
FIFA defends Infantino amid growing leadership divisions



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FIFA has rejected any attempt to challenge President Gianni Infantino or hold a presidential election outside its established statutes and democratic procedures, as divisions over his

leadership increase ahead of his bid for a fourth term.

In a statement, FIFA said Infantino was democratically elected by its member associations and continues to serve with their mandate. The governing body said any election process must comply with its statutes and governance framework.

FIFA also said recent reports had included what it described as unsubstantiated and false claims concerning the organisation and its president. It said legitimate scrutiny was welcome but warned against presenting allegations or speculation as established facts.

The statement follows reports concerning payments made by UEFA to a former employee during Infantino's tenure as UEFA general secretary. Infantino has denied the allegations, while FIFA has rejected them as unfounded.

UEFA has said it no longer has confidence in Infantino, while Norwegian Football Federation President Lise Klaveness has called for his resignation.

However, Infantino continues to retain support from several FIFA member associations and confederations, including CAF and CONMEBOL.