

Jamali, J.A.

Magister, PhD Research Fellow at the Department of International and European Law, Palacky University Olomouc, Olomouc, Czech Republic

Kozlová, K.A.

Master of Laws, PhD Research Fellow at the Department of International and European Law, Palacky University Olomouc, Olomouc, Czech Republic

GAME OVER FOR RUSSIAN ATHLETES?: HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF MEASURES ADOPTED BY INTERNATIONAL SPORTS ORGANISATIONS AS A RESPONSE TO THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has tested the mettle of the international community, prompting not only States, but also non-state actors, to take deterrent action in response. Indeed, international sports organisations, namely FIFA and UEFA, have been rather successful in shifting the power dynamics by introducing a complete ban on the Russian national and club teams. This article aims to inquire into the human rights implications of such actions taken by international sports organisations. First, the article departs from an assessment of the legal status of FIFA and UEFA under international law, and reflects on how a legal link could be established vis-à-vis their human rights obligations. Second, it examines the specific human rights concerns arising for Russian athletes as a result of the impugned measures by FIFA and UEFA, further scrutinising them against international human rights law principles. Last, it draws basic pathways for how possible human rights violations committed in the context of measures adopted by such organisations could be remedied, outlining the challenges of arbitration and litigation in Switzerland.