

Six Arab federations back Infantino amid revolt over World Cup plan

BY STEVE DOUGLAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The heads of six Arab soccer federations expressed their “full support” and “confidence” in Gianni Infantino on Thursday as the embattled FIFA president fights to keep his job after his failed World Cup private investment plan.

The backing came from 2030 World Cup co-host Morocco, Qatar, Egypt, Mauritania, Lebanon and Sudan, with four of the signatories being FIFA council members.

“We, the undersigned leaders of our respective football associations, express our full support for Mr. Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA, and reaffirm our confidence in his leadership and continued commitment to the development of football worldwide,” the statement read.

“We deeply appreciate Mr. Infantino’s sustained efforts to advance football globally, expand opportunities across all regions and strengthen the game’s role in bringing people and communities together.”

The statement said the signatories “look forward to continuing our close cooperation with him towards a stronger and more prosperous future for world football, expanding opportunities and further enhancing Arab football’s contribution to the global game.”

Infantino is facing a

revolt after his plan to sell stakes in the World Cup to private equity investors. He withdrew the \$20 billion proposal after a furious backlash by global soccer officials, including European body UEFA, which has warned of a boycott of all FIFA games and events.

UEFA teamed up with CONCACAF — the confederation for North, Central America and the Caribbean — and the AFC — the confederation in Asia — and issued an open letter Monday saying Infantino’s plan was a “fundamental breach of trust” and described it as “deception.”

And on Thursday, the Football Association of Ireland said in a statement it has withdrawn its support for Infantino to be re-elected as FIFA president in March, saying “recent events have raised significant concerns regarding governance, transparency and the lack of meaningful consultation.”

The soccer federations in England and Wales did the same last week, while Northern Ireland said it was backing UEFA’s stance.

SCHISM IN ASIAN BLOC OVER INFANTINO SUPPORT

By expressing support for Infantino, Qatar and Lebanon aligned against the Asian Football Confederation. Infantino’s official Instagram account previously has posted let-

ters of support from several member federations, including Morocco, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The four FIFA council members among the signatories were Qatar Football Association president Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Egyptian Football Association president Hany Abo Rida, Moroccan Football Federation president Fouzi Lekjaa and Mauritanian Football Federation president Ahmed Yahya.

The other two were Lebanese Football Association president Hashem Haidar and Moatasm Gafar, president of the Sudan Football Association.

Infantino has been FIFA president since 2016 and seemed sure to be re-elected unopposed next year in Morocco.

FIFA has set a Nov. 18 deadline for challengers to come forward.

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All quotes should be addressed to the Vine Grove Planning Director (Ms. Jessica Irwin), Vine Grove City Hall, 300 West Main Street, Vine Grove, KY 40175. Any quotes received after the designated time will be returned unopened.

This project includes approximately 11,500 feet of roadway paving. All work and materials shall conform to current KYTC Roadway Specifications.

Detailed information regarding this project can be obtained from the Vine Grove City Engineer (Mr. Bob Woosley, P.E.) by emailing him your request at bwoosley@heritageeng.com. If you would prefer to review hard copies they are on file for public inspection at City Hall.

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Questions about this project may be addressed to Bob Woosley, P.E., Heritage Engineering at (502) 562-1412 (ext. 1233) or via email at bwoosley@heritageeng.com. All questions must be submitted no later than 5 pm on Wednesday August 26, 2026.

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