Club ownership and loan capacity

Challenge paper for the Nines working group

One of the core challenges we need to solve is how to hold the contracts of our strikers throughout their development, loan them into the right environments and retain the ability to move them again before a permanent sale.

My starting thought is one club, or perhaps two or three, acting as the contractual home for these players. The difficulty is accommodating the number of loans we want. FIFA generally permits six outgoing international professional loans per club at a time. The exemption requires both the relevant under-21 timing and club-trained status, so signing a graduate at 18 does not automatically qualify them. Two clubs would therefore provide 12 ordinary slots and three would provide 18, subject to the applicable rules. [1]

The numbers will accumulate. Each graduating cohort joins players still on first or second loans, plus those returning from unsuccessful placements. We need capacity for the whole pathway, including players who take longer to find their fit.

The question we need to answer

What is the simplest viable structure that gives us sufficient capacity, protects the player's career options and retains the intended economics for The Nines?

What we need to establish

- How many contracted players and simultaneous loans the model requires over five years.
- Whether one club, several clubs or a combination of loans and permanent placements with retained rights works best.
- Which jurisdictions support the necessary registration, ownership and distribution of proceeds.
- What each structure costs to establish and operate.

The outcome we want

A preferred structure, a credible alternative and a clear list of points requiring confirmation before we commit capital.

1 FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players July 2025 — Article 10