

WADA to mull rule changes that could bar Donald Trump, US officials from LA Olympics and possibly FIFA World Cup over unpaid dues

LOS ANGELES: WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) is contemplating re-writing its rules so that it can block US President Donald Trump and other officials of the US Government from attending the Los Angeles Olympics in two years' time.

The Associated Press reported that when WADA, an independent international organization to prevent doping in elite sport, holds its executive committee meeting on Tuesday, a rewrite of its rule book is on the agenda. This comes after the US has reportedly refused to pay its annual dues to WADA in protest of the anti-doping watchdog's handling of a case involving Chinese swimmers and other issues. Since refusing to pay its annual fees, the USA has since lost its seat on the executive committee of WADA.

The report added that while a spokesperson for WADA, James Fitzgerald, actually said that there was "nothing new here"



and pointed out that discussions related to what WADA can do about governments withholding funding have been ongoing since 2020, the proposal was first conceived in 2024. After the AP's initial report came out, WADA said that the AP story was "entirely misleading". It must be noted that even if the rule was passed at the executive committee meeting of WADA next week, it would largely be a symbolic move since an international sports body like WADA would have limited control over the president of a country attending an event

hosted by his own country. The American side, meanwhile, remained firm on its demand.

"In spite of WADA's increasing threats, we continue to stand firm in our demand for accountability and transparency from WADA to ensure fair competition in sport," Sara Carter, the director of the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), told AP.

"I have never heard of a \$50-million-budget Swiss foundation being able to enforce a rule to, for example, prevent the United States president from going anywhere," said Carter's predecessor at ONDCP, Rahul Gupta, who was on the WADA executive committee two years ago and led the movement to reject the proposal. "And the next question you have to ask is: How are you going to enforce it? Are they going to post a red notice from Interpol? It's ludicrous. It's clear they have not thought this through."

World's Best Reece James Signs New Six-Year Chelsea Deal

CHELSEA: Chelsea boss Liam Rosenior hailed Reece James as the "best player in world football in his position" after the captain signed a new six-year deal at Stamford Bridge. The England defender, 26, who first trained with the club 20 years ago, said he wanted to remain at the club for his "peak years". James has won five major trophies with Chelsea, including the Champions League and Club World Cup twice. He has made more than 200 appearances for the Blues, over 50 of which have been as captain.

"I can't stop smiling because we've secured the best player in world football in his position," manager Rosenior said Friday.

"He had many, many opportunities to leave this magnificent club and the good thing is not just the size and the stature of the club that he's come through from a very, very young age, but it's his belief and confidence in what we're doing here, where we want to go.

"We've had many conversations about it. For him to sign a deal and put his faith in us is a massive step."

Rosenior, who took over as Chelsea manager in January, said James, mainly a right-back, had the ability to play in many positions.

"Technically he can score goals, he defends, his athleticism, tactical understanding," he said.

"The thing that impresses me most about him is his humility and him as a person."



Rosenior added that James will be "my leader" as long as he remains in charge of the Blues.

James said he was confident Chelsea could build on their previous successes.

"I came through at this club, I love the club, I've experienced winning here and I believe there's still lots more to come in the future," he told reporters.

"I've spoken to everyone from the top of the club down, from ownership to sporting directors and I'm fully behind the project and what we're trying to build."

Chelsea won the Conference League and Club World Cup last season, but

have failed to mount a serious bid for the Premier League since an American consortium took control of the club from Roman Abramovich in 2022.

The Blues, who host Newcastle on Saturday, are fifth in the Premier League with nine games to go and were beaten 5-2 by Paris Saint-Germain in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on Wednesday.

James is expected to be Thomas Tuchel's starting right-back at the World Cup for England after overcoming a series of injury problems.

He has played 35 times in all competitions this season, his highest tally since 2021/22.

'Remember what I am saying': Mohammad Kaif's '2027 World Cup' prediction for Rohit Sharma

MUMBAI: With India winning the 2026 T20 World Cup, the focus will now slowly shift to the longer white-ball format in which veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are expected to play a crucial role. Rohit, who was closely involved with the 2026 T20 World Cup as the ICC's brand ambassador for the tournament, retired from Test cricket as captain of the team after a disastrous tour of Australia last year. That left him active only in ODIs, having retired from T20s after leading India to victory in the 2024 T20 World Cup, leading questions over his place in the team considering the dwindling number of 50-over matches that are being played in international cricket.

However, Rohit answered those critics by returning to the international stage visibly leaner and with some consistent performances with the bat. Former India batsman Mohammad Kaif has said that Rohit has silenced all those who used to question his fitness and his physique and performances will be all that will be spoken of in the 2027 World Cup.

"A year from now, you



will remember exactly what I am saying now. Whenever Rohit Sharma comes out to bat, this is what you will recall. Look at what he has done with his fitness, look at how his batting is going. His face has completely firmed up, he looks completely young. It's as if he has taken off four or five years from his age. So watch, at the 2027 World Cup, I guarantee you that these are the two things people will talk about regarding Rohit Sharma. The one people used to question, he has completely put a full stop to that now," Kaif said on his YouTube channel.

Both Rohit and Kohli

played in the Vijay Hazare Trophy for their respective domestic sides late last year. Rohit scored a century and three half centuries in six matches before donning Mumbai's colours in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. However, he only managed scores of 26, 24 and 11 in India's last ODI series against New Zealand. Kohli, on the other hand, has been relentless since copping two ducks in his first two matches after retiring from Tests in May 2025. He has scored three centuries and four half-centuries since then in seven matches, which included a 93 in the first ODI against New Zealand.

Tragedy Hits Indian Football As 25-Year-Old Defender Dies Due To Sudden Cardiac Arrest

NEW DELHI: Tragedy has struck the Indian football fraternity after young defender Ravinder Singh tragically lost his life at the age of just 25. Ravinder, who was contracted to Namdhari FC in the Indian Football League, died due to a sudden cardiac arrest while playing in a local league match in Punjab earlier this week. Ravinder, who hailed from the village of Majri in Punjab's Ludhiana district, collapsed on the pitch with chest pain while playing in a local tournament. He was declared dead by doctors on Wednesday.

According to reports, a funeral was held in his hometown, with his brother Bhupender Singh leading the pyre. Ravinder's family members, friends and fellow players attended the funeral.

Namdhari FC and the Indian Football League expressed their condolences via heartfelt posts on social media. "We are deeply saddened to share that one of our football players, Ravinder Singh, has passed away suddenly at such a young age. "His untimely departure is a great loss to the football family."

Motor racing-Bahrain and Saudi F1 races set to be cancelled

BAHRAIN: Next month's Bahrain and Saudi Arabian Formula One Grands Prix are set to be cancelled over the weekend due to the conflict in the Middle East.

Multiple sources told Reuters an announcement, seen within the sport as just a matter of time, was expected by Monday at the latest with a March 20 deadline looming for freight that has to be transported to Bahrain for logistical reasons.

Sky Sports television, which has the broadcasting rights in Britain where most of the 11 teams are based, said it understood the races would be called off by Sunday night.

U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran are continuing while Iranian drones and missiles have hit some Middle Eastern capitals including Bahrain's Manama, where most team personnel would be staying in hotels.

Formula One is racing in China this weekend for the second round of the season after the opener in Australia last weekend.

Sources have indicated previously that neither Middle Eastern race is likely to be replaced or rescheduled, leaving April an empty month for the series and the championship reduced to 22 rounds.

Bahrain was scheduled for April 12 with the Saudi

race in Jeddah on April 19.

The Japanese Grand Prix, round three, is on March 29 with the next race then in Miami on May 3.

"I think we follow the guidance of the FIA and Formula One, as we always do. They've always led us in the right direction," Audi team principal Jonathan Wheatley told reporters after practice at the Shanghai circuit.

"Nobody's going to compromise on anything that would put teams into an uncomfortable situation."

There was no immediate comment from Liberty Media-owned Formula One or the governing International Automobile Federation (FIA).

The World Endurance Championship (WEC) has already postponed what would have been its season-opener in Qatar on March 26-28, with the first race now scheduled for Italy's Imola circuit on April 19.

The Qatar round at the Lusail circuit outside Doha, which also hosts Formula One in November, has been rescheduled for October 24 as the penultimate round before the finale in Bahrain on November 7.

MotoGP is due to race in Qatar on April 12 with that round also likely to be cancelled.

Scientists finally see Quantum Computer failures as they happen

Researchers at the Niels Bohr Institute have dramatically increased how quickly changes in delicate quantum states can be detected inside a qubit. By combining commercially available hardware with new measurement strategies, they can now observe rapid shifts in qubit performance that previously went unnoticed.

Qubits are the fundamental building blocks of quantum computers, which scientists hope will eventually surpass today's most powerful machines. But qubits are extremely sensitive. The materials used to build them often contain tiny defects that are not yet fully understood. These microscopic imperfections can move or fluctuate hundreds of times per second. As they shift, they alter how quickly a qubit loses energy and with it valuable quantum information.

Until recently, standard testing methods required up to a minute to evaluate a qubit's behavior. That timescale was far too slow to capture these rapid changes. Researchers could only measure an average energy-loss rate, which often masked the

qubit's true, highly dynamic nature.

It is a bit unfair, really – you have a trusted workhorse, it is trying to pull the plow through the field, and then you scatter moving branches and stones in its path/environment at such a high speed that the plowman can't avoid them. Not good for the crop and final harvest!

A team at the Niels Bohr Institute's Center for Quantum Devices and the Novo Nordisk Foundation Quantum Computing Programme, led by post-doctoral researcher Dr. Fabrizio Berritta, developed a real-time adaptive measurement method that tracks fluctuations in the qubit energy-loss (relaxation) rate as they occur. The project was carried out in collaboration with researchers from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Leiden University, and Chalmers University. The new system relies on a fast classical controller that updates its estimate of a qubit's relaxation rate within just a few milliseconds. This matches the natural speed of the fluctuations themselves, rather than lagging seconds or minutes behind as earlier approaches did.

E.SUN Bank and IBM build AI governance framework for banking

ESUN Bank is working with IBM to build clearer AI governance rules for how artificial intelligence can be used inside a bank. The effort reflects a wider shift in finance. Many firms already use AI for fraud checks and credit scoring, and some also use it to handle customer service queries. The new challenge is how to manage these systems in a way that meets legal and risk rules.

Banks face a growing list of questions as they deploy AI. How should a model be tested before it goes live? Who is responsible if it makes a wrong call? And how can firms prove to regulators that their systems are fair and safe?

To address those issues, E.SUN Bank and IBM Consulting have created an AI governance framework for banking. The project also includes an AI governance white paper that sets out how financial firms can build internal controls around AI systems. According to the companies' press release, the work adapts

global standards such as the EU AI Act and ISO/IEC 42001 for financial services. The framework sets out how banks can review AI models before they are deployed. It also explains how those models should be monitored after they enter production. It includes rules for how data is used and how risk reviews should take place.

E.SUN Bank said the framework is intended to help financial institutions introduce AI systems while maintaining governance and regulatory oversight. Many firms already run limited AI tools. The next step is to scale those systems across core operations such as lending and payments while staying within regulatory limits.

Financial firms have strong reasons to place guardrails around AI systems. Banking relies on trust, and regulators require firms to track how decisions are made. AI models often act as "black boxes," meaning it can be hard to explain how they arrive at a result. That can create problems in areas such as

credit decisions or fraud checks. Regulators in many regions have started to focus on these risks.

The European Union's AI Act, adopted in 2024, places strict rules on AI systems used in high-risk sectors such as finance. The law requires firms to assess risks and document training data. It also requires them to monitor how AI models behave after deployment.

Global standards are also taking shape. ISO/IEC 42001, published in 2023, sets out how organisations can build management systems for AI. The standard focuses on oversight and model monitoring. It also addresses how organisations should manage AI data. The aim is to give firms a structured way to manage AI across an entire company rather than treating each model as a separate tool.

E.SUN Bank's project with IBM draws from both frameworks. It is meant to show how these rules could work in daily banking operations.

Banks have used machine learning for years,

mainly in risk analysis and fraud detection. Newer AI models are expanding how banks use the technology. Many now apply it in customer service and document review. Some also use it in internal knowledge systems.

That expansion brings new governance needs. A system that suggests answers to customer queries may seem low risk. But a model that helps approve loans or detect fraud can have direct financial effects.

The governance framework created by E.SUN Bank and IBM sets out a process to track those risks. Models are reviewed before they go live, and teams monitor their output after deployment. The framework also assigns responsibility across teams, from developers to compliance staff. The project also produced a white paper that explains the steps in more detail. It outlines how banks can classify AI systems by risk level and apply different levels of oversight.

The work at E.SUN Bank reflects a trend across global finance.

Jai Mata Di

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