

## Super League, UEFA dispute to get EU court ruling on Dec. 21

24 Oct 2023 | 09:50 GMT | Insight

By Lewis Crofts

The sporting world will brace for three key rulings from the EU's highest court on Dec. 21, with judges slated to decide three cases set to establish the rules of the road for governing bodies managing their leagues, MLex has learned. The Court of Justice will issue rulings on Super League's attempt to set up a league to rival UEFA's Champions League; the International Skating Union's handling of a rival competition in Dubai; and a dispute over an Antwerp football club fostering homegrown talent.

The sporting world will brace for three key rulings from the EU's highest court on Dec. 21, with judges slated to decide three cases set to establish the rules of the road for governing bodies managing their leagues, MLex has learned.

The Court of Justice will issue rulings on Super League's attempt to set up a league to rival UEFA's Champions League; the International Skating Union's handling of a rival competition in Dubai; and a dispute over an Antwerp football club fostering homegrown talent.

The Court of Justice has fielded several cases over the last three years, as national courts seek guidance on how to apply EU law. The litigation relates to establishing rival events and leagues as well as the handling of football agents and player transfers.

All the cases go to the central question of whether the sports sector should get special treatment under EU law because it plays a key role in society.

Opponents argue that governing bodies pursue commercial interests and should play by the EU's antitrust rulebook.

On Dec. 21 judgments in the three of those case will be handed down, meaning this will be a significant day for seeing how EU judges interpret the special status of sport.

The most high-profile of the cases is the Super League's attempt to set up a breakaway football league, to the ire of European football's governing body UEFA.

A parallel case involving speed-skating's governing body, the ISU, will also be decided on that day, as will a Belgian dispute over involving the Royal Antwerp Football Club, which considers that UEFA's rules harmed its freedom to recruit players and puts it at a disadvantage compared to bigger national leagues and clubs.

The case references are C-333/21, C-680/21 and C-124/21 P.

Please email [editors@mlex.com](mailto:editors@mlex.com) to contact the editorial staff regarding this story, or to submit the names of lawyers and advisers.