FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Professional Football Agents' Organizations BOEFA and SFAA Announce Their Support For Justice For Players

Amsterdam, 3 August 2026: Professional football agents' organizations BOEFA and SFAA announced their support for the Justice for Players class action against KNVB, FIFA and several national football associations.

The Bund der österreichischen Fußballagenten ("**BOEFA**") and the Swiss Football Agents Association ("**SFAA**") have decided to express their full support for the collective action. BOEFA is a non-profit organisation and association of Austrian football agents, including both FIFA-licensed and non-FIFA-licensed agents, from the professional and semi-professional game. BOEFA promotes the profession of football agents, informs and educates its members on new regulatory developments, and supports football agents in addressing legal and practical issues. SFAA pursues similar objectives.

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

The primary aim of this class action is to obtain fair financial compensation for all professional players and former players, regardless of their nationality, who have been under contract at some point in their career with a European club including the United Kingdom between 2002 and the present day. This financial compensation is owed based on the CJEU's Diarra ruling (4 October 2024) because the FIFA rules were deemed illegal by the CJEU.

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

Furthermore, the class action aims to ensure that FIFA adopts, through genuine dialogue, the governance reforms required by EU law, which include co-decision-making power for players' unions on all matters relating to players' working and employment conditions, in collaboration with the associations representing the clubs.

Lucia Melcherts, Chair of Justice for Players, responds*: "We welcome BOEFA's and SFAA's decision to support the Justice for Players class action. As confirmed by the European Court of Justice, the salaries earned by players across the EU and UK, have been suppressed for years by FIFA's unlawful transfer rules. This legal action seeks to secure the compensation players are owed for lost earnings and – as importantly - to deliver lasting and meaningful reform of the system.*

The support for this class action sends a clear message that players do no longer accept an unfair and unlawful transfer system."

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-judgement 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 woman 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 specializes in class actions in the Netherlands to represent it in the class action. Dupont-Hissel, the law firm that is representing Mr Larssana 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.

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