

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dutch Trade Union for Professional Football Players 'VVCS' Pledges Support for the Justice for Players Class Action Against the Dutch Football Association KNVB, FIFA and Several National Football Associations

This announcement follows the French trade union for professional footballers (UNFP) joining the class action alongside Justice for Players last month.

Amsterdam, 13 November 2025: The Association of Contract Players (VVCS), a Dutch advocacy organisation for professional football players, has announced their support for the Justice for Players (JfP) Foundation class action lawsuit against KNVB, FIFA and several national football associations. Established in 1961 and affiliated with the Dutch Trade Union Federation (FNV), the VVCS has long advocated for the rights and welfare of professional footballers in the Netherlands.

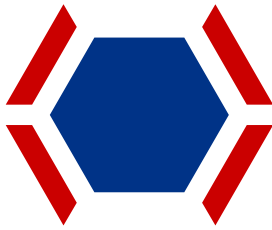
On 4 August 2025, the Dutch foundation JfP announced that it is leading a class action against KNVB, FIFA and several European football associations, on behalf of players who have played in European and UK clubs since 2002: www.justiceforplayers.com.

A preliminary analysis by economists at Compass Lexecon has estimated that affected professional footballers have earned on average approximately 8% less over the course of their career than they would have if the FIFA Regulations had not been unlawfully restrictive.

VVCS has observed that an increasing number of footballers are contacting the organisation because they are caught up in transfer disputes. In some cases, this leads to frustration, but VVCS also observes numerous situations involving questionable restrictions. Across Europe, thousands of players are directly disadvantaged by the current FIFA transfer rules. VVCS has therefore decided to support the collective action of Justice for Players and their representation of professional footballers' interests in this initiative.

Evgeniy Levchenko, Chair of the VVCS and Former Professional Footballer, said: "VVCS its purpose is to advocate for the rights of professional footballers and support our members. The current transfer system remains unfair. For example, there are footballers who train for months without any prospect of playing matches, or who refrain from exercising their right to transfer to another football club under threat of sanctions of the FIFA. Within Europe, thousands of footballers are directly disadvantaged by the current FIFA transfer rules. Supporting Justice for Players aligns with our commitment to work towards a balanced system that complies with European law."

Lucia Melcherts, Chair of Justice for Players, said: "The decision of VVCS to publicly support the Justice for Players class action represents another important step forward in our efforts to ensure that the rights of professional footballers are respected and upheld under European law. VVCS's support underlines the growing recognition that the current transfer system is unfair and needs to change. Reforming these rules and securing fair compensation for players are essential to a more



transparent and fair future for professional footballers. We encourage all players who have played for a club in the EU or UK since 2002 to visit www.justiceforplayers.com to join the legal action and play their part in helping to ensure that a fairer system is developed that will benefit the sport as a whole.”

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. It follows from the Diarra-judgment of the European Court of Justice that all players were harmed as a result of the FIFA transfer 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.

Media Contacts

Desiree Maghoo, Questor Consulting

T: +44 (0) 20 3761 9670

M: +44 (0) 7775522740

E: dmaghoo@questorconsulting.com

Mimi Robson, Questor Consulting

T: +44 (0) 20 3761 9669

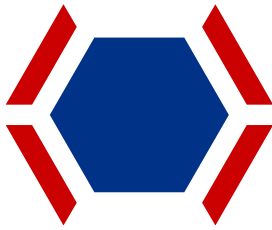
M: +44 (0) 7749940494

E: mrobson@questorconsulting.com

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 VVCS

The Association of Contract Players is an advocacy organisation for professional soccer players (M/F) founded in 1961. The VVCS, the interest group for professional football players, is affiliated to the Federatie Nederlandse Vakbeweging (FNV), and aims to assist its members both on an individual and collective basis, both in labour law and social issues. The VVCS also represents players' interests in collective bargaining negotiations.

<https://www.vvcs.nl/en/>

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