



Vol. V (SEPT - DEC 2024)

FIFS AND OUR INTERNET FOOTPRINT:

WEBSITE TWITTER LINKEDIN

Dear Members and Stakeholders,

As we usher in a new year, it is with immense pride and gratitude that I look back on what has been a truly remarkable 2024 for the Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS). Together, we have navigated challenges, seized opportunities, and taken significant strides in shaping the future of the fantasy sports industry in India. Now, it is time to look to this future.

2025 will be defined by our unwavering commitment to

advancing the interests of our sector. We have actively engaged with policymakers at the state and central levels, participating in critical consultations and fostering constructive dialogue to create a regulatory framework that balances growth and governance. Our continued involvement in roundtables, forums, and discussions across the country will hopefully inspire and reward our efforts.



~ Joy Bhattacharjya, Director General, FIFS

These milestones are a testament to the collective efforts of our members, partners, and stakeholders who have supported us unwaveringly. As we step into 2025, I am excited about the road ahead and confident that together, we will continue to build on last year's successes.

Thank you for your trust and partnership. Let us keep pushing boundaries and shaping a brighter future for the fantasy sports industry.

Wishing you all a wonderful year ahead!

Warm regards,
Joy Bhattacharjya
Director General
Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS)

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2024's EXTENSIVE APPROACH BY FIFS:

- **Policy Advocacy:** Extensive engagements with state and central governments to push for a regulatory framework that fosters industry growth while upholding governance standards.
- **Thought Leadership:** Participation in numerous roundtable discussions, consultations, and forums to represent the collective voice of the fantasy sports sector.
- **Industry Reports:** Publication of detailed, data-driven reports showcasing the economic impact of fantasy sports and the growth trends in the sector.
- Stakeholder Collaboration: Building meaningful partnerships with members, policymakers, and the broader sports ecosystem to strengthen the industry's credibility and reach.
- **Sectoral Growth Support:** Supporting members with insights, research, and best practices to promote innovation and responsible industry growth.

Charting New Horizons: CEO's Message

Dear Members,

The transformation of FIFS continues with our strategic FIFS 3.0 initiative, marking our evolution beyond traditional Fantasy Sports into the broader Sports Tech ecosystem. Our approach integrates **Innovation, Policy Development**, and **Growth** opportunities, creating stronger connections between the Sports, Technology and Media.

Through extensive meetings with founders across the Sports Tech landscape, we have identified unique opportunities to bring together key stakeholders and drive meaningful change. Our dual focus remains on strengthening policy advocacy for robust regulatory frameworks while expanding collaborative networks that foster innovation.

As we move forward, we're not just reimagining fantasy sports but actively building a dynamic sports technology landscape aligned with India's digital future.

Let's continue to dream, innovate, and lead.

Maj. Neil Castelino, CEO, FIFS



- Maj. Neil Castelino, CEO, FIFS

MEMBERS MEET

2024













INTRODUCING OUR NEW MEMBERS AT THE MEMBERS' MEET 2024













HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR MEMBER's MEET

RESPONSIBLE GAMING -BEST PRACTICES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS



Achieving regulatory clarity in law and taxation is essential for the consistent governance of the fantasy sports sector. Proactive measures are needed to address negative externalities like financial losses and habit-forming behaviors while shaping societal perceptions by dispelling myths and presenting industry realities.

Strengthening grievance redressal mechanisms and mitigating user harm further ensures a safer, more transparent, and responsible gaming environment.





SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS STRATEGIES FOR **FANTASY SPORTS**

Driving investments and fostering innovation are key to the growth of the fantasy sports sector. Strategic funding accelerates technological advancements, enhances user experience, and supports scalable operations, while innovation propels industry expansion, creating new opportunities and solidifying its position in the digital economy.





IMPACT OF TNOGA REGULATION





While the Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority (TNOGA) is developing new rules to govern online gaming in the state, Mr. Apte highlights potential challenges with proposed restrictions, particularly for fantasy sports platforms.

The contemplated regulations around blackout times and money limits could disproportionately impact fantasy sports operators, given their dependence on real-life sporting events across different time zones. With the industry's recent growth and evolving regulatory landscape, Mr. Apte emphasizes the need for increased engagement between gaming platforms, industry federations, and the Authority to ensure balanced regulations that protect user interests without creating unintended compliance burdens for specific gaming formats.



MEMBERS SPEAK

Think11 was founded with the vision of revolutionising fan engagement through technology. Since joining FIFS, the platform has integrated *Al-driven analytics, advanced team management tools, and robust security measures*. The platform differentiates itself through *real-time data analytics, personalised recommendations, and an engaging reward system.*

Operating on a freemium model with revenue from contest fees and advertising partnerships, Think11 maintains high user retention through personalized experiences.

The platform demonstrates its commitment to **Responsible Gaming through Comprehensive User Education, Self-Regulation tools, and Transparent Communication**, while actively collaborating with FIFS to implement industry best practices.

Currently in its growth phase, Think11 focuses on scaling its user base while exploring strategic partnerships to drive innovation in the Fantasy Sports space. *They are also big on promoting Responsible Gaming, with a dedicated page on their application.*





GUEST COLUMN

THE RISE OF FANTASY SPORTS IN IPL



Prof. Ratnakar Shetty,
 Former Manager, BCCI

Fantasy sports have become a core part of the IPL experience, offering fans an interactive platform to showcase strategic thinking and deepen engagement with the game. However, maintaining ethical standards and responsible operations is essential.

Platforms must ensure clear rules, unbiased algorithms, and equitable point-scoring systems, avoiding any undue advantages for individuals or groups. Robust security must safeguard user information, with transparency in data usage, storage, and sharing, while ensuring users retain control over their data.

Advertising must be truthful and age-appropriate, and avoid encouraging irresponsible behaviour or targeting minors. Platforms should offer self-exclusion options, and professional support resources, and establish comprehensive codes of conduct to foster a positive gaming environment.

FIFS actively collaborates with governing bodies to uphold industry best practices, ensuring a safer and fairer experience for all participants while preserving the excitement of fantasy sports.

By Prof. Ratnakar Shetty Former Manager BCCI



FIFS IN NEWS & ENGAGEMENTS: SEP TO DEC, 2024

FIFS PARTNERS WITH CASTLER

MediaNews4U



FIFS partners with Castler to enhance financial integrity and transparency in fantasy sports industry

FIFS teams up with Castler to tackle financial challenges in fantasy sports, enhancing transparency and trust in the growing industry.

WEBINAR WITH MR. ASISH ABRAHAM AND KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS LAKSHMIKUMARAN & SRIDHARAN

The webinar concentrated on GST laws about fantasy sports. Under these laws, online gaming is defined as any activity where players deposit money with the expectation of winning, regardless of skill or chance. The webinar was moderated by Mr. Asish Abraham Philips and his team at Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan and was attended by over 30 FIFS members.

Check out on X

NEW MEMBERS OF FIFS









SPORTIVA

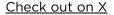




CAMPUS CONNECT: BUILDING AWARENESS THROUGH COLLABORATION

Dear Members and Stakeholders,

FIFS's Campus Connect program partners with leading institutions like IITs to educate students about fantasy sports through workshops and interactive sessions. The initiative bridges academia and industry, showcasing the sector's economic impact and technological innovation while positioning fantasy sports as an integral part of India's digital future.















FIFS CALENDAR FOR 2025, FIRST QUARTER

	Month	Event / Session Name	Туре	Tentative Date
	January 25	Regional Membership & Government Outreach	In Person	Jan 15 onwards
		Webinar and Session on decoding the DPDP Rules	Virtual	Jan 28: 4pm onwards
	February 25	"Future of Sports & Sports Tech in India - Unlocking the INR 50,000 crore opportunity by 2029": Launch of Annual FIFS report with Deloitte	In-person: New Delhi	Feb 12
		Fantasy Sports: An Industry of Sports and Tech Innovations: FIFS Panel Discussion @ E-summit, NIT Bhopal	In-person: Bhopal	Feb 14-16
		Big Data Gameathon:2025 An initiative with Top Tech institutions during Champions Trophy	IITs, NITs & Premier Institutions	Feb 19- Mar 20
	March 25	1st Leadership Series Session for FIFS	In-Person: New Delhi	Mar 17-21
		Smart Sports Conference: Al-Driven Advancements	In-Person: New Delhi	March week 1
		Regional Open House Session	твс	March End





THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS... FEBRUARY 2025