



World Cup Water bottle ban sparks controversy

Description

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World Cup

The FIFA has sparked widespread controversy with its [decision to amend the policy regarding water bottles](#) inside 2026 World Cup stadiums. After initially banning reusable bottles, FIFA later permitted only small, factory-sealed plastic bottles—a move seen as late and contentious, especially given concerns about high temperatures during the tournament in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

World Cup security decision sparks controversy

According to [Reuters](#) FIFA justified the decision as a security measure intended to prevent bottles or solid objects from being used as projectiles in the stands, part of a broader policy to tighten stadium safety procedures.

However, the ban was not absolute; it was later modified to allow each spectator to bring in one small, sealed plastic bottle, while continuing to prohibit reusable bottles or those with hard caps.

Conversely, [reports cited by the BBC](#) warned that the decision could negatively affect spectator health, particularly with matches expected to take place in extreme heat.

Climate and health experts argued that reducing access to water inside stadiums could increase the risk of heat stress, dehydration, and sunstroke during long waiting periods. They emphasized that providing easy access to water inside stadiums is an essential component of safety plans, especially for major summer tournaments.

Political criticism and angry fans

Reports from [ITV](#) highlighted that the decision went beyond health and security to take on political and economic dimensions. FIFA has faced direct criticism from public figures, including the British Prime Minister, who described the decision as “wrong” and called for it to be reconsidered.

Fans and supporter groups have also expressed concerns that the ban will lead to increased spending inside stadiums, restrict fans’ ability to stay hydrated, and turn water into a commercial commodity rather than an essential service.

FIFA responded by asserting that the decision is not intended to limit water access in the World Cup, but to regulate the entry of materials into stadiums for security reasons.

The organization clarified that stadiums will implement measures to manage the heat, including free or available water stations, cooling and misting areas, as well as fans and spot-cooling air conditioning in the stadium perimeter. FIFA also confirmed that water prices inside the stadiums will not exceed standard event pricing.

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By [Alaa Shamali](#)

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