



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Justice for Players Welcomes the UNFP's Decision to Join the Class Action as a Co-Plaintiff Against FIFA and EU Football Associations on Behalf of Professional Football Players

- The French national trade union for professional footballers (UNFP) announced their decision to join the legal action today. See press release: <https://www.unfp.org/2025/10/lunfp-rejoint-la-class-action-justice-for-players/>

Amsterdam, 16 October 2025: Justice for Players (JfP), the Dutch foundation committed to the pursuit of justice and fairness for professional players in accordance with EU law and the principle of free movement, welcomes the UNFP's decision that it is joining the class action that JfP launched in August against several national football associations, including the KNVB, the Football Association of the Netherlands, and FIFA as a co-plaintiff on behalf of players who have played in EU and UK clubs since 2002. According to preliminary analysis by economists at Compass Lexecon, professional footballers have earned around 8% less over the course of their careers due to the unlawfully restrictive FIFA Regulations. www.justiceforplayers.com

On 4 August, the Dutch foundation, JfP announced that it is leading a European class action against FIFA and several European football associations on behalf of players who have played in European and UK clubs since 2002.

Lucia Melcherts, The Chair of the Board of the Justice for Players Foundation said: "The UNFP's decision to join the Justice for Players Foundation as a co-plaintiff against FIFA is a powerful endorsement of what we are committed to achieving through this legal action for professional footballers, not only past and present but also in the future. Achieving reform of the FIFA transfer system and securing compensation for players is firmly on the horizon.

The UNFP's support highlights the growing momentum amongst stakeholders calling for fair, transparent and legally compliant transfer rules, following the European Court of Justice ruling in October 2024 that declared that FIFA regulations have unlawfully restricted players' freedom of movement and reduced their earnings for over two decades.

We urge all players who have played for an EU or UK club since 2002 to learn more and join the legal action via the justiceforplayers.com website in order to secure the compensation that is owed to them."

JfP is seeking substantive changes to the FIFA transfer rules so that they comply with EU law and reflect European values and principles of free movement, in addition to compensation for players in accordance with the EU judgment on 4 October 2024. It follows from this judgment that all players have suffered financial losses as a result of the FIFA rules.



An estimated 100,000 professional football players, men and women are eligible to join the legal action. For more information, please visit www.justiceforplayers.com

JfP has instructed Netherlands-based law firm Finch Dispute Resolution, which specialises in class actions in the Netherlands to represent it in the class action. Dupont-Hissel, the law firm that is representing Mr Lassana Diarra, is also advising JfP.

This legal action is fully funded by Deminor, one of Europe's leading providers of legal finance, so that players will not have to pay to join the legal action or assume the financial risk of this legal action.

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Notes to Editors

About Justice for Players

Justice for Players was founded to advocate for the interests of professional footballers across Europe. The board comprises of three members: Lucia Melcherts, Dolf Segaar and Franco Baldini. Lucia Melcherts has been the chair of Stichting Massaschade & Consument (Foundation for Mass Damages & Consumers) since 2021. She also holds the position of Coordinating Specialist Advisor at the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security. Dolf Segaar founded his own law firm Segaar Law in July 2021, specialising in governance and litigation, with a strong focus on sports law. Franco Baldini is a former professional footballer and agent and spent over 20 years in different senior management roles at top international clubs and organizations, including AS Roma, Real Madrid, Tottenham Hotspur and the England National Team. He currently runs his own consulting firm IC20 Ltd.

www.justiceforplayers.com

About Finch

Finch Dispute Resolution is an independent Dutch litigation boutique law firm, founded in 2022. With a team of around 18 specialised litigators and 5 partners based in Utrecht, the firm handles



corporate, commercial, financial, and class-action disputes—domestically and internationally. Finch is involved in several high-profile class actions against, among others, Booking.com, AbbVie, Tata Steel, Royal Dutch Philips, and ING Group.

<https://finch.nl>

About Dupont-Hissel

Jean-Louis DUPONT and Martin HISSEL are specialists in European law, particularly as applied to the sports sector. Together they have defended hundreds of cases, acting on behalf of all stakeholders in the professional sports sector, before the CJEU, the European Commission, the European Court of Human Rights, national competition authorities, national courts, international (including CAS) and national arbitration tribunals, and the internal judicial bodies of national and international sports associations. In particular, they have led and co-managed cases that resulted in landmark judgements of the CJEU regarding sports governance in the EU and beyond: Bosman (1995), Meca-Medina (2006), Royal Antwerp FC (2023), European Super League (2023), Lassana Diarra (2024) and RFC Seraing (2025).

www.Dupont-Hissel.com