

# NEERJA MODI SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS'20

*'Reimagining perspectives'*

20-22 November, 2020



UEFA

United European Football Association

Agenda: Analyzing the impact of current technologies and  
the role of money power in modern day football

## **Background guide**

## **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS**

Greetings delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you all to the Union of European Football Association at the 12th edition of the Neerja Modi Model United Nations conferences this year. Although virtual, prepare yourselves for three days of heated yet fruitful debates and being challenged as a delegate. This year, we have introduced a new committee and one with a rather interesting topic for all, FOOTBALL. Football is a game of two halves, and our committee is of two Presidents and vice presidents

I, Raghav Rawat will be serving as the first half of your Presidents. I am a student of grade 12th and have done numerous MUN's and chaired the UNCC as its Vice President in the last edition of the NMMUN. I am very excited and delighted to be your president along with my co-chair who are full of football knowledge. I personally am a huge FC Barcelona fan and have been a culé since childhood.

and I, Varun Gupta will be the second half of your presidents. I too am a student of grade 12th and have taken part in a couple of MUN's but will be the debutant as the member of the executive board. I am super thrilled to chair alongside my fellow EB members and delighted to share that I am a citizen, a man city supporter. We look forward to having heated debates with extensive research done by all the delegates. We hope that you can get all the information you require about the Agenda at hand and can get numerous topics to discuss about. going beyond the background guide- and give your very best at this conference.

We expect each one of you to go forward, come back, tackle hard, aim to win the ball and score a GOAL! Even though this time it's virtual, we promise you that you will have a great experience.

Regards,

Raghav Rawat

Varun Gupta

Presidents

Union of Football Associations

## **LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENTS**

Dear fellow delegates

Greetings. We, Adhiraj Singh Yadav and Swastika Kataria will be the vice presidents of the union of European football Association simulation at the 12th edition of Mer this year. We will be cheering alongside our presidents Raghav Rawat and Varun Gupta.

We are the students of 12th grade and have done various MUNs and this is the first time for us as a chairperson. We have some debating experience from various debating competitions held both within and outside of our school. We hope to make this conference not only a learning place but also a wonderful memory.

We are incredibly delighted to be your chair and are a hundred percent willing to help you with any problems that you may face before or during the MUN. Our journey of three days will include heated debates and discussions containing sharing of the extensive research about the topic from your side along with lots of fun and entertainment. We truly believe that all the delegates have the potential to push themselves to overcome the limitation and put their best foot forward by providing us with a comprehensive and unique form of ideas which express your point of view in the most extraordinary way. We wish you the best of luck.

Regards

Adhiraj Singh Yadav

Swastika Kataria

Vice Presidents,

Union of European Football Associations

### **INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMITTEE:**

Football as we know it today arose in England in the middle of the nineteenth century and on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1954 in Basel, Switzerland, UEFA (Union of European Football Association) was established under the consultation of Italian, Belgian and French association. It is one of the six continental confederations of world football's governing body FIFA. It is an association of associations and the umbrella of 55 national football associations across Europe. It runs nation and club competitions such as European Championship, Champions League and Nations League, by controlling prize money regulations and media rights.

Over the past decade or so, while monitoring and evaluating the statistics of certain leagues, it has come to the notice of the committee that first there is a predominance of certain clubs throughout their history due to the strong backing provided by their abundant finances built over a long period of time. Secondly, the technologies put in current use have resulted in several controversies over the years. UEFA as a committee wishes to sort out these problems prevailing in the system and aims at levelling the playing field.

- **AIMS AND METHOD OF ACTION**

UEFA's core mission is to promote, protect and develop European football at every level of the game, to promote the principles of unity and solidarity, and to deal with all questions relating to European football. Mr. Platini highlighted the values in his address to representatives of UEFA's 53 national associations, delegates from the world football family and guests at the XXXIII Ordinary UEFA Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark, on Wednesday.

The values of UEFA for the future of European football presented by Mr. Platini are as follows: **Football is to be placed first and above all, there should be unity among the people working under and for the associations and the system should comprise of good leadership skills, the authority should exercise its power judiciously and wisely, grassroots football should be inspected and nurtured properly, youth protection and education, sporting integrity, financial fair play and regularity of competitions, national teams and clubs must respect one another and there should be no cases of discrimination, European sports model and**

### **specificity of sport.**

(UEFA is a European body and we remain totally committed to the European model of sport, a model characterized by promotion and relegation, the solidarity principle, as well as open competitions and opportunity for all. This is what sport – and especially football – is all about. We must protect this model because sport is not simply a business like any other and we cannot allow it to be treated as such. We will continue to defend the specificity of sport and are convinced that our arguments will prevail for the good of football.) UEFA has taken the following measures to ensure that their vision and aim keeps on progressing:

1) **YOUTH**: UEFA's rule aims to encourage the local training of young players and increase the openness and fairness of European competitions. From 2008/09, clubs in the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League required a minimum of eight homegrown players in a squad limited to 25. These rules are also in force in several national leagues across Europe. UEFA introduced the rule in three phases:

- **Season 2006/07**: minimum of four homegrown players in 25-man squad
- **Season 2007/08**: minimum of six homegrown players in 25-man squad
- **Season 2008/09**: minimum of eight homegrown players in 25-man squad

Clubs have no obligation to put a certain number of homegrown players on the field of play, or on the match sheet. They are entirely free in their team and matchday squad selection. UEFA defines locally-trained or 'homegrown' players as those who, regardless of their nationality, have been trained by their club or by another club in the same national association for at least three years between the age of 15 and 21. Up to half of the locally-trained players must be from the club itself, with the others being either from the club itself or from other clubs in the same association. The European Commission stated that the UEFA rule was legal in a statement in May 2008, and that a review would take place in 2012.

2) **FINANCIAL FAIR PLAY**: Introduced in 2009, UEFA's concept of financial fair play has helped to drastically reduce club losses over the last decade. Faced by serious and worsening financial conditions in European club football, UEFA's Executive Committee unanimously approved a Financial Fair Play concept for the game's well-being in September 2009. The concept developed and supported by the entire football family, recognizes the need for Europe-wide action to restrict some of the worst excesses of the game. The regulations governing financial fair play, first introduced in June 2010, are periodically updated (2012, 2015, 2018) to reflect changes in the environment, although the fundamental principles and objectives remain the same:

- to improve the economic and financial capability of the clubs, increasing their transparency and credibility;
- to place the necessary importance on the protection of creditors and to ensure that clubs settle their liabilities with employees, social/tax authorities and other clubs punctually;
- to introduce more discipline and rationality in club football finances;
- to encourage clubs to operate on the basis of their own revenues;
- to encourage responsible spending for the long-term benefit of football;

- to protect the long-term viability and sustainability of European club football. The rule is built around two main areas: an obligation for clubs, over a period of time, to balance their books (first assessed in the 2013/14 season) and an obligation for clubs to meet all their transfer and employee payment commitments at all times (first assessed in the summer of 2011). The successful implementation of the Financial Fair Play rules would not have been possible without the years of experience gained by UEFA, national associations and clubs in applying and meeting the financial part of UEFA club licensing. However, three main distinctions should be drawn between club licensing and Financial Fair Play. The UEFA Club Financial Control Body (CFCB) has the important role of overseeing the application of the UEFA Club Licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations.

3) **MEDICAL PROJECTS:** All UEFA's medical projects are managed by UEFA's medical unit under the direction of the medical committee, which is made up of 13 elite football doctors from around Europe, most of whom are either current or previous national team doctors with specialisms in orthopedics, cardiology and sports medicine. UEFA medical regulations specify a detailed medical screening process which player undertake prior to their participation in UEFA football competition. **Anti-doping** programs involves urine and blood testing in and out of competition, with regular unannounced doping controls conducted for the full duration of the competition. Tests include screening for substances such as EPO and human growth hormone. All samples are collected by medical doctors appointed by UFA and are analyzed at WADA-accredited laboratories.

## **HISTORY OF FOOTBALL**

Football or soccer has a long history. Football in its current form arose in England in the middle of the 19th century. But alternative versions of the game existed much earlier and are a part of the football history. The first known examples of a team game involving a ball, which was made from rocks, occurred in old Mesoamerican cultures for over 3,000 years ago. The first known ball game which also involved kicking took place in China in the 3rd and 2nd century BC under the name Cuju. The most admitted story tells that the game was developed in England in the 12th century. In this century, games that resembled football were played on meadows and roads in England. An important feature of the forerunners to football was that the games involved plenty of people and took place over large areas in towns. It took, however, long time until the features of today's football had been taken into practice. An attempt to create proper rules for the game was done at a meeting in Cambridge in 1848, but a final solution to all questions of rules was not achieved. Football clubs have existed since the 15th century, but unorganized and without official status. It is therefore hard to decide which the first football club was. The oldest among professional football clubs is the English club Notts County that was formed in 1862 and still exists today.

Today there are 211 national associations included in the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the world governing body of the sport. It is played by approximately 250 million players in over 200 countries and dependencies, making it the world's most popular sport. Football is governed internationally by the International Federation of Association

Football(FIFA: Fédération Internationale de Football Association), which organizes World Cups . Approximately 190–200 national teams compete in qualifying tournaments within the scope of continental confederations for a place in the finals. It is the most prestigious football tournament in the world .The most prestigious competition in club football is the UEFA Champions\_League which attracts an extensive television audience throughout the world. The final of the tournament has been, in recent years, the most-watched annual sporting event in the world. The top five European leagues are the Premier League (England), La Liga (Spain), Bundesliga (Germany), Serie A (Italy), and Ligue 1 (France). With the spread of globalization and growth Football is spread in every nook and corner of the world and today it is one of the most enthusiastic sport in the world.

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA**

For the success of any field, there must be a fine combination of skill and finances. Imbalance due to any one of them leads to a catastrophic failure the entity. European Clubs coming under UEFA receive about 10% of their revenues from UEFA Club competitions while the rest of the revenue is spread across domestic broadcasting, sponsorship, commercial revenue, gate receipts, etc. Each club competing in the UEFA League gets a share in the total prize money which is distributed according to four pillars- participation, performance in the current year, performance-based coefficient ranking over ten years and a variable amount that factors in country's national broadcaster's contribution to the revenue pool as well as relative performance of each club in the previous year's competition. The big five leagues in England, Spain, Germany, France and Italy command large broadcasting revenues for the domestic leagues because of the global footprint and popularity across the world. Performance linked payouts can fluctuate sharply in successive years for instance in 2017-18, English Clubs received 39 million euros more and the Spanish received 44 million euros less than the aggregate. While these might not be the significant amounts for the European elites it can be quite crucial for small based clubs.

At the start of the millennium, several advancements in technologies were made in attempt to further enhance the game play and to reduce errors and controversies created due to the misjudgments made by the human conscious but a true ironical situation has been created in today's time where more number of controversies are created by the same technology that was supposed to reduce them. VAR and Goal line technologies play a major part in this.

## **DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE AGENDA:**

### **a. Historical Background of the Agenda:**

The above situation has existed from the times of establishment of the first clubs in Europe. There has been a clear evidence depicting that when one club was at its peak of earning some were near their closures. Ups and downs have been a part of each and every club, but some clubs have never left the topflight in respective leagues. This is solely due to the disparities in the revenue among the clubs. Clubs with higher finances continue to dominate the top rankings of UEFA with abundant finances backed up by well-established owners. Lower ranked clubs often had to put their players on sale in times when there was a shortage of funds. Clubs like AS Monaco were barely able to keep up with their expenditure and if it weren't for the Russian businessman who bought the club in 2010, the club would have been non-existent today. Even clubs like Valencia FC were forced to sell their best slot of players in 2004 to arrange for the

finances while the bigger clubs had no such problems and even managed to capture the talented players from these clubs.

#### **b. Present Scenario:**

The present circumstances have not altered much. The clubs having the upper hand from historical times continue to dominate the competition. The advantage received has been further built on and being increased several folds where clubs are breaking records and generating revenue which are through the roof while on the other hand there are several instances where some clubs still aren't able to come close to matching their levels. For example, FC Barcelona generated a total amount of 840.8 million euros with a total expenditure of 389 million euros in the year 2017-18. On the other hand, due to financial troubles AC Milan was forced to sell off their players all caused by mismanagement of finances by the club. To combat this situation UEFA has taken several steps including implementation of Financial Fair Play Regulations and assigning of an authority for monitoring the transactions made by a club which resulted in several clubs being imposed with a penalty such as a ban from a season of the Europa League.

On top of this financial paradox, to add to the problems several controversies have arose due to the misinterpretation of the results of the VAR and Goal Line technologies where decisions have been made which have impacted the result of the game. Decisions such as retaking of a penalty and scoring of a goal. It has led to considering that the technology in current use is actually a negative point in the game of football and several reporters have exclaimed that it is ethically wrong and is affecting the tempo of the game in a negative way.

#### **c. Future Aspects:**

This trend if were to continue could turn out quite drastically for the European Football where the chances of winning would be confined to a fixed number of outcomes in between clubs of high order ranking and superior money power. The concentration of wealth would be in the hands of a few who would continue to progress further leaving the lower stature at a far worse situation than they are already in. Thus, it is the call of the hour to tackle this situation by judicious intervention of the UEFA Committee through systematic and devised policy and schemes favorable to all and not to a few.

The losing temperament in the game can lead to certain unpredictable events caused in the heat of moments due to the controversial decisions made by the current technology making the game much fiercer which goes against the true essence of football. Thus, transforming the technology for optimum utilization and education of the human personnel interacting with the technology so that a correct decision could be made, are a few steps taken by the UEFA Committee.

If the changes implemented by UEFA truly succeed it would be amazing for the world of football but according to the circumstances it is a long way from happening.

### **KEY TERMS**

- **Video Assistant Referees:** The Video Assistant Referee system (VAR) was introduced into UEFA competitions in 2019 following extensive testing and training of referees. On 3 March 2018, the International Football Association Board (IFAB) decided to allow the use of VAR in football following a two-year period of "live experiments with video

assistance for clear errors in match-changing situations". IFAB also made various amendments to the laws of the game 2018/19 required to ensure they reflect the use of VAR where applied, including the introduction of the VAR protocol of the laws.

- **Financial Fair Play:** Introduced in 2009, UEFA's concept of financial fair play has helped to drastically reduce club losses over the last decade.
- **Goal-line technology:** It is a technical means of instantly determining whether the whole of the ball has crossed the goal line. The International Football Association Board required that goal-line technology (GLT) was not to interfere with the game.
- **Electronic performance and Tracking Systems (EPTS):** It includes camera-based and wearable technologies, are used to control and improve player and team performance.
- **COMMERCIAL REVENUE:** A football club's revenues can be broken down broadly into three overarching categories — commercial, broadcast and matchday. While broadcast revenues are mostly dependent on the auction of TV rights, matchday revenues (ticket sales) are generally constrained by the capacity of a club's stadium. Commercial revenues, therefore, become crucial for a club's financial performance.

## **BRIEF NOTES ON EVERY CLUB**

### **1) REAL MADRID C.F: -**

Founded in 1902 in Madrid, Spain, Real Madrid has been perpetually considered as a money maker throughout the years with its ways of doing business and generating profit. It was bestowed with the title of "real" – or "royal" in English by King Alphonso XIII in 1920 making it the royal club of Spain. Throughout the course of its history Real has set numerous records with 33 La Liga titles, 19 Copa del Rey trophies, a sensational 13 European Cups/Champions Leagues and 2 UEFA Cups. Many of the best players in the world have played in the clubs white shirts, including legends like Alfredo Di Stefano and Ferenc Puskás. In 2000, FIFA called the club the best club of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Real Madrid has become one of the world's most valuable team with an enterprise value of approximately 4.2 billion euros in 2018/2019 and generated a revenue of approximately 757 million euros. Real Madrid enjoys strong financial backing by huge sponsors like Emirates, Adidas. There have been many controversial decisions made in favor and against Real in the past and as recent as the match between Real Madrid and Real Betis where Madrid beat Betis through a controversial penalty.

### **2) FC BARCELONA:**

Founded in 1899 by a group of Swiss, Spanish, English, and Catalan footballers led by Joan Gamper, the club has become a symbol of Catalan culture. Unlike many other football clubs, the supporters own and operate Barcelona. It is the fourth-most valuable sports team in the world, worth \$4.06 billion, and the world's richest football club in terms of revenue, with an annual turnover of €840,8 million. Barcelona has won 5 UEFA Champions league trophies and a record 4 UEFA cup winners' cup and a joint record of 5 UEFA super cups. The club currently occupies the third position on the UEFA club rankings. Domestically, the club has 26 La Liga trophies and has Won 8 out of the last 12 La Ligas.

FC Barcelona has spent a staggering 989 MILLION EUROS since last winning the champions league back in 2014-15, making them the highest spending club in Europe in that time. The year 2017-18 saw the club to spend a whopping 389 million euros! The current technologies' decisions have been very controversial for the club's games various times and have had a huge impact as recent as the ÉI clásico.

### **3) ATHLETICO MADRID:**

Atlético Madrid is one of the biggest Spanish football clubs in history. Club Atlético de Madrid, which is the full name, has played the role of the little brother to Real Madrid and being the team that always strive to upset the order. The club has also been notorious for a remarkable high incidence of sacked managers. The club was founded in 1903, under the name of Athletic Club de Madrid. In 1947, the club changed its name for the final time; it was henceforth known by its current name of Club Atlético de Madrid. Its founders, three Basque students living in Madrid, considered the club a youth branch of Athletic Bilbao. Throughout its history the club has won 10 La Liga titles, 10 Copa del Rey trophies, 1 UEFA winner's cup and 2 European League Trophies. Under the management of Juan Carlos Lorenzo 1973–1975, Atlético would be granted the ill sounding nickname “animals”. The nicknamed came after the European Cup semi-final against Celtic. The club had to wait until 1987 for Jesús Gil's appointment for president. Gil started spending large amounts of money on big-name signings and his ruthless philosophy of changing the coaches at a rapid rate did not yield immediate results. But the Spanish Soccer giants have projected approximately 515 million euros for the 2019/20 financial year making it one of the most revenue generating groups that year. There has been a lot of drama between Barcelona and Atletico Madrid as VAR allowed Madrid a re-take on a missed penalty as per February, 2020.

### **4) SEVILLA FC:**

With a foundation date of 1890, in Sevilla, Madrid, Sevilla Fútbol Club can boast of being one of the two oldest football clubs in Spain. It shares that honor with another Andalusian club, Recreativo de Huelva. Sevilla and Recreativo also made their mark in history by playing the first official football match in Spain where Sevilla emerged victorious. During its long existence, Sevilla has won La Liga, Copa del Rey and the UEFA Cups/UEFA Europa Leagues on several occasions. During its first couple of decades, Sevilla FC had to settle for being the best football club in its region. In 1946, Sevilla brought home its only La Liga title till date. Even though the club managed to stay near the top of Spanish football for a while yet, a financial crisis in the 70s saw them being relegated to the Segunda Division on numerous occasions during the next three decades. Under his leadership, Sevilla returned to the football map by winning two consecutive UEFA Cups in 2006 and 2007. After being forced to sell their best players due to another financial crisis, Sevilla shocked everyone by winning three UEFA Europa Leagues in 2014 2015 and 2016. As the UEFA Cup and the UEFA Europa League are considered the same tournament, these latest triumphs saw Sevilla become the most successful club in the history of the competition. Sevilla FC is now worth of €352 million putting them in the twenty-fourth spot in the prestigious report which has Real Madrid as the most valuable club.

### **5) MANCHESTER UNITED:**

Manchester United is one of the most prestigious football clubs and has always maintained a distinguished tradition, a record of consistent success, and a great history. Founded in 1878 in Manchester, England, the red devils have been one of the fastest growing clubs in England. The United team would win the league in 1955–56 and 1956–57. The average age was 21 at the first occasion, which made it the youngest side ever to win the Football League and earned them the nickname the “Busby Babes”. It became the first English club to win a Treble while winning the FA Cup, the Premier League, and UEFA Champions League simultaneously during 1998-1999. . During 2013-2014, it was recognized as the 2nd highest-earning club across the world with an estimated revenue of around €518 million. In fact, it was further named as the third most valuable football club in 2015. The club has been clever in marketing its brand in many fields. Manchester United have been the most successful soccer team in the world to earn money from brand-name products, which have earned them the not so flattering nickname "Merchandise United". The most recent controversy regarding VAR was during a match against Aston Villa where United was not given a penalty due to VAR errors.

#### **6) MANCHESTER CITY:**

Man City is an English football club based in Manchester that competes in the English premier league. It was founded in 1880 as St mark's, it became an association football club in 1887 and Manchester city in 1894 the club went through a period of decline, culminating in relegation to the third tier in 1998. In 2008, Manchester city was purchased by Abu Dhabi united group or sheikh Mansour for 210 million pounds and received considerable financial investment in both playing staff and club activities, including the 150 million Etihad campus. ever since city have made a strong position in England. In 2019, they won four trophies, completing an unprecedented sweep of all domestic trophies in England and the first team to win the domestic treble, crowning the 'formidable' man city's revenue was the fifth highest of a football club in the world in 2018-19 season 568.4 million. In 2019, it was ranked the fifth most valuable club in the world at 2.69 billion dollars man city's two year ban from the UEFA champions league for serious breach of UEFA's financial fair play rules has been overturned by the court of arbitration for sport, which also reduced the fine to 10m from 30m when it comes to current technologies, the club has had a lot goof ups in VAR decision making and suffered the loss of crucial and big stage matches. Refereeing decisions have been a major theme of city's league campaigns.

#### **7) JUVENTUS F.C:**

Juventus FC, also informally known as Juve, is since long one of the top-ranking Italian football clubs and located in Torino. The Italian word Juventus means “youth”. In the 19th century Turin was a small town until the start of factories in the 1870s. As a result of the wealth of local merchants the first Turin football club, Juventus, was established at the end of the century. At its establishment, on 1 November 1897, it was called Sport-Club Juventus. The Agnelli family are the owners of Juventus, with Andrea Agnelli being the face of the family's football enterprise, serving as chairman of both the club and of the European Club Association (ECA). Having a net worth of 13.5 billion dollars. In the 2010s, Juventus have dominated Italian club football in a way that is unparalleled. They have won every scudetto from season 2011–12 until the end of the decade. They have won the Italian Football Championship/Serie A 36 times, Coppa Italia 14 times, the European Cup/Champions League twice, UEFA Cup thrice. In 2001, the club set a

world record by selling Zinedine Zidane to Real Madrid for about 75 million euros, the most expensive transfer ever at the time. In the same year, the club also set the record for the most expensive transfer for a goalkeeper at the time when it paid 45 million euros for Gianluigi Buffon. Juventus has managed to win 59 official competitions, which is more than any other Italian football team has done. Of these, 48 wins are from domestic competitions, while 11 are from official international competitions. In particular, the club has won the Scudetto (league championship) 34 times, the UEFA Champions League 2 times, the Coppa Italia 10 times, the Intercontinental Cup 2 times, the UEFA Europa League 3 times, the UEFA Super Cup 2 times among other titles in major sporting events. The most recent case of VAR controversy also felt by Massimiliano Allegri was when a controversial penalty call allowed Cristiano Ronaldo to salvage draw in 90th minute for Juventus in Coppa Italia semi-final against AC Milan at the San Siro.

### **8) VALENCIA F.C:**

With La Liga, Copa del Rey and four different European trophies, Valencia Club de Fútbol stands tall as one of the most successful football clubs in Spain. They're also the third most popular club, right behind the untouchable Real Madrid and Barcelona. The club was founded in 1919. The post-war period saw Valencia acquire taste for silverware, winning its first La Liga titles in 1942, 1944 and 1947 and two Copa del Rey trophies in 1941 and 1948. It has won La Liga 6 times, Copa del Rey 8 times and UEFA Cup once. Valencia under the ownership of Peter Lim is worth a total of 8 million dollars. Valencia's glory days came at the turn of the millennium. First, however, they had to shake off their losing mentality; the club lost two successive Champions League finals, to Real Madrid in 2000 and Bayern Munich in 2001. The latter season also saw them slip to fifth place in La Liga after spending most of the season at the top of the table. The next four years more than made up for their woes, as Valencia won two La Liga titles in 2002 and 2004 and a UEFA Cup in 2004. However, now the things have become from bad to worse as Valencia have placed their entire squad up for sale aside from Jose Gaya due to financial issues caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The club have already let highly rated youngster Ferran Torres depart for Manchester City in a £23 million deal. Valencia is proclaimed to be the worst affected by VAR and Goal line decisions and believe that there have been many incidents where the technology has given a decision against the team.

### **9) AC MILAN:**

Milan is internationally most successful among Italian football clubs with seven victories in European Cup and UEFA Champions League on top. The abbreviation AC stands for Associazione Calcio, that in English could be translated to "kicking club". Not that many people know that one of the most famous Italian symbols like AC Milan was founded by two English expatriates, Herbert Kilpin and Alfred Edwards. The exact date was 13 December 1899. From the start, the club was partly a football and partly a cricket club. Milan FC quickly established itself by winning their first Scudetto two years later, and then followed it up by another two in 1906 and 1907. The controversial media tycoon and politician Silvio Berlusconi was the owner of AC Milan in more than twenty years, until 2017 when the club was sold to a Chinese investor where its worth was 583 million dollars. After a split in the club which led to the founding of

their arch-rivals Inter, however, Milan had to wait for over 40 years for their next title. What followed was a period of decline. After the Toto Nero match-fixing scandal in 1980, players and officials had bet on games, Milan was one of the team punished and demoted to the second division (the president Felice Colombo was banned from the game for life). Overall the club has won the Italian Football Championship/Serie A 18 times, Coppa Italia 5 times, European Cup/Champions League 7 times and the UEFA CUP twice. In fact, **Milan's** spending has been so large in recent years that they had to withdraw from this season's Europa League due to financial irregularities, brought about by careless spending from their former owners.

#### 10) **INTER MILAN:**

Football Club Internazionale Milano, commonly referred to as Internazionale or simply Inter, and known as Inter Milan outside Italy, is an Italian professional football club based in Milan, Lombardy. Inter is the only Italian club never to have been relegated from the topflight of Italian football. The club is combinedly owned by the following entities such as Suning Holdings Group, Lion Rock Capital, Pirelli and other stakeholders.

In October 2019, the market value of this Milanese club amounted to roughly 567 million euros. In March 2020, it rose to 685 million euros. Founded in 1908, Inter won its first championship in 1910. Since its formation, the club has won 30 domestic trophies, including 18 league titles, 7 Coppa Italia and 5 Supercoppa Italiana. From 2006 to 2010, the club won five successive league titles, equaling the record at that time. They have won the Champions League three times: two back-to-back in 1964 and 1965 and then another in 2010. Their latest win completed an unprecedented Italian seasonal treble, with Inter winning the Coppa Italia and the *Scudetto* the same year. The club has also won three UEFA Cups, two Intercontinental Cups and one FIFA Club World Cup. Recent controversy related with was when Inter Milan came back from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Parma on Saturday but were left furious by a contentious VAR decision.

#### 11) **SS LAZIO:**

In 1927, an effort was made by the Fascist regime to unite all Roman clubs under the same banner, with Lazio being the only holdout. The merging of the other Roman clubs led to the foundation of AS Roma, and marked the beginning of a fierce inter-city rivalry. SS Lazio was founded on 9th January 1900. Before attending the national league system, Lazio won the Campionato Romano (Rome Championship) in 1907. Between 1910-1912, Lazio had much success in the Terza Categoria, at that time divided by several regions. Lazio played against Rome-based teams such as SGS Fortitudo, SS Juventus and Roman. Lazio could have won their first national championship in 1915. The good results continued after the war until the Serie A was initiated. After some decades that didn't yield much success for SS Lazio, their first trophy came in 1958 (Coppa Italia). Yet, it didn't stop the club getting relegated to the second division only three years later. After a string of mediocre finishes in both Serie A and Serie B, Lazio managed to form a solid team led by Giuseppe Wilson and win their first Scudetto in 1974. In 1980, Lazio was relegated to the second division as punishment for their part in the Toto Nero scandal. In 2020, SS Lazio was among the 32 UEFA clubs with highest enterprise value. In the same year, it recorded 328 million euros in midpoint enterprise value and currently the majority stakeholder is Claudio Lotito.

## 12) **BAYERN MUNICH:**

With its 25 national titles and 17 DFB-Pokals, FC Bayern Munich firmly belongs in the conversation about the greatest football clubs in the world. It is one of only three clubs to win all three major European trophies: the European Cup/Champions League, the Europa League and the Cup Winner's Cup. In addition to being undisputedly the most successful club in Germany, the club has won the German Champions/Bundesliga 30 times, DFB-Pokals 19 times, European Cup/Champions League 6 times and UEFA Cup Winners' Cup once. It was during their time at the club (1965–1979) that Bayern would finally turn into the powerhouse it is today. Those 14 years saw the club win four Bundesliga titles, four DFB-Pokals, a Cup Winners' Cup in 1967, as well as three straight European Cups from 1974 to 1976. The chairman of the club is Herbert Haint with its net worth in 2019, FC Bayern Munich had a brand value of 1.47 billion U.S. dollars. The club last win in the champions league was in 2103 The summary of a match with the mind-boggling technology decisions were like this a twice-taken penalty awarded after a theatrical leap, a contentious handball decision and a late nerve-settler all contributed to a crazy last ten minutes as Bayern Munich opened their 2018-19 title defense with a nervy win.

## 13) **CHELSEA:**

Founded in 1905 in London, England by an English businessman Gus Mears, Chelsea has been a reasonably consistent club for most of their history. Chelsea have won League titles, FA Cups and League Cups. They've also found success in Europe, becoming the only British club to win all three major UEFA trophies: The Cup Winners' Cup, the Champions League and the Europa League. Chelsea quickly established itself as the biggest club in the capital. In the late 1910s, the club became the first in Britain with an average attendance over 40,000. The huge attendance numbers made "The Pensioners", a nickname for the team, to one of the richest clubs in the country. In 2018/19, the club generated a total of 446.7 million euros. Chelsea was been denied twice by VAR making Manchester united win at Stanford Bridge causing a lot of controversy recently.

## 14) **LIVERPOOL:**

Founded in 1892, the Liverpool Football Club name was synonymous with fame and glory. Internationally, Liverpool is the most successful British club of all time with plenty of European trophies on their record. Liverpool has won 19 Premiere League titles, 7 FA Cups, 8 League Cups, 5 European Cups and has won the UEFA cup thrice throughout its history. Turnover for Liverpool for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 was 533 million pounds with the media revenue as 260.8 million pounds, match day revenue as 84.2 million pounds and commercial revenue at 188 million pounds. The administrative expenses for that year were 484.4 million pounds. Recently Liverpool has asked the Premiere league for VAR clarifications after the Everton Draw.

## 15) **ARSENAL FC:**

Arsenal FC started life as a works team named Dial Square in 1886 – the workers were blacksmith's that built cannons, which is the reason for the club being known as the Gunners. It was renamed as Arsenal FC in 1914. It is one of the most successful and beloved clubs in England and has always been a magnet for the public. Tradition-wise, their results speak for themselves; in addition to winning 28 major domestic trophies, Arsenal hold the records for longest unbeaten streak and longest run in topflight of English football. Football Revenue for the year 2019 for Arsenal was 394.7 million pounds with the increase in revenue being mainly attributable to the club reaching the final of the UEFA Europa League together with increased commercial revenues.

#### 16) **TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR:**

Found in 1882 in London, England by a group of grammar-school boys, Tottenham Hotspur FC were mostly known as cup specialists during their life span. They made history by becoming the first British team to win a European trophy, as well as winning the first UEFA Cup ever organized. Overall, their trophy room contains eight FA Cups, four League Cups, one Cup Winners' Cup and two UEFA Cups. In addition to their long tradition of cup success, the "Spurs" can also boast with two League titles in 1951 and 1961. Revenue for the year ended June 30 2019 was \$534 million (£460.7 million), up from \$442 million (£380.7 million) in 2018.

#### 17) **LEICESTER CITY:**

Leicester City was founded in 1884 in the city of Leicester, England. Though it does not have as colorful a history as some of their Midlands rivals, the club can boast of spending only a single season outside the top two divisions of English football. They have won several Second Division titles and three League Cups and being responsible for finishing first in the Premier League against all odds in 2016. Leicester City became the 14<sup>th</sup> highest revenue generating club in 2018 with a turnover of 233 million pounds in 2016/17

#### 18) **EVERTON F.C**

Found in 1878 in Liverpool, England, Everton FC in their 138 years of existence, they have spent only four years outside the topflight of English football. During this time, they have won nine League titles, five FA Cups and the 1985 Cup Winners' Cup. In 2019, Everton FC recorded an annual revenue of more than 187.7 million British pounds, an increase of nearly 70 million British pounds on the revenue recorded in 2014. In a match against Liverpool FC, a series of controversial circumstances emerged when Liverpool and Everton tied by a supposedly wrong decision by VAR.

#### 19) **LEEDS UNITED:**

Leeds United Football Club was formed in 1919 as a successor to Leeds City, a club that was forcibly broken up due to have salaried their players. Leeds United might be one of the most opinion-splitting clubs in the world with its followers willing to follow the club anywhere. During their lifespan, Leeds have won three First Division titles, one FA Cup and one League Cup. Leeds has no European Cup titles but was in 2001 only two matches away from lifting the heaviest. According to filed accounts the revenue generated by Leeds in the year ending 30 July 2019 was 48.7 million pounds.

## 20) **PARIS SAINT GERMAN:**

Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) found in 1970 in Paris, France are a relatively young club. Nevertheless, they have been remarkably successful in their short lifespan, winning Ligue 1 titles, French Cups and League Cups. After the takeover by Canal+ in 1991, the club's future was destined for greatness. With the new owners investing large sums of money into big-name signings such as George Weah and Raí, PSG quickly developed into one of the most dominant clubs in the country. Their fortunes took a turn for the even better after the club was bought by Qatar Sports Investments in 2011. Led by Zlatan Ibrahimović, PSG won three consecutive Ligue 1 titles from 2013 to 2015. They also added to their trophy collection by claiming another French Cup in 2015 and two more League Cups in 2014 and 2015. In 2017, a new world record transferred was made when the Brazilian star Neymar was bought from Barcelona for a €222 million fee. As of the 2018–19 season, PSG have the fifth-highest revenue in the footballing world with an annual revenue of €636m according to Deloitte, and are the world's eleventh most valuable football club, worth \$1.092b according to Forbes. PSG were stunned in the middle of their Champions League game against Real Madrid at the Bernabéu when the referee, having reviewed his pitch side TV monitor, decided to reverse his decision to award the French side a penalty.

## 21) **OLYMPIQUE LYONNAIS:**

Olympique Lyonnais founded in 1950 in Lyon, France had its golden era in the beginning of the millennium winning seven consecutive league titles-having the longest streak in any of the biggest football leagues in Europe. Along with the league titles Olympique Lyon went on to win 5 Coupe de France titles in their course of history. The club in the first nine months of the 2018/19 financial year generated approximately 223.8 million euros. The club has been on the losing side due to many of the supposedly wrong decisions made by VAR, like the benefiting of Marseille after a questionable decision against Lyon by the VAR.

## 22) **OLYMPIQUE DE MARSEILLES:**

With a foundation date of 1899, Olympique de Marseille have had a rich tradition and a history of success. They are the current record holders for most victories in Coupe de France, having won the competition ten times. To this day, Marseille are still the only French club to win the Champions League, having done so in 1993. The club got into a match-fixing scandal in 1994, after which it was stripped of its Ligue 1 Title and got relegated to Ligue 2 which resulted in the club entering a period of decline before returning back to the top division in 1996. As per

April, 2013, the value of the club was approximately 224 million euros. In 2017/18, the club generated a revenue of approximately 132 million euros.

### 23) **SSC NAPOLI:**

SSC Napoli (in full Società Sportiva Calcio Napoli), known commonly as just Napoli, are Italian football giants and without doubt the most successful football club to originate from Southern Italy. Napoli have a long and rich history, which starts way back in 1904 to the 80's and 90's when it played host to one of the most brilliant footballers ever, Diego Maradona. SSC Napoli was formed in early 1900s following the arrival of English sailors notably William Poths. The club have won two league titles, six Coppa Italia titles, two Supercoppa Italiana titles, and one UEFA Cup. After years of economical struggle, the company that owned Napoli was declared bankrupt in August 2004. The club had great debts and its whole existence was in danger. Finally, the film producer Aurelio De Laurentiis paid the debts and re-established the club under the new name Napoli Soccer. The club was degraded to Serie C, but completed a fast comeback to the top-flight and along with that had its old name restored, too. In October 2019, it amounted to roughly 653 million euros. In February 2020, this figure peaked at 688 million euros. Napoli too, has been a part of VAR controversies, in match where the first half of Barcelona's Champions League last-16 tie against Napoli was filled with action and excitement, but there was also no shortage of controversy thanks to the actions of the ever-divisive Video Assistant Referee (VAR). Match official Cuneyt Cakir referred to VAR no less than three times in the opening 45 minutes.

### 24) **AS MONACO FC:**

While the principality of Monaco may not technically be a part of France, it did not stop AS Monaco FC (Association Sportive de Monaco Football Club) from becoming a respected name in French football. Since their inception, they have claimed several Ligue 1 titles and Coupe de France trophies, while also making the finals of the 1992 Cup Winners' Cup and the 2004 Champions League. For the entirety of their lifespan, they have played their home games at the legendary Stade Louis II. Monaco was formed in 1919, through a merger of five different clubs in the region. After a failed attempt to turn professional in 1933, Monaco managed to overcome that hurdle in 1948 by entering the Second Division. Following a streak of solid results, they achieved promotion to the First Division in 1953. It has won Ligue 1 8 times and Coupe de France 5 times. Shortly after clinching two more Ligue 1 titles in 1997 and 2000 and making the Champions League final in 2004, the club's numerous financial problems saw them relegated to the Second Division. Their fortunes changed when the club was bought by Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev in 2011; soon enough, the club returned to Ligue 1 and started competing for the title again. AS Monaco got the advantage due to the VAR which played a controversial role in PSG's 3-3 draw with Monaco in a Ligue 1 match played at the Parc des Princes. Islam Slimani's equalizer for Monaco was clearly offside as the linesman flagged the referee but after looking at the VAR, the goal was given by referee Antony Gautier.

## 25) **BVB DORTMUND:**

Purely looking at the numbers, Borussia Dortmund is the most popular football club in Europe; the club has the highest average attendance. And with eight national titles, three DFB-Pokals, a Cup Winners' Cup and a Champions League, not many would argue against Dortmund belonging to Germany's football elite. The full name is BV Borussia 1909 EV Dortmund. Dortmund was founded in 1909, by a group of eighteen youths unhappy with the local chaplain's treatment of their church-sponsored football team. According to a report from Forbes, the Borussia Dortmund net worth was estimated to be around €824 million. It has won the German Championship/Bundesliga 8 times, the DFB-Pokal 4 times and European Cup/Champions League once. After winning two consecutive Bundesliga titles in 1995 and 1996, Dortmund set off to conquer the rest of Europe. In 1997, they advanced to the Champions League finals, where they handily defeated the favored Juventus 3-1. The Bundesliga title in 2002 was not enough to turn the tide, and the club had to resort to selling their best players in order to survive. After a couple of miserable seasons, Jürgen Klopp's arrival in 2008 would set them back on the road to greatness. Under his leadership, Dortmund would prove to be the only true challenger to Bayern; their reignited rivalry was the main talking point of German football in the years that followed. During Klopp's seven years at the helm, Dortmund claimed two more Bundesliga titles (2011 and 2012) and their third DFB-Pokal (2012) but lost to Bayern in the 2013 Champions League final. BVB too has its share in the controversies in terms of VAR as it reared its head again in the Bundesliga, ruling out a Dortmund goal against Borussia Mönchengladbach for a negligible infringement.

## 26) **AFC Ajax:**

Amsterdam Che Football Club Ajax was formed in 1900 in Amsterdam, Netherlands. With over 50 major domestic trophies and four European Cups, Ajax is the seventh most successful football club of the 20th century. They have also won the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup, which makes them one of only four clubs to win all three major UEFA competitions. The club has won 34 Eredivisie, 19 KNVB Cups, three European Cups, one Champions League trophy, One UEFA Cup and One European Cup Winner's Cup. In 2019, AJAX's football related revenue amounted to a total of roughly 130 million euros.

## 27) **FC ZENIT SAINT PETERSBURG:**

A rather average team until the eighties, Zenit started making a name for themselves only the last decade of Soviet times. Once Russia started having its own national Championship, Zenit again struggled to cope with Moscow's greats, but at the turn of the century things finally took a turn for the better, and especially after 2007 the club that are the football pride of Saint Petersburg have definitely established themselves among the best teams in the country. Founded in 1925, the name "Zenit" was first used in 1939, and that's how the team were called

when they won their first title, the Soviet Cup, in 1944, the first edition of the competition since 1939. The club is currently owned by Russian energy giant Gazprom. It has won UEFA Cup: 1, UEFA Super Cup: 1, Russian Premier League: 6, Soviet Top League: 1 and the Russian Cup: 4 times. The first years of the 21st century have been Aleksandr Kerzhakov's time, the club's all-time top goal scorer.

### 28) **AS ROMA:**

The football club AS Roma was founded from a merger of three smaller Roman clubs: Fortitudo-Pro Roma SGS, Roman FC and SS Alba-Audace. AS Roma was founded in 1927 and managed to make their mark on Italian football relatively early, by reaching many high positions in the top league until winning their first Scudetto in 1942. As a culmination of their troubles, the club was relegated in 1951; however, they managed to return to the first division the following year and remain there until today. Under the leadership of manager Nils Liedholm, the club turned a new leaf and again entered the top echelon of Italian football. They would go on to win four more Coppa Italia trophies before eventually declining to mediocrity in the latter half of the 80s and the entirety of the 90s. Despite being a respected team in international top football, AS Roma is still waiting for winning one of the three major European Cups. The Friedkin Group are the new owners of AS Roma. AS Roma today begins a new era under new ownership. Roma might be involved in the biggest disaster of VAR and referee: It's reported referee Piero Giacomelli and VAR Luigi Nascia will be suspended for a month after their controversial Milan-Roma decisions. There were two extremely contentious penalties in the 3-3 draw, one for each side, and they proved difficult to defend even for former officials. As a result, SportMediaset claim that refereeing designator Nicola Rizzoli will suspend both referee Giacomelli and the VAR Nascia for a month.

### 29) **BAYER LEVERKUSEN FC:**

Bayer 04 Leverkusen GmbH is a German professional football club based in Leverkusen in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The club was founded in 1904 by employees of the German pharmaceutical company Bayer AG, whose headquarters are in Leverkusen and from which the club draws its name. It was formerly the best-known department of TSV Bayer 04 Leverkusen, a sports club whose members also participate in athletics, gymnastics, basketball and other sports including the RTHC Bayer Leverkusen (rowing, tennis and hockey). In 1999 the football department was separated from the sports club and is now a separate entity formally called Bayer 04 Leverkusen GmbH. Bayer were first promoted to the Bundesliga in 1979, and have remained in the top division ever since. Bayer Leverkusen have finished five times runner-up in the Bundesliga without winning the competition, a record in German football. The club has won one DFB-Pokal and one UEFA Cup. Bayer also finished runner-up in the 2001–02 UEFA Champions League, falling 2–1 to Real Madrid in the final. Their local rivals are 1. FC Köln. It is owned by Bayer which has a revenue of 4135 crores euro in 2019.

### 30) **ATLANTA FC:**

Atalanta Bergamasca Calcio commonly known as Atalanta FC was established in the year 1907 in Bergamo, Italy. The club joined the Italian league in 1929. They have won Serie B on many occasions but are still waiting for their first Serie A victory. The club has launched the careers of notable players, including Roberto Donadoni, Filippo Inzaghi, Christian Veri and Riccardo Montolivo, while Christian Doni has cemented his place as a club legend. Atalanta's golden age came at the end of 1980s when they were regulars in the top half of Serie A and they were sent into the Cup Winner's Cup last four and to the UEFA Cup quarter finals. Known as the 'queen of the provincial clubs' it spent the first half of the millennium constantly moving between top flight and Serie B appearances. Atalanta have established themselves as a Serie A mainstay following promotion in 2011. The club generated approximately 188.6 million euros in revenue for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019.

### **ADDITIONAL LINKS FOR REFERENCE:**

- <https://www.uefa.com/>
- <https://www.footballhistory.org/club/index.html>
- <https://www.fifa.com/>
- <https://www.statista.com/>
- <https://www.goal.com/en-in>
- <https://www.forbes.com/?sh=7737b1e12254>
- <https://www.bbc.com/>
- **Official Club Websites**

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