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BACKGROUND PAPER

Topic: “Super League the new Champions League”

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Fantasy

Chair and Moderator names

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EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE

Committee Background

The fantasy committee in Model UN is a specialized type of committee where delegates roleplay fictional characters or scenarios from fantasy worlds, rather than real-world nations or events. These committees typically have a historical or fictional setting and require delegates to make decisions and resolve issues based on the fictional context, often involving quick thinking and interactive responses to evolving situations. The practice of fantasy committees emerged as a way to make MUN simulations more engaging and accessible, particularly for beginners, by allowing them to explore diplomacy in a less restrictive, imaginative environment.

This committee is willing to find a solution to the topic of Super League, this is the best option to discuss this issue because the delegates are going to represent a Football Club and be in charge of finding a solution seeking the best for the club.

Introduction of the Topic

THE SUPER LEAGUE



In December 2023, the CEO of A22 said the new format would involve a three-league, 64-club men's competition and a two-league, 32-club women's competition -- with promotion and relegation between leagues -- to replace the UEFA Champions League and Women's Champions League.

On Tuesday, A22 said the latest plans for the Unify League would see 96 clubs take part in the men's competition in four leagues. The top two leagues, "Star" and "Gold," would each include 16 clubs, divided into groups of eight. The "Blue" and "Union" leagues would host 32 clubs each, also in groups of eight.

In the league stage, teams would face the others in their group, home and away, before qualifiers progress to the knockout stage. The semifinals and final would be one-off matches, played at neutral venues. Clubs would qualify based on annual domestic performance, with matches taking place in midweek. A22 Sports Management (commonly referred to as A22) is critical in modern soccer because it is the driving force behind the attempted revival of the European Super League (ESL), aimed at dismantling UEFA's long-standing monopoly on top-tier club competitions. Backed by major clubs like Real Madrid and Barcelona, A22 argues that the current European football model is financially unsustainable and fails to engage younger fans

The Super League project was initially backed by 12 member clubs: Real Madrid, Barcelona, Atlético Madrid, AC Milan, Arsenal, Chelsea, Inter Milan, Juventus, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur.



Evolution of the Topic

The European Super League was a controversial soccer project presented in April 2021, trying to create an exclusive competition with the wealthiest and most powerful teams in the European country. The target is to stop participating in the UEFA Champions League with safe spots for the founding members such as, Real Madrid, Juventus, and several English clubs

After the December 2023 ruling, the Premier League, Bundesliga, LaLiga and Serie A -- as well as a number of top clubs and the European Club Association -- all reiterated their opposition to the Super League, and their support for competitions organized by UEFA.

In order to make everyone happy, the reforms were planned to come into effect in 2024, expanding the Champions League to 36 teams, adjusting the format and increasing the number of matches from 125 to 225.

The reforms were intended to favour the clubs central to the Super League and even included a safety net of four qualification spots for clubs based on their past performance in European competition, should they miss out on qualification through domestic competition.

External Actions

The clubs say that "the formation of the Super League comes at a time when the global pandemic has accelerated the instability in the existing European football economic model. Further, for a number of years, the Founding Clubs have had the objective of improving the quality and intensity of existing European competitions throughout each season, and of creating a format for top clubs and players to compete on a regular basis.

"The pandemic has shown that a strategic vision and a sustainable commercial approach are required to enhance value and support for the benefit of the entire European football pyramid."

However, Sky Sports News reporter Kaveh Solhekol says this has come about now for one reason, and one reason only.

"The reason it is happening now is because we have had a global pandemic, finances at the biggest clubs in Europe have been hit," he said.

"I keep saying it is about money, and if you look at the finances, a club like Man Utd playing in the Champions League, they make between £40m and £80m on a good year if they win it.

"If they play in this new competition, they get a cheque for £250m-£300m to begin with, then in the future they will get three times as much money a season as they get from the Champions League.





Committee Focus

The Fantasy Committee focuses on getting into an agreement in which both parts get what they want but maintaining the context on the years were the pandemic was at its highest. The clubs will have their role; if they are in favor or against, so it is important for all the delegates to have clear what they have to do in their position paper so the committee does not lose its principal point.

KEY FOCUS STATEMENTS TO DISCUSS:

- How is the UEFA Champions League affected?
- What would the format be?
- Would the league be a 'closed shop'(immovable clubs)?
- How would the league be financed?
- Does it really matter what the fans think or is it more important the economic situation of the clubs?

Conclusion

The creation of the European Super League in 2021 represented one of the most controversial moments in modern sports governance, exposing a deep divide between the commercial interests of elite institutions and the collective values that sustain football as a universal passion. The twelve founding clubs sought to establish a closed competition model, arguing that the current system failed to guarantee financial stability and that reforms were essential to maintain competitiveness at the highest level.

However, this initiative was met with widespread opposition from governing organizations, national leagues, smaller clubs, and the global fanbase, who regarded it as a direct threat to the principles of merit, equality, and fair play. The public backlash demonstrated that football is not merely a business—it is a cultural and social institution that transcends borders, uniting people under the ideals of opportunity and perseverance.

From a diplomatic perspective, the European Super League raises fundamental questions about governance, accountability, and the balance between innovation and tradition in international sports. It challenges the global community to consider whether modernization should prioritize financial gain or the preservation of collective identity and accessibility.

Therefore, within the framework of this Model United Nations, delegates are encouraged to approach this issue not simply as a sporting conflict, but as a matter of global ethics and cultural sustainability. The debate should focus on developing fair, transparent, and inclusive mechanisms that reconcile economic progress with social responsibility. Only through dialogue, cooperation, and shared commitment can the integrity of the sport be protected while adapting to the demands of an evolving world.



Clubs Position

Real Madrid: Florentino Pérez wanted a more profitable and financially stable tournament, guaranteeing fixed income for the biggest clubs. He believed UEFA's model was "outdated" and that big teams were the ones keeping European football alive.

FC Barcelona: The club was in a serious financial crisis after the Messi era. They saw the Super League as a chance to recover income and compete economically with the Premier League.

Juventus: Like Madrid and Barça, they wanted independence from UEFA and a more sustainable model for Italy's top clubs, which earn less from TV deals than English teams.

AC Milan: After years away from Europe's elite, they saw the Super League as a way to return to top-level competition and secure steady income.

Inter Milan: After heavy investment in players, they wanted more financial stability and international visibility.

Manchester United: Their owners, the Glazer family, wanted higher commercial profits and less dependence on qualifying for the Champions League.

Liverpool: The American owners wanted to replicate an NBA/NFL-style system — fixed clubs, no relegation, and guaranteed big tournaments.

Chelsea: Joined mainly due to pressure from other big English clubs and the promise of higher income.

Manchester City: Initially accepted the invitation but quickly withdrew due to massive fan opposition.

Tottenham Hotspur: Joined for financial interest and fear of being left out of Europe's "elite" circle.



Clubs Position

Bayern Munich: Defended the open competition model and European football tradition. The president said, “The Champions League is already the best tournament in the world.”

Borussia Dortmund: Staying true to their fan-ownership philosophy (the 50+1 rule), they refused to join a closed, elitist league.

Paris Saint-Germain: President Nasser Al-Khelaïfi has strong ties with UEFA and beIN Sports, so keeping the current system was in his best interest.

RB Leipzig: Despite being privately funded, they defended sporting meritocracy and refused to break away from UEFA.

Sevilla FC: Criticized the project for excluding mid-level clubs that perform well. Defended the idea of “earning your place on the pitch.”

Olympique Lyon: Believed the Super League would destroy competitive balance and the dreams of smaller clubs that reach European tournaments.

Ajax: Proud of their youth academy and sporting philosophy, they rejected a closed league that benefits only the rich.

Porto: Their board confirmed that UEFA warned participation would be illegal and that they didn’t want to break with European football traditions.

Atalanta: Criticized the Super League for favoring only big clubs without sporting merit.

Leicester City: As a “surprise” success story, they opposed the idea, calling it unfair and closed-minded.

Participation List



Real Madrid



FC Barcelona



Juventus



AC Milan



Inter Milan



Manchester
United



Liverpool



Chelsea



Bayern München



Borussia
Dortmund



Paris Saint-
Germain



RB Leipzig

Participation List



Sevilla FC



Olympique de Lyon



Ajax



Porto



Manchester City



Tottenham Hotspur



Atalanta



Leicester City



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