

Module 2. Global, national and local football institutions

2.1. International governance

In this section, we will look at the main entities that govern the world of football on an international level, focusing on the beginning of regulation with the creation of the Football Association (FA), then FIFA.

2.1.1. The early days of football

Early ball games

There are precedents of ball games in different ancient civilisations dating back thousands of years, some related to religious rituals, such as the Aztec pok-ta-pok or the Ancient Greek episkyros, renamed harpastum by the Romans. China, Japan, Persia, Egypt and some Native Americans, among others, had their own ball games.

In the British Isles, in the Middle Ages, there was a sport that gave rise to both modern football and rugby, known as medieval football or carnival football. At the time, the game had no limit to the number of participants, was violent and there were no specific standardised rules. Later, more organised variants appeared, such as Italy's Florentine calcio, but it was in England that the sport spread in multiple variants.

More information on the background and history of football can be found at the following link:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20070125063626/http://www.fifa.com/es/history/history/0,1283,1,00.html>

Standardisation of football rules

When trying to establish a date for the standardisation of football rules, it is important to point out that there was a first attempt at standardisation by the University of Cambridge (1848), which formed the basis for today's football. With the passing of time, other proposals for rules were incorporated, such as the Sheffield rules (1855), derived from the team that named them, which contributed aspects such as the 90-minute length, extra time or the crossbar in the boxes. These rules spread throughout the north of England and were gradually adopted by teams in different regions.

The Football Association (FA)



Finally, on 26 October 1863, the Football Association was founded in London, UK, and the Rules of The Football Association were defined.

The Football Association is the oldest football association in the world and the highest football body in England.

Today, The Football Association is a permanent member of UEFA and FIFA, both of which run football in Europe and the world, respectively, and also has a permanent place on the IFAB (International Football Association Board), the body that sets the rules of football, due to its founding status. In turn, all professional football clubs in England must be members. It is also responsible for England's national teams (men's and women's) and is the Premier League's governing body. It supports both professional and amateur football, organising the national league system.

Furthermore, The Football Association played an important role in establishing the name of the sport, which refers to the variant of the game with the rules it is known by today and which is played by an estimated 300 million people: the association football. There are several foot ball games that use the term football in English, and in Spanish, the word *fútbol* comes from this generic word. In some English-speaking countries where football was not the mainstream sport, it is known by the abbreviation of association, "assocc", which together with the prefix "-er" created the term "soccer" and differs from global variants of "football", such as rugby (where the term "rugbier" is used) or local ones, e.g. Australian football.

To further learn about The Football Association, visit the following site: thefa.com

International Football Association Board (IFAB)

The Football Association unified the rules for the whole of England; this standardisation was subsequently necessary to unify them with the rest of the countries of Great Britain (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and, later, the rest of the countries of the world. For this purpose, the *International Football Association Board* (IFAB) was created, and founded in London in 1886.

The IFAB is responsible for establishing the football rules worldwide and for monitoring any changes that may be made to the existing rules. The official rules, their evolution and history are available online and can be downloaded in a book format or via the mobile app: <https://www.theifab.com>

How are the rules of football modified?

Changes to the existing rules are made through a review process consisting of two biannual meetings. In order to carry out such process, the possible modifications to the



rules must be prepared a few weeks in advance and, once this stage has been completed, an annual meeting is convened where the regulations are reviewed and possible changes to the rules are discussed. Once the discussion has taken place, a vote is taken, with all UK teams (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales) having one vote and FIFA having four indivisible votes. Through this process, the essence of the first founding countries as well as FIFA's global vision is guaranteed.

For more information on the changes to the rules of football, please visit the following link: <https://www.theifab.com/es/law-changes/latest/>

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

With the expansion of football, it was necessary to create a single body to regulate football worldwide. This was first proposed by the English Football Association, but the initiative was not as well received as expected. Subsequently, a pact was made with other European countries such as Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland, which joined forces. As a result, the *Fédération Internationale de Football Association* (FIFA) was founded in Paris on 21 May 1904. The following year, England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland immediately joined. By 1911, the entire European continent was part of FIFA and over the years it expanded to the whole world.

Today, FIFA is known as the federation that organises mainly the Football World Cup and all the world championships of different branches. In turn, FIFA is the organisation that unifies all the confederations on each continent. These include:

- South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL);
- Union of European Football Associations (UEFA);
- Asian Football Confederation (AFC);
- Confederation of African Football (CAF);
- Confederation of North, Central American, Caribbean and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF);
- Oceania Football Confederation (OFC).

Figure 1: World Football Confederations



FIFA

For the Game. For the World.



Source: Dreamstime screenshot (<https://bit.ly/3lNsE9e>).

Although the confederations are organised on a continental level, it is possible to find some exceptions due to the fact that the list of confederation countries that make up FIFA is not exactly aligned with the official list of the United Nations. Exceptions include:

- National teams that FIFA allows to compete in a confederation other than the one that corresponds to them by territory, either to have opponents at a similar level of play or because of reverse situations where the difference in level does not generate competitiveness. Examples of this case are: Israel or Turkey, teams that compete in Europe, although they are located in Asia. Guyana is another case that should be part of CONMEBOL territorially, but is affiliated to CONCACAF. Australia participates in the Asian confederation instead of the Oceania confederation.
- Teams that FIFA allows to compete without representing independent nations. For example, Hong Kong, Palestine, French Guiana, Faroe Islands and, most recently, Kosovo. Also, there is the special case of Great Britain, with England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland competing separately.
- Teams that, although they represent independent nations, FIFA does not allow them to compete for different reasons. This is the case of Monaco or the Vatican, which are very small and unrepresentative countries.



- Teams that do not compete at an official level because their territory is involved in the process of independence and/or they aspire to have their own association, such as Catalonia, Greenland, Kurdistan or Western Sahara.

In addition to the tournaments, which make up a very important part of FIFA's activities, FIFA has global objectives such as protecting the values of football, modernising and growing the sport and competitions, promoting women's football and generating social impact. For more information on FIFA's goals and vision, please visit the following site: <https://publications.fifa.com/en/vision-report-2021/>

2.1.2. International football tournaments (FIFA and confederations)

Football World Cup

The main international football tournament at the national team level is the FIFA World Cup, which is held every four years. The senior national teams edition has been played since 1930, and subsequently there have been additional editions such as the women's or youth (professional players under a certain age, e.g. U20 or U17) World Cups. Each edition of the World Cup is held in a different location.

The Cup generates a significant impact on the sports structure of the host country (or coalition of countries), as it requires sufficient infrastructure (stadiums, training grounds, hotels or athletes' residences) to host the tournament. The event also has an impact on the local economy, as it alters the demand for associated services and all the match attendance and tourism that goes with it. On a global level, it impacts the sponsorship market, as potential sponsors have to choose where to invest their budgets.

The next World Cup is scheduled to take place in 2022 in Qatar (World Cup Qatar 2022), the following one in 2026, in Mexico, the United States and Canada as a joint venue. For 2030, the venue has not yet been decided, although there are proposals from countries such as Spain or Portugal, Uruguay-Argentina-Paraguay-Chile or Great Britain under consideration.

Regarding women's football, the growth over the last few years is evidence of the expectations placed on the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 to be held in Australia and New Zealand.

On the other hand, there are other variants of football, such as futsal and beach soccer and Olympic football competitions, which are managed jointly with the International Olympic Committee. Since 1992, only three players from each country can be over 23 years



old. For more information on these football variants, see the following sites: [FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup](#), [FIFA Futsal World Cup](#), [Men's Olympic Tournament](#), [International Olympic Committee](#).

Main tournaments on each confederation

Each confederation organises its own tournaments to find the best team among its member teams. Thus, UEFA organises the European Championship; CONMEBOL organises the Copa América; the AFC organises the Asian Cup; the African Nations Championship is organised by CAF; the Copa de Oro, by CONCACAF; and the Nations Cup, by OFC.

Table 1: Main tournaments on each confederation

Confederation	Main tournament
<p><i>Union of European Football Associations</i>, (UEFA). More information: FIFA-UEFA.</p>	<p>European Football Championship (UEFA Euro, "Euro Cup"). More information: UEFA EURO.</p>
<p>South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL). More information: FIFA-CONMEBOL.</p>	<p>Copa América. More information: Copa América.</p>
<p>Asian Football Confederation (AFC). More information: FIFA-AFC.</p>	<p>Asian Cup (<i>AFC Asian Cup</i>). More information: AFC Asian Cup.</p>
<p>Confederation of African Football (CAF). More information: FIFA-CAF.</p>	<p>African Nations Championship. More information: African Nations Championship.</p>
<p>Confederation of North, Central American, Caribbean and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF). More information: FIFA-CONCACAF.</p>	<p>Copa de Oro. More information: Copa de Oro de la CONCACAF.</p>



Oceania Football Confederation (OFC). More information: FIFA-OFC .	Nations Cup. More information: OFC Nations Cup .
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Source: author's production.

FIFA's Club World Cup

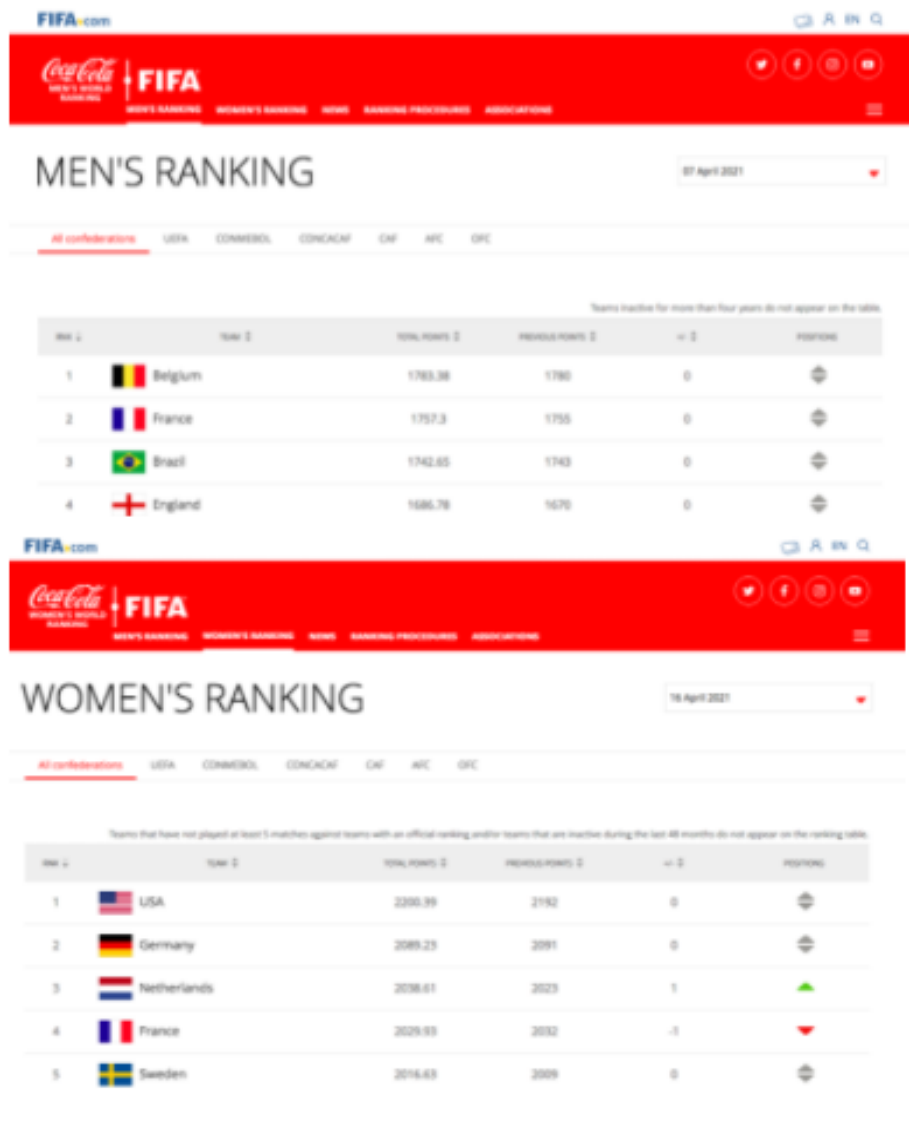
The FIFA Club World Cup is the evolution of the Intercontinental Cup, which brings together the winners of each confederation at the same venue. It is usually won by a UEFA or CONMEBOL team. In recent years, there have been proposals to expand the competition. The World Football Club Association (WFCA) was recently created to look after the interests of the clubs, similar to the way the European Club Association (ECA) represents the leading clubs in Europe before UEFA.

FIFA rankings (players, national teams and clubs)

FIFA also keeps statistical records and makes rankings of the best players, clubs and national teams. In the specific case of the best players, FIFA created The Best FIFA Football Awards, which is the equivalent of the historic Ballon d'Or award, organised by the sports magazine France Football. Another individual award is the FIFA/FIFPro World XI, which defines an ideal team of the year and selects the best player for each on-field position.



Figure 2: FIFA rankings



Source: FIFA website screenshot (<https://fifa.fans/37xenFo>).

FIFA's business model

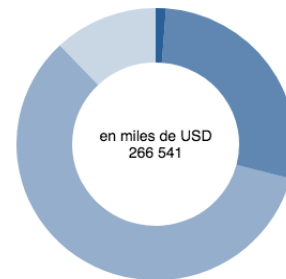
FIFA's revenue comes mainly from the sale of television rights, sponsorship and licence fees.



Figure 3: FIFA's 2020 annual report

Ingresos de 2020 por categoría (miles de USD)

INGRESOS		
		en miles de USD
	Nota	2020
Ingresos por derechos de televisión	1	1724
Ingresos por derechos de marketing	2	74 450
Ingresos por derechos de explotación de licencias	3	158 881
Otros ingresos	5	31 486
Total ingresos		266 541



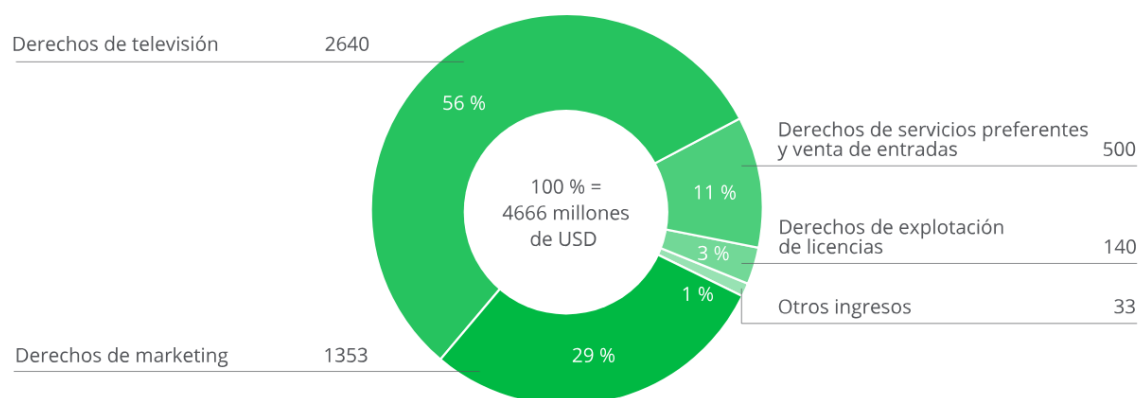
Source: FIFA website screenshot (<https://fifa.fans/3lOqHZV>).

<u>Original</u>	<u>Traducing</u>
Ingresos de 2020 por categoría (miles de USD)	2022 revenue by category (in thousands of USD)
Ingresos	Revenue
en miles de USD	in thousands of USD
Ingresos por derechos de televisión	TV rights revenue
Ingresos por derechos de marketing	Marketing rights revenue
Ingresos por derechos de explotación de licencias	Revenue from licence exploitation rights
Otros ingresos	Other sources of revenue
Total ingresos	Total revenue

The revenue projection for 2022 includes hosting of the Qatar 2022 World Cup.

Figure 4: FIFA's 2022 revenue projection

Presupuesto de ingresos de 2022 por categoría (millones de USD)



Source: FIFA website screenshot (<https://fifa.fans/3yA8CT8>)

Original	Traducing
Presupuesto de ingresos de 2022 por categoría (millos de USD)	2022 revenue projection by category (in thousands of USD)
Derechos de televisión	TV rights
Derechos de marketing	Marketing rights
Derechos de servicios preferentes y venta de entradas	Preferential services and ticket sales rights
Derechos de explotación de licencias	Licence exploitation rights
Otros ingresos	Other sources of revenue

In the licence sales section, the entire video games branch has played an extremely important role in sustaining FIFA's revenue during the most critical phases of the pandemic. In fact, FIFA's largest revenues in 2020 resulted from the sale of video games.

Figure 5: FIFA's 2020 revenue per category

Ingresos de 2020 por categoría (miles de USD)

INGRESOS		en miles de USD
	Nota	2020
Ingresos por derechos de televisión	1	1724
Ingresos por derechos de marketing	2	74 450
Ingresos por derechos de explotación de licencias	3	158 881
Otros ingresos	5	31 486
Total ingresos		266 541



Source: FIFA website screenshot (<https://fifa.fans/3fN2BuX>).

This industry has a large number of users and is expected to continue to grow over the years.

Figure 6: The video game industry in Spain



Source: Spanish Video Games Association, 2019, <https://bit.ly/3sbgFDt>

Original	Traducing
El mercado español – Videojuegos mas vendidos Lanzados en 2019 En 2019	The Spanish market - Best-selling video games Launched in 2019 In 2019.

Within eSports, major international tournaments are being held, generating big stars, new eSports-specific clubs or franchises, as well as their own club



associations (ACE) and eSports are increasing in audience-reach and value for sponsors.

FIFA Forward Programme

FIFA runs a programme to reinvest profits in developing and promoting football around the world called FIFA Forward.

The FIFA Forward Programme is designed to provide FIFA's member associations and the six confederations with comprehensive and individualised football development assistance based on three principles:

- more investment;
- more impact;
- more oversight.

The aim is to improve the way we develop and support football across the globe so that football can reach its potential in every single country, and everyone who wants to take part can do so without barriers.

Following the successful implementation of the first edition of the FIFA Forward Programme in the 2016-2018 cycle: FIFA Forward 1.0, the second edition - FIFA Forward 2.0 - is now in place from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2022.

As a result of the financial support provided by FIFA Forward 1.0, member associations have achieved excellent results, both in their day-to-day activities and in the definition of long-term strategic objectives. They have also implemented development projects tailored to their needs and aimed at the creation of football infrastructures, new competitions and the promotion and development of women's football.

More than half of FIFA's member associations, those with limited financial resources, have been able to provide adequate equipment for their national youth and women's teams and have also participated in numerous international competitions and tournaments with the help of Forward's solidarity travel and equipment funding.

On 13 June 2018, the FIFA Congress decided to significantly increase the investment in the FIFA Forward Programme for the 2019-2022 cycle, with a 20% increase in the funds to which each of the 211 member federations and the six confederations are entitled annually. (FIFA, n.d. c, <https://fifa.fans/3fybPLv>)

Due to the major impact of the COVID pandemic, FIFA expanded the remaining part of the Forward project and has also approved a specific plan to support the field, in particular



Australia and New Zealand's selection as hosts of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. In the first two phases of the plan, FIFA immediately transferred all Forward funds for operational expenses to the federations; they were then given the opportunity to convert the development funds into operational funds to alleviate the crisis caused by the emerging coronavirus. At least 50% of the transferred funds were to be invested in women's football. For more information on this project, visit the following website: <https://www.fifa.com/es/media-releases/el-consejo-de-la-fifa-aprueba-por-unanimidad-el-plan-de-apoyo-covid-19>

2.1.3. FIFA's governance structure

FIFA Council and standing committees

FIFA has nine standing committees with different areas of responsibility that report to the FIFA Council. They are structured by the FIFA Governance Regulations and are as follows:

- Referees Committee
- Member Associations Committee
- Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee
- Medical Committee
- Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions
- Development Committee
- Finance Committee
- Football Stakeholders Committee
- Players' Status Committee

Audit and Compliance Committee

There are independent committees such as the Audit and Compliance Committee, which includes a Compensation Sub-Committee, responsible for ensuring maximum transparency in the association's processes. This committee "... ensures the integrity and reliability of the financial accounting and reviews the financial statements, the consolidated financial statement and the report of the external auditors" (FIFA, n.d. b,



<https://fifa.fans/3fyVx51>). To learn more, visit the following website: <https://resources.fifa.com/image/upload/reglamento-sobre-el-estatuto-y-la-transferencia-de-jugadores-junio-2019.pdf?cloudid=o5g4zec5mrcndsl8h3ip>.

Judicial Bodies

For its part, FIFA has a separate judicial bodies division, which includes the Appeal, Disciplinary and Ethics Committees, which are the rest of FIFA's independent committees. The three judicial bodies are to be composed in such a way that the members are independent and have the knowledge, abilities and specialist experience that is necessary for the due completion of their tasks. The independence criteria are defined by the FIFA Governance Regulations and the members of the committees are elected by the FIFA Congress to terms lasting four years, for a maximum of three terms. To fill these roles, specific knowledge and experience in the field of sport governance are required.

The Players' Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber

The Players' Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber are FIFA's decision-making bodies that deal with contractual and regulatory disputes between member associations, clubs, officials, players, intermediaries and licensed match agents. The Players' Status Committee establishes and monitors compliance with the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. It is also responsible for determining the professional status of players in the various FIFA competitions. The Dispute Resolution Chamber provides mediation and dispute resolution services on the basis of equal representation of players and clubs with an independent chairman. (FIFA, n.d. b, <https://fifa.fans/3lzASBu>).

To learn more about FIFA's committees, visit the following website:

<https://www.fifa.com/es/about-fifa/organisation/committees>

2.1.4. Other international bodies

Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

According to article 57 of the FIFA Statutes, FIFA recognises the independent Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) with headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland) to resolve disputes between FIFA, member associations, confederations, leagues, clubs, players, officials, intermediaries and licensed match agents.

The provisions of the CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration apply to the proceedings. CAS primarily applies the various regulations of FIFA and, additionally, Swiss law. (FIFA, n.d. e, <https://fifa.fans/3fvg9ef>).

To learn more, visit the Court of Arbitration for Sport website: <https://es.fifa.com/who-we-are/legal/court-of-arbitration-for-sport/> [PX1]

Fédération Internationale des Associations de Footballeurs Professionnels (FIFPro)

FIFPro is an international football players' organisation with 40 national associations and some 38,000 members. Its main objective is to protect the rights and interests of professional football players in relation to federations, clubs, sponsors and other players in the professional field. (Misiones Online, 2021, <https://bit.ly/37jH8Fi>).

To learn more, visit the FIFPro official website: <https://www.fifpro.org/es/> [PX2]

International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS)

"The IFFHS is a private organisation that is responsible for the chronological, statistical and scientific documentation of football worldwide and for determining world records in all areas of the sport in accordance with FIFA principles" (EcuRed, n.d., <https://bit.ly/3Ab3Yve>).

To learn more, visit the IFFHS official website: <https://www.iffhs.com/> [PX3]

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

The IOC (International Olympic Committee) is the body responsible for the management of the Olympic Games, all activities related to the Olympic Movement and for maintaining the spirit of the Olympic Games of Antiquity. The Olympic Games include many sport disciplines in addition to football and it is the top international competition for most of the sports it represents. There are variants such as the Winter Olympic Games, the Youth Olympic Games (Louth Olympic Games). There are also the Paralympic Games organised for athletes with a disability, which are managed by their own committee, the International Paralympic Committee.

The Committee is also structured around national Olympic federations, athletes' commissions, among others.

In addition, the designation of a country as an Olympic venue requires the necessary infrastructure and has a tremendous impact on the local economy as with the Football World Cup.



Figure 7: International Olympic Committee



Source: COI website screenshot (www.olympics.com).

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) leads global policies and initiatives for doping-free sport.

Protecting the physical strength and mental health of football players, upholding and safeguarding ethical behaviour in sport and ensuring that all competitors are on an equal footing is a priority for FIFA. For this reason, FIFA, as well as the national federations and confederations, cooperates with WADA, the World Anti-Doping Agency, and various national anti-doping bodies to effectively combat doping.

FIFA has established anti-doping regulations based on the WADA Code, the most comprehensive anti-doping regulation, and has a network of professionals and doping control officers around the world who carry out in-competition and out-of-competition doping controls. (FIFA, n.d. a, <https://fifa.fans/3fyRkhw>).

To learn more, visit the following website: <https://es.fifa.com/who-we-are/legal/anti-doping/>

2.1.5. International Federations of sports other than football

All the above-mentioned bodies and organisations make up the structure of football.











In relation to other sports, there is a counterpart to FIFA, such as FIBA (International Basketball Federation) in the case of basketball. This is the organisation that manages basketball on a global level; it was founded in 1932 by 8 countries and currently has a total



of 212 members. Its mission is the development and promotion of basketball, a sport played and followed by millions of people around the globe. It is responsible for regulating the rules of basketball and organising the international tournaments, the FIBA Basketball World Cup, the FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup and participation in the Olympic basketball tournaments, jointly with the IOC. It is based in Switzerland and has federations on every continent. However, each sport has its own complexities and differences, and therefore there are variations from sport to sport.

Figure 8: List of international Olympic sports federations by number of followers on social networks











Most followed International Sports Federation on social media OLYMPIC IFS

Rank	Federation	Followers
1	 FIFA	37'758'132
2	 FIBA	12'233'101
3	 FIVB	5'431'537
4	 World Rugby	5'129'043
5	 World Athletics	4'038'496
6	 UCI UNION CYCLISTE INTERNATIONALE	3'264'180
7	 BWF BADMINTON WORLD FEDERATION	3'109'672
8	 FIH	1'898'727
9	 FEI	1'825'746
10	 International Judo Federation	1'708'196

Data Captured Source 01.01.2021 Sum of each federation's followers on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, TikTok and Youtube.

Source: screenshot of The Hockey Paper (<https://bit.ly/3CvSzYW>).

Figure 9: List of international non-Olympic sports federations by number of followers on social networks

Rank	Federation	Account Name/Username	Followers
1		International Cricket Council @ICC	59'048'874
2		International Teqball Federation @Teqball	3'793'708
3		International Cheer Union @ICUcheer	3'432'398
4		International Automobile Federation @FIA	2'043'398
5		International Powerlifting Federation @IPF	818'158
6		International Body Builder Federation @IFBB_OFFICIAL	562'789
7		International Motorcycling Federation @FIM_live	288'258
8		World Chess Federation @FIDE_chess	273'958
9		World Muaythai Federation @IFMA_Muaythai	241'350
10		World Dance Sport Federation @DanceSportTotal	225'409

Data Captured Source

01.01.2021
Sum of each federation's followers on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, TikTok and Youtube.

Source: screenshot of Olympics (<https://olympics.com/ioc/international-federations>).

2.2. National governance

In the previous section, we discussed the international governance of football, especially the case of FIFA as the main governing body at the global level. In this section, we will look at how football governance is structured at the continental level, that is, how the continental confederations and the associations of federations of each country that make up the continental confederation are hierarchically organised. An example of governance at national level will also be mentioned.

Confederations

At the hierarchical level, FIFA is the main body, then there are the confederations at the continental level, and finally, within each confederation, the federations are grouped by country.

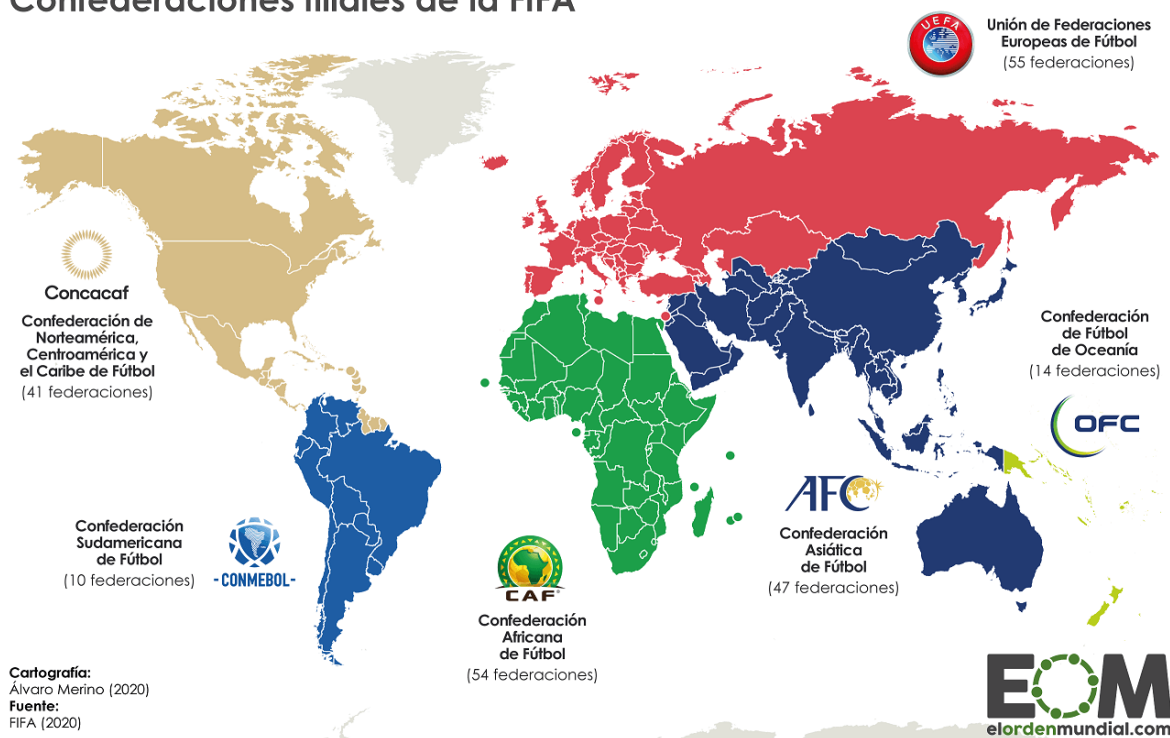
At continental level there are six confederations:

- South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL);
- Union of European Football Associations (UEFA);
- Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF);
- Asian Football Confederation (AFC);
- Confederation of African Football (CAF);
- Oceania Football Confederation (OFC).

Figure 10: Professional football organization

La organización del fútbol profesional

Confederaciones filiales de la FIFA



Source: screenshot of El Orden Mundial (<https://bit.ly/3fM88IE>).

Original	Traducing
La organización del fútbol profesional	Professional football organization
Confederaciones filiales de la FIFA	FIFA affiliated confederations
Unión de Federaciones Europeas de Fútbol	Union of European Football Associations
Confederación de Fútbol de Oceanía	Oceania Football Confederation
Confederación Asiática de Fútbol	Asian Football Confederation
Confederación Africana de Fútbol	Confederation of African Football
Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol	South American Football Confederation
Confederación de Norteamérica, Centroamérica y el Caribe de Fútbol	Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Football Associations
Federaciones	Federations

While there is a geographical delineation separating each continent and its corresponding confederation, it is important to note that these do not overlap in all cases. Specifically, there are exceptions where countries are located in confederations that belong to a different continent. Below, each confederation is listed in detail and the exceptions covered in each case are shown.

2.2.1. South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL)

Origin

CONMEBOL was founded on 9 July 1916 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The federation behind its origin was the Argentine Football Association (AFA), which was founded in 1893 and is the oldest in America. Brazil, Chile and Uruguay joined Argentina in founding CONMEBOL. Subsequently, the rest of the countries that make up CONMEBOL joined: Paraguay, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela. Its headquarters are in Luque, Paraguay.

Members and structure

CONMEBOL is one of the confederations with the fewest members. Among its members (10 in total) there are:



- Argentine Football Association (AFA);
- Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF);
- Chilean Football Federation (FFCh);
- Ecuadorian Football Federation (FEF);
- Uruguayan Football Association (AUF);
- Paraguayan Football Association (APF);
- Peruvian Football Federation (FPF);
- Bolivian Football Federation (FBF);
- Venezuelan Football Federation (CVF);
- Colombian Football Association (FCF).

Exceptions

The exceptions to this list are Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana, which, although territorially part of South America, joined the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF).

Level/impact

Compared to other confederations, the federations that make up CONMEBOL are considered, despite their scarcity, to be game-level giants. In fact, CONMEBOL has won 9 of the 21 World Cups that have taken place so far. Brazil has been the most successful with five victories, Argentina and Uruguay have won it twice. It has also won several titles in the Under 20 and Under 17 categories, as well as in other modalities of football, such as futsal and beach soccer. The teams that make up this confederation have won the FIFA Club World Cup on four occasions.

It should be noted that football is the leading sport in most of the countries that make up CONMEBOL. It is also noteworthy that Uruguay hosted the first World Cup and, subsequently, World Cups have been held in Brazil, Chile and Argentina. There is a limited number of teams (determined by FIFA) that can participate in the World Cup on behalf of the confederation of which they are a member. This confederation has four or five quotas.



Confederation governance

At the governance level, the founding associations that make up this confederation are on an equal footing and make up the Confederation's Executive Committee. The Congress is CONMEBOL's highest authority and meets every two years to consider the annual report and balance sheet for the past financial year, the expenditure and resources budget for the following financial year, matters put forward by the Executive Committee on the agenda, the report of the Finance Committee and the report of the Confederation's representatives to FIFA.

Each association is entitled to one vote at the Congress, but may be represented by up to three delegates. The Congress is chaired by the Confederation President. The members of the Executive Committee do not have a vote at the Congress, but are ex officio members, as are the representatives to FIFA, and may integrate the committees and take part in discussions.

There are also the Finance Committee, the Supplementary and Audit Committee, the Theory Supplementary Committee, the Governance and Transparency Committee, the Compliance Committee and the whole structure that underlies its competitions operation.

For more information on this confederation, you can visit the official website: www.conmebol.com

2.2.2 Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

Origin

UEFA was founded in Basel (Switzerland) in 1954, and its headquarters are now located in Nyon. This confederation is quite extensive, with fifty-five member associations, including the countries that were part of its foundation: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Members and structure

At present, UEFA is made up of 55 members, which can be viewed at the following link: <https://es.uefa.com/insideuefa/member-associations/>

Exceptions

Whilst this confederation brings together European associations, there are a few exceptions:



- Monaco and the Vatican, which are not part of UEFA.
- The four constituent countries of the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) participate separately.
- There are also countries that are geographically located in Asia, such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Israel, Cyprus, Turkey, Russia and even Kazakhstan.
- Since 2016, Kosovo (a new, partially recognised state), the Faroe Islands archipelago (independent from Denmark) and Gibraltar are also part of this confederation.

Level/impact

It is one of the strongest confederations in the world; in fact, it has the largest number of quotas in the World Cup (up to 13 teams).

Most of the world's major leagues are represented in this confederation, including the five major European leagues, whose earnings account for 75% of the total of the top European divisions. These are the Spanish La Liga, the English Premier League, the Italian Calcio, the German Bundesliga and the French Ligue 1. There are other leagues with strong teams, such as Ajax in the Dutch Eredivisie or Porto in the Portuguese Primeira Liga, which have both been European Champions on occasion.

Confederation governance

UEFA is responsible for overseeing the various changes of associations in Europe, for activities that promote the development of football through regulations and the media, and for financial management.

UEFA's highest governing body is the Executive Committee, chaired by the President. In addition, there are sixteen members elected by the Congress, two members elected by the European Club Association (ECA) and one member elected as a representative of the European Leagues. They all have the same rights and duties as the rest of the Executive Committee when voting. There is also a wide range of UEFA standing committees. Among the most important being the National Associations Committee, the Finance Committee and the National Team Competitions Committee.

The full list of standing committees is as follows:

- *National Associations Committee;*
- *Finance Committee;*



- *Referees Committee;*
- *National Team Competitions Committee;*
- *Club Competitions Committee;*
- *Youth and Amateur Football Committee;*
- *Women's Football Committee;*
- *Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee;*
- *HatTrick Committee;*
- *Development and Technical Assistance Committee;*
- *Club Licensing Committee;*
- *Stadium and Security Committee;*
- *Medical Committee;*
- *Players' Status, Transfer and Agents and Match Agents Committee;*
- *Legal Committee;*
- *Marketing Advisory Committee;*
- *Media Committee;*
- *Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee;*
- *Football Committee.*

For more information on UEFA's committees, visit the following website:
<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/about-uefa/>

ECA

The European Club Association is an individual and independent body that directly represents clubs and aims to defend their interests as a whole before UEFA. Among its founding principles was the intention of some clubs to protect themselves against the UEFA and FIFA provisions regarding the compulsory transfer of players to national teams. As some teams were more disadvantaged than others by the high number of eligible players they possessed, a protectionist policy was established. This policy was based on financial compensation for clubs in the event that players were injured during this period



or that their call-up made it impossible for them to participate in any matches for their club, which is, after all, the institution that supports the player.

The ECA was established in 2008 and is the only club representative body recognised by UEFA, to which its member clubs also belong. It is composed of at least one club representative from each of the national associations. This representative is appointed on the basis of various criteria and is legitimised by the other members. Subsequently, membership was extended to more clubs in order to widen the voices in any collective negotiations.

The main teams that were initially part of the ECA were FC Barcelona, Real Madrid, Juventus, AC Milan, Inter, Liverpool, Manchester United, Bayern Munich, Borussia, Paris Saint-Germain, Olympique de Marseille, Ajax, Porto. These were the top leagues of the countries most affected by their national teams. The list of members has been updated since its foundation as negotiations have taken place.

For more information about the ECA, please visit the association's official website: <https://www.ecaeurope.com/>

2.2.3. Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF)

Origin

Its acronym, CONCACAF, stands for the English name: Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football. This confederation was founded in Mexico City on 18 September 1961 from the merger of the North American Football Confederation (NAFC) and the Confederation of Central American and Caribbean Football (CCCF). It was a union in terms of teams and clubs, as well as the organisation and participation in tournaments and competitions. The current headquarters are located in Miami (USA).

For more information on the origin and history of this confederation, please visit the following site: <https://www.concacaf.com/es/quienes-somos/historia/>

Members and structure

There are 41 national football associations that belong to CONCACAF and are distributed in subsidiary federations. "All sovereign nations in North and Central America and the Caribbean are affiliates of CONCACAF, as well as numerous dependent territories" (CIBAO, n.d., <https://bit.ly/3lyA4wN>).



Exceptions

However, among the member federations, there are exceptions such as countries in South America, like French Guiana, Suriname and Guyana. For a complete list of member federations, please visit the following site: <https://www.concacaf.com/es/quienes-somos/asociaciones-miembro/>

Level/impact

Football in this confederation, especially in Mexico and the United States, is growing exponentially and is set to become one of the world's leading federations. It has a quota of three to four teams to represent it in the World Cup.

Confederation governance

The confederation is governed by the CONCACAF Council. According to the statutes, the CONCACAF Council is the supreme body of the organisation and has up to 15 members, including the president, three vice-presidents, three association members, three independent members, four CONCACAF representatives to the FIFA Council and one specifically appointed female member. The General Secretary, as chief executive officer of CONCACAF, is appointed by the CONCACAF Council.

The confederation also comprises a number of standing committees and judicial bodies.

2.2.4. Asian Football Confederation (AFC)

Origin

The Asian Football Confederation was created in 1954 in Manila from a merger of several Asian countries, including Afghanistan, Myanmar, China, Hong Kong (at the time), Iran, India, Israel (which was part of this confederation), Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam. It is currently based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Members and structure

It is one of the confederations that covers the largest territory, in fact, it is currently made up of 47 federations. Most of its member associations are affiliated to FIFA. It has 4 to 5 quotas to participate in the World Cup.

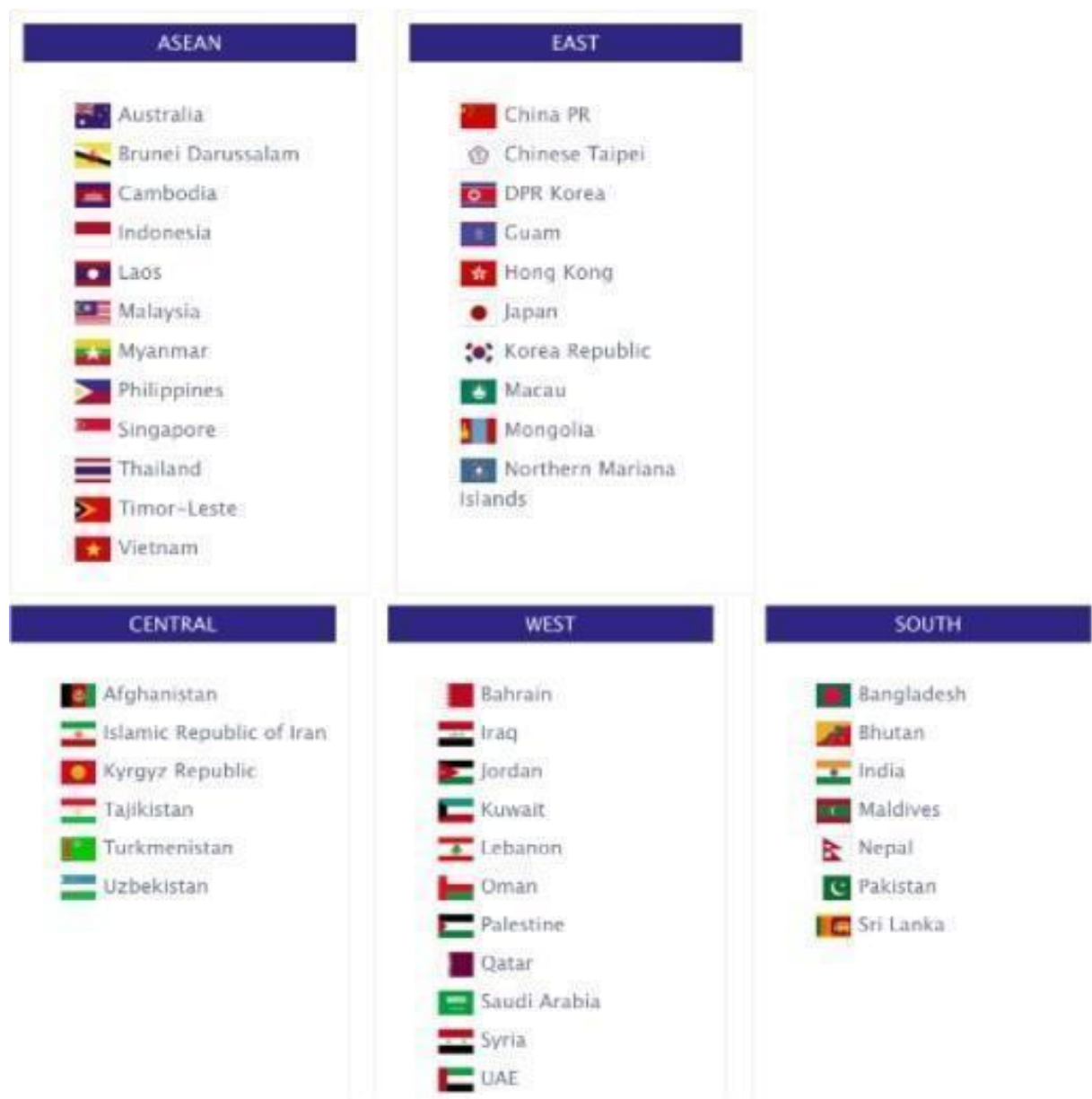


Due to the size and scope of this confederation, the member associations are organised into five zones: East, South, Asean, West and Central. Here are some examples of the most important federations in each zone:

- Asean: 12 countries, including Australia, Vietnam and Singapore.
- East: 10 countries, including China, Japan and Korea.
- Central: 6 countries, including Iran, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.
- West: 12 countries, including Lebanon, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.
- South: 7 countries, including India, Nepal and Pakistan.



Figure 11: Organization of the AFC by zones



Source: screenshot of *The Asian Football Confederation* website (<https://bit.ly/3s24cSq>).

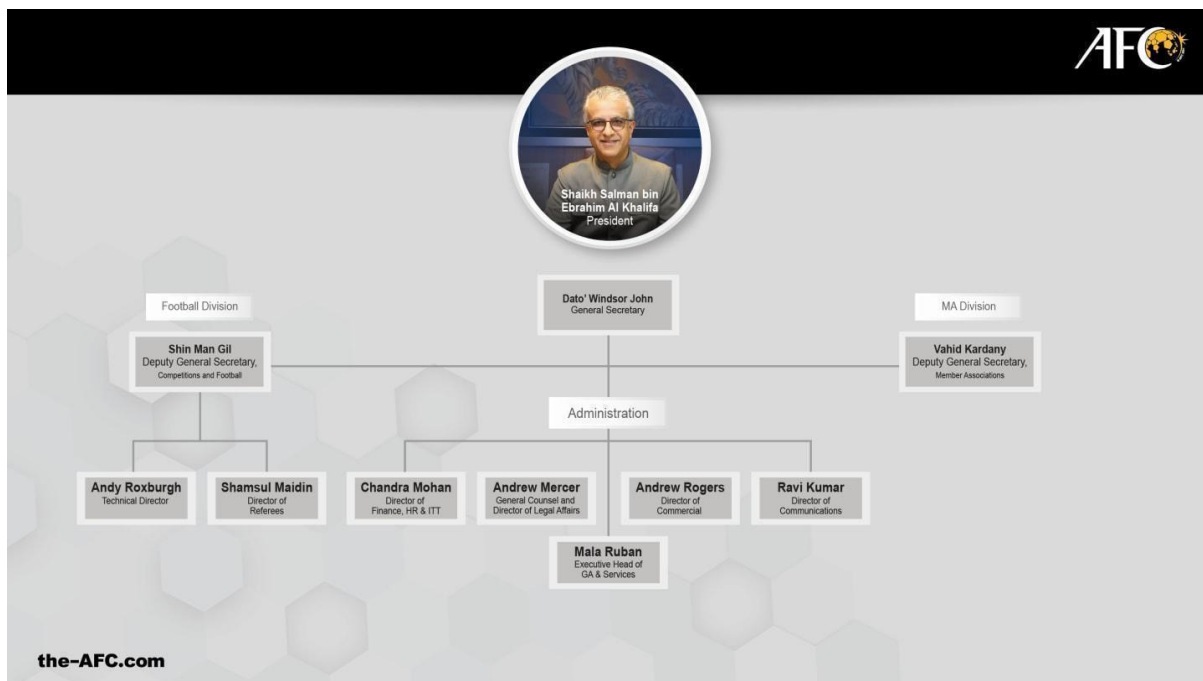
Exceptions

Some countries that are geographically located in Oceania are part of the Asian Confederation for level of play reasons. A clear example is Australia. On the other hand, there are also countries that are mostly from the Asian region, but are part of UEFA due to sports and economic interests. These are: Cyprus, Israel, Kazakhstan, Turkey, among others.



Confederation governance

Figure 12: ACF governance



Source: screenshot of *The Asian Football Confederation* website (<https://bit.ly/3CqSSnT>).

In relation to the governance structure, the restructuring of the AFC administration has recently been approved in order to ensure a stronger and more stable position for Asian football. To help prepare for the next phase of growth and services, the AFC Administration has been restructured as follows: Competitions and Football Management, and Member Association Management, respectively, to reflect and execute AFC's two main business streams.

- **Football (Competitions & Football):** it leads the organisation of AFC's world-class national teams, futsal, club and women's competitions and events. It now oversees the Technical Division, the Referees Department and the operational and commercial aspects.
- **Member Associations:** it oversees the Development Department, the Member Association Governance Department, the Regional Association Governance Department and the Social Responsibility Department.

In addition, there are the operational support departments for all confederation activity.

For more information on the governance structure, see the following site: <https://www.the-afc.com/>

2.2.5. Confederation of African Football (CAF)

Origin

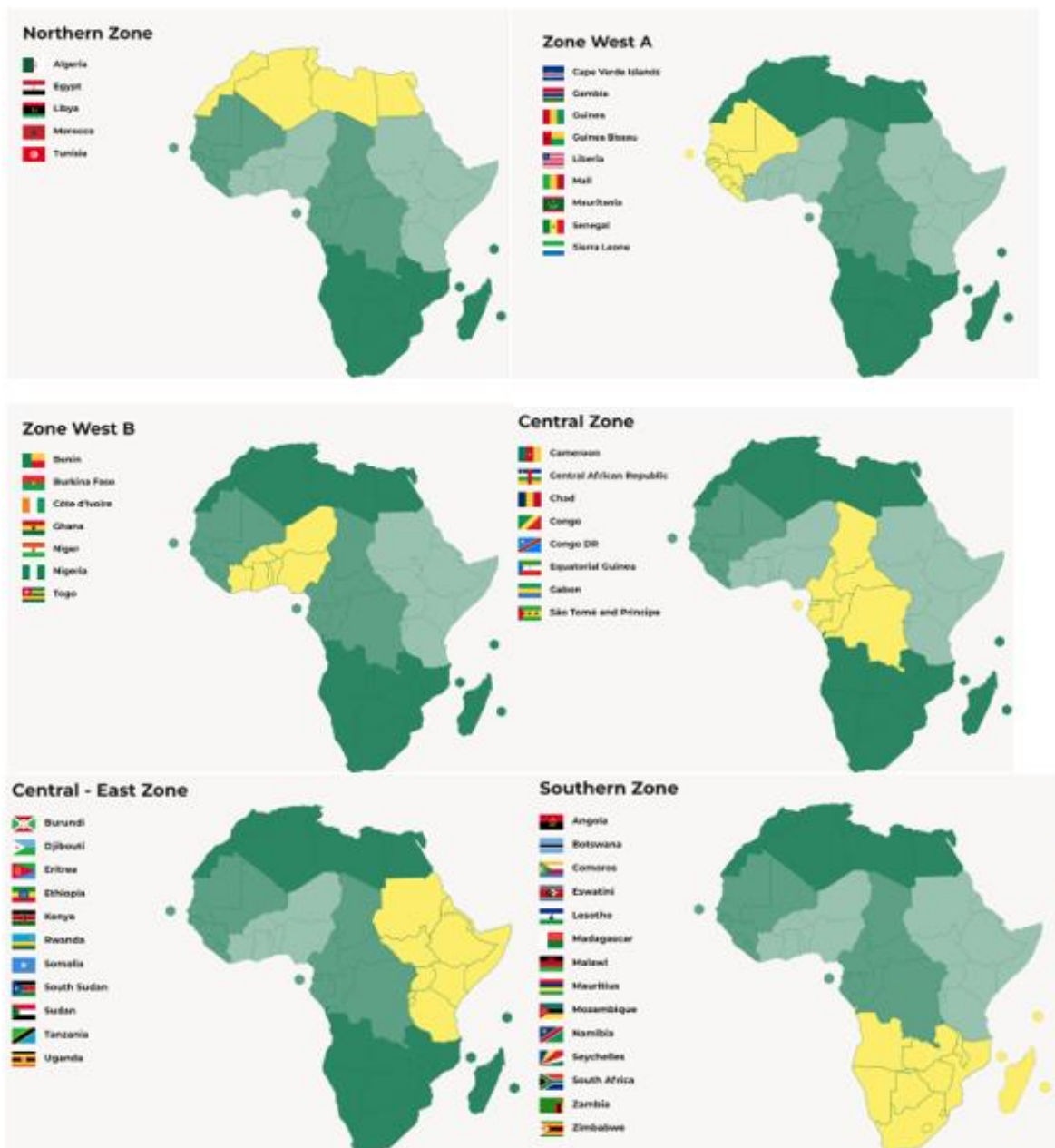
CAF's origins date back to 1954, when the FIFA congress voted to recognise Africa as a confederation. Then, in 1956, the confederation's foundation was agreed and it was in 1957 that it was finally formed by the founding associations of Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia and South Africa. The foundation took place in Sudan, where the first African Cup of Nations was held and won by Egypt. Its current headquarters are located in the city of Sixth of October, on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt.

Members and structure

CAF is another confederation which represents a great number of states. It is made up of 54 federations and has 5 quotas for the World Cup. Due to its large size, this confederation is also subdivided into regions. Specifically, it is divided into six geographical zones: north, west A, west B, central, central-east, and south.



Figure 13: Organization of the CAF by zones



Source: CAF website screenshot (<https://bit.ly/3xzrtMH>).

Exceptions

Both French Reunion Island and Zanzibar are excluded from the CAF, which means that their teams do not participate in the African Cup of Nations nor in the World Cup qualifiers.

Confederation governance

Its governance structure is organised in an executive committee composed of a president, five vice-presidents, 16 members and a secretary general.

2.2.6. Oceania Football Confederation (OFC)

Origin

The Oceania Football Confederation was created in 1966, bringing together Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea and the Fiji Islands. Over time, more countries joined the OFC. In this period, from its foundation until 1986, the OFC was organised jointly with the Asian Confederation. At that time, in terms of representation, Australia and New Zealand made it to the World Cup qualifiers (New Zealand in South Africa 2010). Its headquarters are located in Auckland (New Zealand).

Members and structure

The 11 federations that make up the Oceania Football Federation are: Fiji Islands, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, American Samoa, Tahiti, Tonga and Vanuatu. The World Cup quota is very small, from one to none. Of these 11 members, there are two (Palau and Niue) that are not associated to FIFA, but do participate in FIFA tournaments.

Figure 14: OFC Members



Source: screenshot of the *Oceania Football Confederation website* (<https://bit.ly/2U2wlfA>).

Exceptions

In terms of territorial exceptions, Australia left the confederation in 2006 to join the Asian Confederation. Israel and China temporarily joined the confederation after belonging to the AFC, although Israel eventually joined UEFA and China joined the AFC.

Confederation governance

The confederation's governance structure consists of the President, the Executive Committee, the Congress/Assembly, the Secretary General and the Council of Representatives to FIFA (FIFA Council).

2.2.7. Football Governance in Spain



The information provided in this module relates to the six world football confederations. As shown, these vary in size, with some having as few as ten or eleven member federations and others, as many as fifty or more. These national federations represent the clubs and determine their participation in competitions. There are differences in all countries, but we will look at the case of Spain as an example.

The Spanish federation

In the case of Spain, the national football organisation is the Spanish Federation, which is responsible for representing the country at international and national level and overseeing the development of competitions.

Governance structure and model

General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest governing and representative body of the RFEF, and is made up of 140 members, 20 of which are pre-established (president and representation of the country's 19 territorial federations) and 120 are elected, representing each category: clubs, football players/coaches, referees and coaches. (Royal Spanish Football Federation, n.d., <https://bit.ly/2WNICXp>).

The members of the federations, in this case, are elected every four years, usually at the same time as the Summer Olympic Games. They are elected by suffrage and each federation's president is chosen from among the members of the team.

Delegate Commission

There is a Delegate Commission of the General Assembly. Its main function is to define the sports calendar, the budgets and the amendment and approval of regulations at national and local level. It is made up of 12 members. One third of them correspond to the presidents of the associations at regional level (regions); another third represents the clubs directly; and the other third, the rest of the bodies, which would be, in this case, referees, players and coaches.

President and Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Spanish Federation is the body that supplements the governmental and representative tasks by actually managing the federation. Its main functions include supervising the development of national or international competitions and, if applicable, the appointment of the national team coach or the coaching staff, as well as the venues for matches or the rewards for the players who participate in these events.



Committees

The Federation also defines the rules of participation and has a committee structure. The main ones are: the Competitions Committee, the Coaches Committee, the Referees Committee, the Sports Disciplinary Committee and the Women's Committee, among others.

Regional federations

Although the Spanish Federation governs at state level, within Spain there are 19 regions that make up the network of regional federations, such as Madrid, Catalonia and Valencia.

Figure 15: Regional federations network in Spain



Source: screenshot from the Royal Spanish Football Federation (<https://bit.ly/3CHziE2>).

Original	Traducing
Federaciones territoriales	Regional federations

These federations belong to the Spanish Federation which, in turn, is part of UEFA and, therefore, of FIFA.

Higher Sports Council (CSD)

The federations are not the only official bodies that regulate sports matters. Within the country's national government itself, there is the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, which delegates to the Higher Sports Council (CSD) the exercise and legislation of sports affairs and, in addition, appoints a representative of the CSD with the rank of Secretary of State (Law 10/90 on Sport and Royal Decree 460/2015 dated 5 June). The council is in charge of authorising or revoking the constitution, statutes and regulations of Spanish sports federations, among other aspects regarding the legislation and operation of the sports modality.

Its governance structure is as follows:

- Presidency and Executive Committee;
- The Sport General Assembly;
- The High Level Sport Evaluation Commission;
- The Spanish University Sport Committee;
- The Inter-territorial Conference for Sport;
- The Governing Council of the Spanish Agency for Health Protection in Sport.

At the public administration level, there are other agents involved in the local management of sport. In Catalonia, for example, there is the regional government, the *Generalitat de Catalunya*, which has the *Conselleria de Deporte* (Department of Sport). At the municipal level, Barcelona City Council has the *Institut Barcelona Esports* (Barcelona Sports Institute) and the *Consejo Municipal de Deporte* (Municipal Sports Council), which are dedicated to the local management of sport.

Spanish Football Players Association (AFE)

The Spanish Football Players' Association (AFE) is made up of independent unions that have their own representation and international projection. The Spanish AFE stems from the same founders as the Professional Coaches Association, where there are several bodies that define the rules of the game and negotiate with each of the parties.

For more information about this association, please visit the following website: <https://www.afe-futbol.com/>

3. Conclusions

Sport in general, and football in particular, have representation at all levels. As mentioned, the main governing body of football at world level is FIFA. Beneath it there are the 6 continental confederations. In turn, within each confederation and in a hierarchical manner, there are the football federations of each country and the rest of the agents and bodies that manage the sport at regional level (both professional and amateur), representing agents, grouping clubs, footballers, referees, coaches and all the associations that defend local interests.



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