

ICE won't be at World Cup games, Miami committee chair says

Field Level Media

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will not be seen at World Cup matches this summer, according to the co-chair of the Miami host committee.

Rodney Barreto told The Athletic on Thursday that he received reassurances from Secretary of State Marco Rubio that ICE would steer clear of the world soccer showcase.

"ICE is not going to be at the stadium," Barreto told The Athletic. "This is not going to turn into some 'round them up' type of thing. That's not the purpose of this."

"It'll be a great experience for everybody. I think that we're lucky that we do have a president who loves sports and has given us the resources to reimburse the cities for their police protection."

Barreto added, "I spoke to Marco and, first of all, he's going to make sure that the passports get processed and people can get here and there is an orderly process so people won't be held up. It's going to be a major undertaking by the federal government to do that. We feel very comfortable that we're going to be in good hands."

The deployment of ICE for immigration-enforcement raids has increased since Donald Trump began his second stint as president last year, igniting a significant political debate in the U.S.

South Florida's role as a World Cup host market also comes against the backdrop of scenes from the 2024 Copa America championship game, when fans stormed the gates at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla., causing a number of injuries and delaying the start of the Argentina-Colombia match.

"(The Miami World Cup organizing committee) took the position that we didn't want to be critical of the planners of that event," Barreto told The Athletic. "It wasn't our event. But now that time has passed, I would tell you that where the failure was, which was that there were no perimeter."

"People without tickets should have been nowhere near the entrance ways of that stadium. It didn't take much to over-run an entrance. But listen, you learn from all these events, and you learn to do it better and come up with different scenarios which mitigate this from happening in the future. So that's where we're at."



PATRICK SMITH/TNS

President Donald Trump, shown at the FIFA World Cup 2026 Official Draw in December, wasn't pleased to hear that tickets to the event are averaging over \$1,000 on resale markets.

Even Trump doesn't seem to like World Cup's high ticket prices

BY JONATHAN TANNENWALD
The Philadelphia Inquirer

The chorus of critics of FIFA's sky-high World Cup ticket prices has gained a surprising new member: President Donald Trump.

In an interview with the New York Post on Wednesday, Trump was told that prices for the United States' opener against Paraguay in sub-

urban Los Angeles on June 12 are averaging over \$1,000 on resale markets.

"I did not know that number," Trump said. "I would certainly like to be there, but I wouldn't pay it either, to be honest with you."

The odds are pretty good that Trump will be there - perhaps even seated next to FIFA president Gianni Infantino. But Trump certainly won't have to pay for the seat, or

any other sum that soccer fans will have to fork over this summer.

He said, too, that "I haven't seen that [news], but I would have to take a look at it."

Though Trump praised the World Cup's reported five million tickets sold as "extremely successful" and "setting every record in the book," he seemed to have a soft spot for some of the people who've been shut out.

"If people from Queens and Brooklyn and all of the people that love Donald Trump can't go, I would be disappointed, but, you know, at the same time, it's an amazing success," he said. "I would like to be able to have the people that voted for me to be able to go."

Trump gave the interview a few hours after Infantino spoke at the Milken Global Conference for big-money investors and other elites in Los Angeles.

"We are in the market in which entertainment is the most developed in the world, so we have to apply market rates," Infantino said, though as customary, he said nothing about why FIFA feels required to do it.

He also said that "you cannot go to watch in the U.S. a college game, not even speaking about a top professional game of a certain level, for less than \$300." That remark was dunked on by lots of people.

One perfect example is here in Philadelphia, where most Temple football tickets are under \$40 in the same stadium where World Cup games will be played next month.

A few days after not speaking with the media at the FIFA Congress, Infantino clearly felt much more comfortable letting loose among the Milken crowd.

"There will be hordes of barbarians invading and conquering America," he said at one point. "But happy barbarians. This is our crowd, the soccer crowd. They will invade America. They will bring joy and happiness, and an emotion that people are not used to."

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