



Football Supporters Europe e.V.
c/o Jugend und Sport e.V.,
Bernstorffstraße 172,
22767 Hamburg
Germany

Mr Gianni Infantino

President

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

CC:

- Mrs. Heba Hagrass, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
- FIFA World Cup 2026 Accessibility Advisory Board members

16 December 2025

- by email -

Subject: FIFA World Cup 2026 — Ticket Pricing and Companion Charges Will Exclude Supporters with Disabilities

Mr. FIFA President,

We write to you on behalf of the *Disability & Inclusion Fan Network* of Football Supporters Europe, representing hundreds of football supporters with disabilities and allies across Europe, who are deeply committed to the values of inclusion, dignity, and equal access in the global game.

We are profoundly concerned by the ticket pricing structure announced for the FIFA World Cup 2026, particularly as it disadvantages us fans with disabilities. The cost of tickets is, simply put, prohibitively expensive.

People with disabilities across the world often face additional, unavoidable costs related to disability, including accessible transport, accommodation, equipment, and personal assistance. Extreme ticket prices therefore create a significant barrier to participation in what is meant to be a global celebration of football. This systematic barrier is further compounded by the structure of the accessibility ticket pricing itself. Accessibility Tickets do not appear to be available to national team fans (PMA allocation) in the lowest-priced Category 4, but only within Categories 1-3. As a result, fans with disabilities are required to pay between approximately 140 USD and 450 USD for the cheapest available Group Stage games, while most Group Stage games will be even more expensive. The cheapest Accessibility Ticket for the final is 4185 USD. This is totally unprecedented. In major international tournaments, wheelchair and accessible seating is typically priced in the lowest category, or at a reduced rate, in recognition of the additional barriers and costs faced by supporters with disabilities. By comparison, group-stage tickets at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 were priced at 10 EUR – including a free companion ticket. 4 years later, requiring fans with disabilities to pay between 12 and 38 times more to attend a World Cup match directly contradicts FIFA's claim that the 2026 tournament will be “a groundbreaking event that sets new standards in diversity and inclusion.”

Compounding this, expecting fans with disabilities to purchase these tickets without any published information on stadium accessibility or hosting conditions is unacceptable. This absence of information acts as a barrier in itself and undermines any claim of equal access to the event.

Our concern is heightened by FIFA's incomprehensible decision to charge companions for the first time in the history of the World Cup. As the United Nations has set out, one best practice for working on disability rights to ensure non-discrimination is *"nothing about us, without us"*. So, we are perplexed at how FIFA has arrived at changed rules and exorbitant ticket pricing without consulting those of us who are FIFA stakeholders and live with disabilities.

FIFA's decision comes in the context of what Football Supporters Europe have already described as *"historically high World Cup ticket prices"*, which risk turning the tournament into an event accessible only to a privileged few. Such pricing contradicts the longstanding principle that football's largest competition should be open, affordable, and universally accessible. For many supporters with disabilities, attending a match without a companion is not a choice but an impossibility. Companions are not optional extras or premium services; they are a reasonable adjustment that enables fans with disabilities to access the stadium safely and with dignity.

Charging for companions effectively doubles the cost of attendance and risks excluding a large section of supporters with disabilities from the World Cup entirely. It is, in reality, an unfair tax that FIFA is imposing on people with disabilities, leaving them with only two options: pay twice the amount or stay at home.

An additional concerning development is that Accessibility Tickets can be resold on FIFA's official resale platform without any price cap. This creates a significant risk of misuse and financial exploitation. Under the current system, third parties, without needing to demonstrate eligibility at the point of purchase, may acquire Accessibility Tickets that are already financially out of reach for many supporters with disabilities and offer them for resale at substantially increased prices. These tickets are already appearing on FIFA's resale platform at prices exceeding six times their original face value. This situation undermines the purpose of Accessibility Tickets and risks further excluding supporters with disabilities from access to the tournament. We urge FIFA to address this issue as a matter of priority.

At your press conference in Doha in 2022, you stated: *"Today I feel disabled."* This sentiment is evidently not aligned with FIFA's current World Cup 2026 pricing policy. True inclusion is not symbolic or mere words: it requires action that recognises structural disadvantage and removes barriers rather than reinforcing them.

FIFA has repeatedly committed itself to respecting and promoting human rights, inclusion, and accessibility. As outlined in Article 3 of the FIFA Statutes: *"FIFA is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights."*

Article 4 of the same Statutes makes clear that *"discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of (...) disability (...) is strictly prohibited."* In FIFA's [Human Rights Policy](#), it is explicitly mentioned that *"where FIFA may have adverse impacts on the human rights of people belonging to specific groups or populations that require special attention, it will also consider other international standards (...) in particular those standards concerning (...) disabled people."* The current pricing structure for 2026 is in total contradiction with these commitments. It will only lead to further exclusion and ostracisation of fans with disabilities, failing to deliver FIFA's motto to *"unite the world."*

This approach is also difficult to reconcile with international human rights standards. Under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which FIFA has repeatedly aligned, States and Parties must ensure that persons with disabilities *"have access to sporting, recreational and tourism"*

venues” (Article 30). Central to the UNCRPD is the principle of reasonable accommodation, defined as the necessary and appropriate modifications that ensure people with disabilities can enjoy rights and freedoms on an equal basis.

Providing affordable ticket prices and free companion tickets is a clear and proportionate form of reasonable accommodation. Failing to do so is placing supporters with disabilities at a systemic disadvantage and undermines FIFA’s stated commitment to anti-discrimination, equal treatment and accessibility. FIFA’s human rights responsibilities and the UNCRPD both emphasize equal access to cultural and sporting life. Ensuring affordable tickets for supporters with disabilities and providing free companion tickets are practical, meaningful ways to uphold these commitments.

Supporters’ organisations across Europe have already called for an immediate halt to ticket sales under the current pricing model, warning that proceeding without meaningful revision of the prices structure will lead to exclusion and undermine the universal nature of the World Cup.

We share these concerns and believe that pausing and reviewing the ticketing strategy is the only acceptable response to the concerns expressed by fans across the globe. It will be impossible for the overwhelming majority of fans with disabilities to afford to follow their team from the first group match to the final, should they make it, for a minimum of 6,900 USD.

We therefore respectfully urge FIFA to:

- Review and substantially reduce the price of the tickets allocated to supporters with disabilities;
- Impose a strict cap on the resale of Accessibility Tickets on FIFA’s platform so that they cannot be offered above face value;
- Reconsider the decision to charge for companion tickets and reinstate them as free of charge; and
- Engage directly with supporters’ representatives with disabilities to ensure ticketing policies are fair, inclusive, and aligned with lived experience.

This request must be understood in light of the socioeconomic reality faced by many people with disabilities across the world. We are disproportionately affected by additional financial burden related to our accessibility needs. When ticket prices are set at historically high levels, and when companions are required to pay for access that is essential rather than optional, the result is de facto exclusion.

We would welcome the opportunity for dialogue and look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,

Disability & Inclusion Fan Network of Football Supporters Europe

Rick Clement (England)

Jane McDermott (Ireland)

Simon Scheidegger (Switzerland)

Piotr Czarnota (Poland)

Rebecca Collis (England)

Kieran Jones (Wales)

Jasna Nikolovska (North Macedonia)

Al Rayment (England)