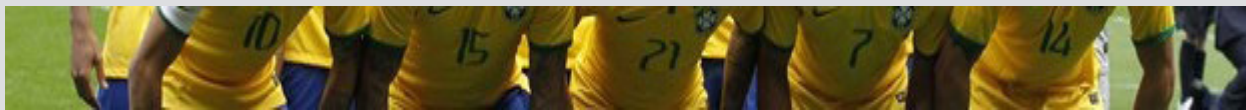


Table of Contents

- 1. Letter from the Director**
- 2. Topic 1: World Cup 2018 and 2022**
- 3. The 2018 and 2022 Bidding Process**
- 4. Biographies**

Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the FIFA Executive Committee, my name is Ryan Mathiu and I will serve as your Director. I am a senior at Illinois studying Finance with a minor in Political Science. I have chaired a committee in the past and staffed as an actor my freshman year. My favorite part of the Model United Nations is the ability to witness my teammate's passions for niche topics. When not taking a part of Model United Nations I enjoy watching stand-up comedy, supporting Chelsea FC and reading the Wall Street Journal. I am excited not only for this committee but also what's in store for you.

In this committee, I look forward in seeing your creativity in resolving ethical and political challenges. It is my hope that you leave this conference with new, impactful experiences, new friends and new perspectives. With that I would like to wish you luck in your time at the conference.

Thanks,

Ryan Mathiu

Topic 1: World Cup 2018 and 2022

Background

Due to an increase in popularity of international football FIFA was formed in 1904.¹ When the idea of founding an international football federation began taking shape in Europe, the intention of those involved was to recognize the role of the English who had founded their Football Association back in 1863. Its secretary, FJ Wall, did accept the proposal but progress stalled while waiting for the Executive Committee of the Football Association, the International FA Board and the associations of Scotland, Wales and Ireland to give their opinion about the matter.²

Belgium and France had the first official FIFA international match in Brussels on 1 May 1904. On May 28th 1928 the FIFA Congress decided to stage a world championship itself. Due to Uruguay's prowess at the Olympics and the fact that 1930 would be the centenary of their independence, FIFA named it the host of the first inaugural World Cup Tournament. Uruguay then beat Argentina 4-2 to win the first ever World Cup. During this period between 1930 and 1950, primary issues facing tournaments was the difficulty of intercontinental travel and war.³ As a matter of fact, there were no World Cups during the 1940s, largely due to World War II. The 1950 World Cup in Brazil was the first to include British participants who had left FIFA in 1920 partly out of unwillingness to play countries they had been at war with, it also marked the return

¹ Classic Football History of FIFA – Foundation, <http://www.fifa.com/classicfootball/history/fifa/foundation.html>

² <http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/who-we-are/history/index.html>

³ "Los datos más curiosos de la Fiesta del Fútbol - Brasil 1950". Archived from the original on 1 July 2012. Retrieved 17 April 2012.

of Uruguay who had boycotted every World Cup since 1930, it again won the tournament.⁴

Between 1934 and 1978, 16 teams competed in the tournament except in 1938 and 1950 where teams either withdrew or were absorbed by other nations due to war.⁵ In 1982, the tournament was expanded to 24 teams and later was further expanded to 32 teams in 1998.

There are six regional bodies that include:

- **CONCACAF:** The Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football is made up of countries in North and Central America as well as the Caribbean (including French Guiana). The Confederation was formed on September 1961 in Mexico with the founding members Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles (Curaçao), Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname and United States. This is widely considered the third most successful confederation with a team reaching the round of 16 in the past 5 World Cup tournaments.⁶ The flagship competition is the CONCACAF Gold Cup and has been held since 1991. The gold cup contributes to a significant portion of CONCACAF's revenues per officials.⁷
- **CONMEBOL:** South American Football Confederation. It was founded on July 9 1916 with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay as the founding members. Over the years all the rest of the South American countries joined the confederation except for French

⁴ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uruguay_v_Brazil_\(1950_FIFA_World_Cup\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uruguay_v_Brazil_(1950_FIFA_World_Cup))

⁵ Glanville, Brian (2005). *The Story of the World Cup*. Faber. p. 44. ISBN 0-571-22944-1

⁶ <http://www.fifa.com/fifa-tournaments/archive/worldcup/>

⁷ http://www.bigapplesoccer.com/international/article.php?article_id=32905

Guiana joining CONCACAF. This is one of two confederations to possess a World Cup winner. (Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina)

- **CAF:** The Confederation of African Football is made up of every African Nation. It was founded in 1957 with founding members Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia and South Africa.⁸ Over the next half century, largely due to decolonization, more teams joined CAF as members. Initially there was only one spot for CAF, OFC and AFC for World Cup qualification.⁹ For the 1966 World Cup all the qualified CAF countries of Algeria, Cameroon, French Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, and Tunisia boycotted the World Cup in protest for receiving only one spot. The confederation received its very own spot in 1970 and later received an additional 4 spots for the 1998 World Cup after the success of Cameroon in the 1990 World Cup.
- **UEFA:** The Union of European Football Associations was created in 1955 with an initial crop of 25 members. UEFA is notable of its Club soccer teams being the most popular in the world controlling the top five leagues ranked by revenue.¹⁰¹¹The organization has 13 slots and has many established teams. Being that it is the continent in which FIFA was born, it naturally has a long history and culture of soccer participation.

⁸ <http://www.cafonline.com/en-us/caf/background.aspx>

⁹ "FIFA Fact Sheet: History of the FIFA World Cup (TM) Preliminary Competition (by year)" (PDF). FIFA. 2010. [Archived](#) (PDF) from the original on 14 June 2010. Retrieved 2010-06-09.

¹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_professional_sports_leagues_by_revenue

¹¹ <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/uk/Documents/sports-business-group/deloitte-uk-annual-review-of-football-finance-2016.pdf>

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- **AFC:** The Asian Football Confederation is made up of nearly every country in the continents of Asia and Australia. It has 47 members and 4.5 slots for the World Cup (The half slot is a toss-up between the AFC and OFC). The confederation was founded on 8 May 1954 with Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), Republic of China (Chinese Taipei), Hong Kong, India, Israel, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore and South Vietnam as founding members. The Confederation has never won a World Cup tournament and has grown from 1 slot shared between itself, CAF and OFC to 4.5 available slots. The best performance in the World Cup was in 2002 when Korea placed 4th.
 - **OFC:** The Oceania Football Confederation was formed in 1966 with Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea as the founding members. Australia left in 1972 to pursue membership in the AFC then rejoined again in 1978 and left again in 2006 for the AFC. Today the organization consists of American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The confederation is not guaranteed a spot in the World Cup, instead it must compete for a playoff spot with the AFC.¹² This is the least competitive confederation largely since it has only sent two teams in the World Cup only four times.

In 2010 the World Cup was held in South Africa, due to the continental rotation method, it was to be held in a CAF country. The other bidding nations were Egypt, Libya/Tunisia, Morocco

¹² <http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/news/y=2015/m=5/news=current-allocation-of-fifa-world-cuptm-confederation-slots-maintained-2610611.html>

and Nigeria. Nigeria withdrew their bid in 2003, after hoping to propose a joint bid with Benin, Ghana and Togo after Sepp Blatter said that it “would not work”. Libya/Tunisia withdrew their joint bid largely because FIFA generally frowns upon joint bids because of the difficulty of logistics and visa requirements.¹³ Five stadiums were built for the tournament and five existing ones were upgraded, construction costs were expected to be \$1 billion¹⁴. Upgrades in infrastructure were made and improvements in safety and security were implemented. The ten venues used in this tournament were:¹⁵

- FNB Stadium – Johannesburg
- Cape Town Stadium – Cape Town
- Moses Mabhinda Stadium - Durban
- Ellis Park Stadium – Johannesburg
- Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium – Port Elizabeth
- Royal Bafokeng Stadium – Rustenburg
- Free State Stadium – Bloemfontein
- Mbombela Stadium – Nelspruit
- Peter Mokaba Stadium – Polokwane

¹³ "Fifa slams Nigeria's 2010 plan". *bbc.co.uk*. 18 March 2003.

¹⁴ "[SA faces R8.4bn stadium bill](#)". *News24*. 1 October 2006. Archived from [the original](#) on 22 October 2006. Retrieved 13 October 2006.

¹⁵ <http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/archive/southafrica2010/matches/index.html>. 8 Aug 2010

➤ Loftus Versfeld Stadium – Pretoria

The final match was held in FNB Stadium, it was nicknamed “the Battle of Johannesburg” due to the unusually high number of yellow cards handed out in the match. Spain won off a goal from Andres Iniesta during overtime. The Vuvuzela became the cultural item of export during their World Cup amongst significant controversy due to the loud nature of the horn.¹⁶ The economic effects were pronounced, with the most popular being the evictions that were widespread to create room for stadiums.¹⁷ The tournament did help improve South Africa’s image abroad, although at a very large cost. Local vendors were not permitted to sell goods within a 1.5 km radius of any stadium hosting a match. For a vendor to operate within the stadium, they had to pay a R60,000 (\$7,800) fee to FIFA. This was too expensive for most vendors and had a negative impact on local businesses in favor of multinational corporations.¹⁸

Another example of a recent World Cup is the 2006 tournament held in Germany. The competing Bidders were Morocco, England, South Africa and Germany. Germany won the vote narrowly over the favorite of South Africa. This was attributed to New Zealander Charlie Dempsey representing the Oceania Football Confederation abstaining from the final round of voting because there was “too much pressure from all sides”.¹⁹ It was later revealed that there had been a note along with a package of Black Forest Ham and a cuckoo clock sent from a

¹⁶ *15 Seconds of Vuvuzela* (Video). Retrieved 1 December 2011. The [Adult Swim](#) cable network is among the highest rated in the US among adults 18–34.

¹⁷ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/economic-cleansing-in-bbcs-world-cup-backyard-1925037.html>

¹⁸ <https://web.archive.org/web/20111006161524/http://csr-asia.com/upload/cover/307059103144.pdf>

¹⁹ *“Under-fire Fifa rep resigns”*. BBC News Online. July 9, 2000. Retrieved June 9, 2014.

German satirical magazine imploring him to vote for Germany.²⁰ For the Cup there were twelve stadiums chosen including:²¹

- Olympiastadion – Berlin
- FIFA World Cup Stadium, Dortmund – Dortmund *
- FIFA World Cup Stadium, Munich – Munich *
- Gottlieb-Daimler-Stadion – Stuttgart
- FIFA World Cup Stadium, Hamburg – Hamburg*
- FIFA World Cup Stadium, Cologne – Cologne*
- FIFA World Cup Stadium, Hanover – Hanover*
- Zentralstadion – Leipzig
- Fritz-Walter-Stadion – Kaiserslautern
- Frankenstadion – Nuremberg*
- FIFA World Cup Stadium, Frankfurt – Frankfurt*
- FIFA World Cup Stadium, Gelsenkirchen – Gelsenkirchen*

**Indicates that the stadium was renamed because there was a non-tournament sponsor associated with the name*

This tournament was lauded a success for Germany largely due to the increase in German patriotic spirit. No major economic impact was expected for Germany after the World Cup. The

²⁰ "[German magazine takes credit for bribery hoax](#)", *IOL*, July 7, 2000. Retrieved on January 16, 2017

²¹ "[Stadiums renamed for Fifa sponsors](#)". BBC. 6 June 2006. Retrieved 29 March 2008

tournament was notable for the record amount of yellow and red cards. There were 345 yellow cards and 28 red cards handed out.

For these next tournament bids, the committee is to be focused on choosing not only a host that is able to confidently execute a remarkable tournament, but also a host that is fresh and is ready for a reveal to the rest of the world. Another major goal the committee is focused on is the expansion of the sport to new markets. Asia and the U.S are of importance since they have the lowest penetration with only 2.2% of the population in Asia playing the sport and North America only accounting for 8.7% of TV rights revenues despite the fact that they account for 22% of global GDP²²²³²⁴²⁵ Moreover, the committee should take financial ability into consideration when hosting the World Cup as well as the capacity to build a tenable infrastructure for the tournament.

The 2018 and 2022 Bidding Process

Between 2000 - 2007, FIFA engaged in a policy of rotation for the World Cup whereby the World Cup would rotate from one continent to the next. In 2007 the policy changed to one that does not take turns but disallows a regional body that has hosted a tournament from bidding

²²http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/affederation/administration/01/39/20/45/web_fifa_fr2010_eng%5B1%5D.pdf

²³ http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/fifafacts/bcoffsurv/emaga_9384_10704.pdf

²⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/football/blog/2016/sep/27/fifa-17-release-american-soccer-fans-mls>

²⁵ http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?locations=US&year_low_desc=false

for the subsequent two tournaments.²⁶ This means that the CAF is ineligible for bidding for the 2018 and CONMEBOL is ineligible from bidding for the 2018 and 2022 world cup.

The FIFA Executive Committee, chaired by President Joseph S. Blatter, approved the voting process to determine the hosts of the 2018 FIFA World Cup and 2022 FIFA World Cup during their meeting held in Zurich on 28 and 29 October. The voting will take place at the Home of FIFA in Zurich on 2 December 2010 and the process will be as follows:

- ✓ The 2018 vote will take place first, then the 2022 one. The vote will be by secret ballot and all eligible members of the FIFA Executive Committee can vote in both ballots
- ✓ To win the right to host the competition, a bidder must obtain an absolute majority (50% + 1) of the votes of the FIFA Executive Committee members present
- ✓ In the event of a tie when only two bidders remain, the FIFA President will have the casting vote
- ✓ For any voting round in which an absolute majority is not achieved, the bidder with the lowest number of votes will not progress to the next voting round
- ✓ If there is a tie for the lowest number of votes in any round, an intermediate voting round will be conducted to determine which of the tied bidders does not progress
- ✓ When the final decision on the host has been taken, the result will be put in two envelopes and taken by the notary to the “Messe Zurich”, where they will be handed over to the FIFA President for the announcements²⁷

²⁶ "Fifa abandons World Cup rotation". *BBC News*. 29 October 2007. Archived from the original on 30 October 2007. Retrieved January 16, 2017.

²⁷ <http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2010/m=10/news=executive-committee-approves-voting-process-1325928.html>

In selecting a host city, a country's bid must contain at least one host city with two designated World Cup stadiums. Other requirements such as, suitable hotel accommodation, training and base camp facilities, a fan park with giant screen for the duration of the tournament, VIP hospitality facilities, support from the public along with the media, and adequate transport links are also considered.²⁸

The Bidding countries are:

✓ 2018:

- Belgium & Netherlands: Both countries registered their intention to bid jointly on March 2009. A delegation met FIFA president Sepp Blatter on 14 November 2007 officially announcing their interest in submitting a joint bid²⁹. In Belgium, matches will be played in 7 cities, while 5 cities would host matches in the Netherlands. A high capacity stadium of 80,000 seats is needed to host the final, of which none of the countries have. Joint bids are usually not looked highly upon by FIFA largely due to the logistical, security and border control obstacles associated with them. However, in this case since Belgium and the Netherlands are both in the EU, and there will not be any border control issues, although the prior two remain.
- England: While the country had submitted a bid to host the 2006 World Cup, they lost to Germany. The bidding board for *England 2018* is chaired by Lord

²⁸ "Choosing England's Host Cities". *England2018*. 15 June 2009. Retrieved January 16, 2017

²⁹ "Ons dossier maakte indruk bij Platini". *sporza.be* (in Dutch). 19 March 2008. Retrieved January 17 2017.

Triesman chairman of the FA. A total of fifteen stadia from twelve cities were proposed to FIFA. All the fifteen stadia are available and would need some modification. England has hosted the World Cup before (1966).

- Russia: The country announced its intent to place a bid for the World Cup in early 2009 and subsequently submitted its request to FIFA in time. Its President Vladimir Putin took a keen interest in the bid and ordered its Minister of Sports to “prepare a bid for Russia to hold the 2018 World Cup.”³⁰ Sixteen cities are included in the current proposal and are divided into five clusters: northern cluster, central cluster, southern cluster, and the Volga river cluster. Russia’s favorable visa policy to World Cup visitors is certainly a major positive, although not all stadiums proposed are readily available.
- Portugal & Spain: The two countries submitted a joint Iberian bid on March 2009, they had Eighteen venues across sixteen cities. In Portugal, only the two most populous cities earned a spot in the final bid package. As mentioned above the committee looks down upon joint – bids. The recent global financial crisis has had an impact on the two nations with Moody’s investors service cutting Portugal’s sovereign bond rating, leading to a “junk” bond rating ³¹ (which could make it significantly more difficult to finance the tournament). However, the two

³⁰ ["Russia enters race to host 2018". BBC Sport.](#) 20 January 2009. Retrieved January 16 2017

³¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/10610673>

countries have a rich cultural history of soccer, excellent infrastructure, and the ability to take in millions of tourists.

✓ 2022

- Australia: The country lodged a bid for the 2018 World Cup but withdrew after the chief of the Asian Football Confederation commented that “the 2018 tournament should be held in Europe”³². Australia officially launched its bid on 14 June 2009 with 12 venues in ten cities. Of the Australian stadiums that meet FIFA’s seating criteria, none are soccer venues, they are predominantly cricket, Australian rules football and rugby league playing venues.³³ There has been significant controversy with the Australian Football League and the National Rugby League who claim that the usage of some of the stadiums would severely disrupt their seasons.
- Japan: This is the second official bid from the country after their successful bid to host the 2002 World Cup along with South Korea. They are hoping to become the sixth nation to host the tournament twice. They propose 12 stadiums most of which had been used in the 2002 world cup, they also pledge that if granted the right to host, it would develop technology enabling it to provide a 3D coverage of the event as well as holographic format if the technology to do so is available.³⁴

³² ["World Cup 2018 should be in Europe, says Asian Football Confederation"](#). *The Guardian*. London. 10 June 2010. Retrieved January 16 2017

³³ ["AFL fuming over soccer World Cup demands"](#). *Herald Sun*. Retrieved January 16 2017.

³⁴ <https://www.engadget.com/2010/05/20/japan-proposes-holographic-3d-broadcasts-for-2022-world-cup/>

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- Qatar: President Sepp Blatter proposed the idea of having a World Cup in the Arab world saying that “The Arabic world deserves a World Cup. They have 22 countries and have not had any opportunity to organize the tournament”³⁵. One major obstacle against it is its climate, Qatar is a desert country where temperatures in the summertime can reach to 50°C (120°F).³⁶ This poses a risk for heat stroke, not just amongst players, but fans as well. There are seven cities with twelve stadiums in its bid. Every stadium but three does not presently exist and the remaining three need to be modified to expand to FIFA requirement.
 - South Korea: Like their counterpart Japan, a successful bid for Korea would make it their second time hosting the World Cup finals. Despite tensions, the chairman of the bid hopes to involve North Korea if the country received the bid. There are 14 stadia proposed from 12 cities some of which had been used in the 2002 World Cup. Although it does not have an 80,000-seat stadium required for the final match, it plans to upgrade a current one to fit the requirement.
 - United States: The country had already hosted a World Cup in 1994 and had submitted a bid for both 2018 and 2022. There are 18 cities proposed with 20 stadiums. No soccer specific stadium was chosen since none in the country has a capacity of over 30,000. A tournament pick for the United States could prove to be a boon for one of FIFA’s long term missions which is to expand the sport to new markets.

³⁵ ["Blatter reaches out to Arabia"](#). Al Jazeera. 2010-04-25. Retrieved 2010-05-01.

³⁶ [Monthly Averages for Doha, Qatar](#)". *weather.com*. The Weather Channel. Retrieved January 16 2017

Biographies

1. Sepp Blatter – President

The Swiss President of FIFA, Blatter is known for his persistence and his expansion of FIFA into South Asia and Africa with more teams and tournaments. His efforts of the expansion of FIFA however has been halted by frequent corruption charges against various officials under him. FIFA under him has weathered mostly intact though frequently he has been accused of corruption and financial mismanagement of funds. Elected in 1998 to be President of FIFA he has served over 17 years as President of FIFA.

2. Michel Platini – Senior VP, UEFA President

Originally a French football player Platini has catapulted from a strong career in football to become a powerful individual in FIFA's administrative organization. Platini has a strong base of support among his native France and a more limited support in Italy. Platini supported the 6+5 initiative which was six native players and five foreign players to prevent national teams with only international players among them. Platini was also briefly coach of France's national football team until he stepped down in a humiliating elimination.

3. Jack Warner – Vice President, CONCACAF President

Politician, businessman, and football enthusiastic Jack Warner seems to be a renaissance man with a knack for frequent controversy. A firebrand not afraid of speaking his mind, Warner has frequently been accused of bias and financial corruption. He is based in his native Trinidad and Tobago and has also been an elected representative of Trinidad and Tobago serving as Minister

of National Security for the country. His spats with “English” Football is well known and he has never hidden his disdain for England’s Football teams.

4. Julio Grondona – Senior VP, Finance Committee Chairman

The Argentine leader of the country’s football team, Grondona led his team to success against Germany once before losing to them twice, though he still always made it to the final giving him an aura of success. Something of a nationalist, Grondona has a distain of England and has sworn to oppose their efforts to host a World Cup, except possibly if it was hosted in the Falkland Islands which “belong” to Argentina, according to him.

5. Mohamed bin Hammam – President of AFC, Former Chairman of Qatar Football Association, FIFA Executive Committee Member

Along with Warner, bin Hammam is perhaps the most controversial member of FIFA and has been accused of plenty of financial irregularities. Despite these difficulties, Hamman has his eyes on the Presidency of FIFA with a belief that FIFA must change from its current state under Blatter. With strong connections throughout Asia, Hammam has considerable power and financial ties throughout the developing world.

6. Chung Mong-Joon – Honorary VP, President of the South Korean Football Association

A South Korean business man, Mong-Joon also controls one of the largest shipping companies in the world, Hyundai Heavy Industries Group and his relatives control most of the rest of Hyundai giving him immense financial backing. In addition, he has political connections like Warner in

his native country giving even more backing in South Korea. However, his political support in his districts are fading and his likely is looking to FIFA to shore up his backings.

7. Issa Hayatou – Senior VP of FIFA, President of CAF

Born in Cameroon to a local Sultan's family Hayatou is part of the expanding teams of Blatter's efforts in Africa. Thus, Hayatou represents what is supposed to be "New" in FIFA. He has numerous connections throughout Africa and has an eye on the Presidency, though unlike Hamman he is less open about it.

8. Angel Maria Villar Llona – President of the Spanish Football Association, VP of UEFA, FIFA Executive Committee Member

Part of one of the most famous football associations in the sport, Llona was not only a player for Spanish football but is now also the official President of it. If anything, Llona has it a reputation for not being as corrupt as one of the more famous members of the FIFA hierarchy which is a great strength when one is a member of the Old Guard football teams.

9. Michel D'Hooghe – Executive Committee Member, Chairman of the Medical Committee

A baron among the Belgian nobility and medical doctor, D'Hooghe is a former President of the Royal Belgian Football Association. He admitting to receiving a painting from Vyacheslav Koloskov (a Russian official) to bribe him into voting for Russia for the 2018 World Cup bid. D'Hooghe is mostly responsible for the health of the players and to keep them safe to prevent scandals or teams losing efficiency as Chairman of the Medical Committee.

10. Ricardo Terra Teixeira – President of the CBF, FIFA Executive Committee Member

The son-in-law of the former President of FIFA, Teixeira is part of the Old Guard of Football with connections throughout FIFA's web of influence. He also led Brazil to a World Cup victory giving him a measure of success. However, like most FIFA officials, there have been questions about his financial dealings.

11. Senes Erzik – UEFA VP, Head of Turkish Football Confederation, FIFA Executive Committee Member

A strong proponent of his native Turkey, Erzik has few connections among FIFA. However he has extensive banking connections and other connections through various he has various business connections throughout his native Turkey with undisclosed notes on how deep those connections are. Erzik is a proponent of bringing the Cup into the Islamic world, preferably through a Cup held in Turkey in the near future.

12. Chuck Blazer – CONCACAF General Secretary, FIFA Executive Committee Member

The only American on the FIFA Board, Blazer has numerous financial ties into FIFA and is a good friend of Jack Warner, the two being both North Americans with a shady past in dealing with money. Blazer, despite the rumors of corruption, tries to present himself as morally upright, likely due to American officials' close observation of his financial and tax dealings.

13. Nicolas Leoz – FIFA Executive Committee Member, Head of CONMEBOL

Unlike other South American members of the board, Leoz has connections throughout all South America instead of just his home country giving him access to not only his fellow South

American board members but also to the millions of people under them. However, like all members of FIFA's executive boards there are question on his dealings with money.

14. Hany Abo Rida – FIFA Executive Committee Member, President of Egyptian Football Association

Originally from Egypt, Rida has close ties to the Egyptian military and even President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. The Egyptian military controls up to 60% of all business and land in Egypt, making him different than most of the other Board members in his backing at home. Still, he has a relatively clean record and is not commonly associated with FIFA's corruption.

15. Jaques Anouma – President of the Ivorian Football Federation, President of the Union of West African Member Associations, FIFA Executive Committee Member

Anouma is a relative unknown in FIFA politics. However, he is part of Blatter's expansion into Africa and most likely has some financial connections to the President. As a smaller fish Anouma has the potential to expand into any of the groups among the board and be the middle man of deals between factions. He is committed to both expanding the game in Africa through bringing the Cup to the continent in the near future.