

The Impact of Foreign Ownership on The Organizational Structure of Top Five Professional Football Leagues

Ahmad Sheyubov

Central European University, Austria

Abstract

In the past three decades, football has undergone a significant transformation, marked by exponential growth in global fan engagement, stakeholder interest, and financial investment. Among global leagues, the English Premier League, Spanish La Liga, Italian Serie A, German Bundesliga, and French Ligue 1 have emerged as dominant forces in terms of revenue generation, international reach, and sporting success. This study focuses on the organizational implications of foreign ownership within clubs across the top five professional football leagues. Using a qualitative methodology based on semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders—including club executives, technical staff, and football governance experts—this research explores how foreign ownership influences internal structures, governance models, and decision-making processes. Supplemented by relevant secondary data, the study provides insights into the evolving dynamics of ownership and management in a globalized football industry. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how foreign investment reshapes organizational culture, strategic priorities, and the balance between financial and sporting performance.

Keywords: five, football, foreign, organizational, ownership