**Abstract**

*The popularity of football has grown exponentially over the past 30 years, marked by a substantial increase in fan engagement, stakeholders' interest, and financial investment. The top five professional football leagues—England’s Premier League, Spain’s La Liga, Italy’s Serie A, Germany’s Bundesliga, and France’s Ligue 1—dominate the global football landscape in terms of revenue streams, fan base, foreign ownership, and sporting performance. This research focuses on the impact of foreign ownership on football clubs within these leagues, analyzing how different ownership models influence organizational structure, effectiveness, and the relationship between financial and sporting outcomes. The study draws on 38 semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, including technical and organizational staff members from clubs in these leagues, supplemented by secondary data. By exploring how ownership shapes club management and performance, this research provides valuable insights into the intersection of financial influence and sporting success in an increasingly globalized football industry.*

**Keywords:** Football ownership, organizational structure, foreign investment, financial performance, sporting success, top five professional football leagues