

DEAR FOOTBALL FANS

THE ENVELOPE VS YOUR AGENDA.

BALLON D'OR / PRE-CEREMONY FAN JURY



Dear Football Fans, the envelope is sealed. Your excuses are already in drafts. Somewhere, a supporter has prepared two speeches: “fully deserved” and “the award has lost all credibility”.

Before the result, make your case. Pick a nominee, bring eligible-season evidence and leave the club badge out of your opening statement. This is DFF’s fan jury, not the official vote. No leaked winner. Just very loud lawyers in football shirts.

THE CASE / INDIVIDUAL IMPACT

YOUR HIGHLIGHT REEL NEEDS CONTEXT.

The first official criterion is individual performance: decisive and impressive contributions. Goals can strengthen a case; they are not the entire argument.

Explain what your player changed. “Watch football” is what people type when the evidence folder is empty.

THE CASE / TEAM SUCCESS

MEDALS NEED A WITNESS.

Collective performances and titles come next. A trophy matters, but tell us how the player helped win it. Sharing a team bus is not the same as driving the season.

The third criterion is class and fair play. Conveniently absent from many online closing arguments.

THE CLOCK / ELIGIBLE SEASON

YESTERDAY CANNOT REWRITE THE FILE.

The official window runs from 3 August 2025 to 19 July 2026, including the specified international competitions.

Mbappé’s latest Clásico double is a superb headline. It is outside this award’s judging window. Career nostalgia cannot sneak through the side door either.

THE JURY / YOUR CHOICE

ONE NAME. ONE PROPER REASON.

Journalists decide the official award; this fan debate does not. Kane, Yamal, Mbappé, Dembélé, Vitinha and Messi are among the nominees, not an official top six.

Name your winner and the strongest argument against your own pick. That second part is where the Wi-Fi usually disappears.

NEXT UP / THE GROUP CHAT IS OPEN.

Whoever opens the envelope will also open a week of selective statistics. Before calling it a robbery, check that your evidence belongs to the right season. The trophy is gold; your argument cannot be tin foil.

Jade Cole’s verdict: support your favourite, but judge the season. A club shirt is a perfectly good outfit and a terrible scoring system.