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/ The Football Players' Association supports the Justice for Players Foundation's collective class action lawsuit

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The Football Players' Association supports the Justice for Players Foundation's collective class action lawsuit

The Football Players' Association (JPY) supports a collective class action lawsuit launched by the Dutch Justice for Players foundation, which aims to compensate players for the damage caused by the illegal parts of FIFA's transfer regulations.

On 4 October 2024, the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled in the Lassana Diarra case (<https://www.fifpro.org/en/articles/2025/05/the-lassana-diarra-judgement-explained-what-does-it-mean-for-footballers>), finding that some of FIFA's transfer rules were in breach of EU law. The ruling has far-reaching implications for football as a whole and for players in particular.

To date, twelve European players' associations (Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ireland and Lithuania) have publicly expressed their support for the collective legal action. In addition, the French players' association UNFP joined the legal action as a co-plaintiff in October 2025.

Sustainable solutions are needed

"The EU Court of Justice has made it clear that the transfer system has not been legal. The illegal transfer system, which is based on human trafficking, has unreasonably restricted the free movement of players. Now the focus is on the future: how do we build a fair and sustainable system for players, clubs and the sport as a whole," says Panu Autio, Executive Director of JPY.

The EU Court of Justice's ruling requires that the transfer system be reformed in line with EU law. This should take place through negotiations between the social partners and with the genuine involvement of players' associations, internationally through FIFPRO.

Genuine dialogue and mutual agreement are essential to finding solutions. Merely apparent consultation and unilaterally outlining rules and contractual terms for players are not enough.

Collaboration at the heart

JPY is in dialogue with national and international stakeholders on the matter and stresses that this is not a confrontation with the clubs or the Football Association. The goal is a legal, sustainable and player-respecting system.

"The Bosman decision in the 1990s and the period that followed showed well that strengthening the fundamental rights of players does not threaten sport – on the contrary, it created the basis for the economic and sporting growth of the entire sport. The Diarra decision continues this same line: the special nature of sport does not supersede the fundamental rights of employees and the principles of EU competition law. Players should be recognized as employees, not property of the system. The Justice for Players collective class action is part of a coherent legal continuum. The sooner the regulation is updated by mutual agreement, the more stable and sustainable the future of football will be for all parties," emphasizes JPY legal expert, Associate Professor **Jyri Paasonen**.

JPY has informed its members about the matter and informed them of the possibility of making their own decisions about participating in the legal actions initiated by Justice for Players.

What does legal action mean for players?

The collective legal action launched on the basis of the EU Court of Justice ruling allows all players and former players who had a contract with a club in the EU and/or the UK between 2002 and the present to join and seek financial compensation if they wish.

According to an estimate by financial consultancy Compass Lexecon, FIFA's transfer rules, which have been found to be illegal, have caused players to lose an average of around 8 percent of their earnings over the entire period in question.

The role of the Football Players' Association

JPY is not a plaintiff in the legal action, and as an association it has no financial interest in it. Public support is based on the basic mission of the players' association: to defend the rights of players and to inform players on all matters of importance to them.

Supporting legal action is important for the players' association because it creates pressure to reform the transfer system through genuine agreement and offers players the opportunity to receive compensation for the damage suffered.

Any questions?

Contact us!

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Speech: "From Bosman to Diarra – 30 years of legal struggle for the status of players" (<https://jpy.fi/fi/uutiset/puheenvuoro-quot-bosmanista-diarraan-ndash-30-vuotta-oikeustaistelua-pelaajien-asemasta-quot--2>)



Update

March 6, 2026

The Football Players' Association supports the Justice for Players Foundation's collective class action lawsuit (<https://jpy.fi/fi/uutiset/jalkapallon-pelaajayhdistys-tukee-justice-for-players-saation-kollektiivista-ryhmakannetta>)

3.3.2026

New Fitness24Seven membership offer for JPY members (<https://jpy.fi/fi/uutiset/uusi-fitness24seven-jasentarjous-jpy-n-jasenille>)

27.2.2026

Ramadan and football – how does fasting affect playing and stamina? (<https://jpy.fi/fi/uutiset/ramadan-ja-jalkapallo-ndash-miten-paasto-vaikuttaa-pelaamiseen-ja-jaksamiseen->)

February 26, 2026

Matilda Nurmi wants to promote the well-being of players and break the myths of sports nutrition (<https://jpy.fi/fi/uutiset/matilda-nurmi-haluaa-edistaa-pelaajien-hyvinvointia-ja-rikkoa-urheiluravitsemuksen-myytteja>)

February 26, 2026

Mika Palmgren receives the Golden Cross of Merit for Physical Education and Sports (<https://jpy.fi/fi/uutiset/mika-palmgrenille-liikunnan-ja-urheilun-kultainen-ansioristi>)

February 25, 2026

Interested in influencing? JPY's board of directors will be elected at the annual meeting on March 16, 2026. (<https://jpy.fi/fi/uutiset/kiinnostaako-vaikuttaminen-jpy-n-hallitus-valitaan-vuosikokouksessa-16-3-2026>)

20.2.2026

New Mentor Group Has Launched – The Mentors Bring Experience from Nearly 500 Senior International Caps (<https://jpy.fi/fi/uutiset/new-mentor-group-has-launched-ndash-the-mentors-bring-experience-from-nearly-500-senior-international-caps>)

February 18, 2026

JPY and Mandel Nutrition Services continue cooperation (<https://jpy.fi/fi/uutiset/jpy-ja-mandel-ravitsemuspalvelut-jatkavat-yhteistyota>)

February 13, 2026

Athletes' accident and pension insurance remains on the fringes of social security in Finland (<https://jpy.fi/fi/uutiset/urheilijan-tapaturma-ja-elaketurva-jaa-suomessa-sosiaaliturvan-reunalle>)

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