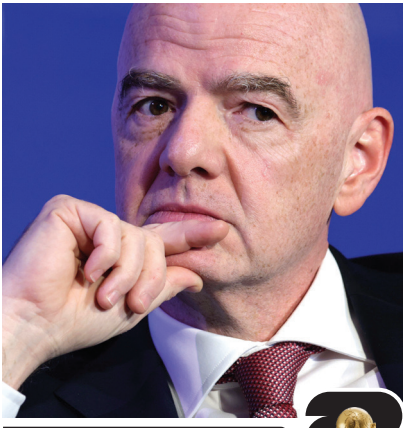
# Gianni Infantino: 10 years as FIFA president

**Under growing pressure after a series of controversial decisions, Infantino is expected to seek another term in 2027**

- **Mar 23, 1970:** ***Giovanni Vincenzo Infantino*** born in Brig, Switzerland
- **1997-2000:** General Secretary of ***International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES)***
- **2000:** Joins ***UEFA***
- **2009-16:** Serves as UEFA General Secretary – implements Financial Fair Play directives
- **2016:** Elected ***FIFA President*** following Sepp Blatter's resignation amid corruption scandal



## THE REFORMER

Pictures: Getty

- **2016:** Initiates governance reforms promising greater transparency and increased development funding. Proposes expansion of World Cup – ***FIFA*** later approves 48-team event
- **Late 2010s:** Signs cooperation agreements with world organisations, including ***UNESCO*** and ***WHO***
- **2018:** Keeps relatively low public profile during ***Russia World Cup***
- **2019:** Re-elected FIFA President

## GLOBAL EXPANSION

- **Early 2020s:** Introduces VAR across FIFA competitions. Launches expanded ***Club World Cup*** and grows ***Women's World Cup*** to 32 teams
- **2022:** ***Qatar World Cup*** marks emergence as FIFA's public face. Delivers controversial ***"Today I feel Qatari..."*** speech
- **2023:** Faces scrutiny after naming Europe, Africa and South America as 2030 co-hosts – effectively clearing path for ***Saudi Arabia 2034.*** Re-elected unopposed for third term

## GROWING BACKLASH

- **2024:** Receives 33% salary increase to 2.6m Swiss francs plus bonus
- **May 2025:** Arrives late to FIFA Congress after travelling with U.S. President ***Donald Trump.*** UEFA accuse him of prioritising political interests
- **Jul 2025:** Hails Club World Cup success, despite stadiums with swathes of empty seats



- **Dec 2025:** Donald Trump receives FIFA Peace Prize
- **Jun-Jul 2026:** FIFA World Cup drives expected $13bn in revenue
- **Aug 2026:** Following World Cup overshadowed by visa disputes, political tensions and government intervention, ***FIFA's Forward Enterprise*** proposal sparks major opposition from confederations

Sources: FIFA, BBC

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