

Prosecutors have asked a court to remand President of Rwanda Football Federation (FERWAFA), Fabrice Shema for 30 days over alleged fraud and issuing bounced cheques worth about \$600,000 (£450,000; Rwf883 million) for a company he represents.

Shema denies the charges and has opposed the request for remand, telling the Nyarugenge Primary Court that he owns properties worth about Rwf5 billion which could serve as a guarantee that he would not flee.

His lawyer also argued that Shema's position as president of the FERWAFA showed that he was a trusted person and had no reason to evade justice.

The court will deliver its decision on 2 September at 14:00 local time.

The case centres on allegations that Shema issued cheques without sufficient funds and obtained property through fraud.

Prosecutors told the court that the alleged bounced cheques were issued in connection with a company that Shema represents.

Shema has rejected the allegations and asked the court to allow him to remain free while the case continues.

His defence maintained that his property holdings, professional responsibilities and position in football were sufficient guarantees that he would remain available to investigators and the court.

The prosecution, however, is seeking 30 days in custody as investigations continue.

Shema was arrested by the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) earlier this month. His arrest has attracted considerable attention because of his position as head of the country's football governing body.

He was elected FERWAFA president in August 2025, winning 51 of the 53 votes cast.

The allegations against Shema have not been proven in court. He remains presumed innocent unless convicted.

The court's decision on 2 September will determine whether he remains in custody as investigations continue or is released on bail.