

PRESS RELEASE



PREMIER LEAGUE AGREES £90M SOLIDARITY PAYMENT TO THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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The Premier League today announced a solidarity package with The Football League worth potentially in excess of £90m over the next three seasons.

This new mechanism ensures that a proportion of Premier League income is redistributed down the professional football pyramid.

The extra funding structure will deliver in total £31.8m next season and includes:

- £5.4m per season for Football League Youth Development;
- £4m per season for Football League clubs' community investment;
- £11.2m per season solidarity payment to split amongst clubs in The Championship, League 1 and League 2 in line with The Football League's regulations on financial distributions;
- An extra £11.2m or £22.4m in seasons where there is either one or three 'spare' parachute payments – next season this amounts to £11.2m

Premier League Chief Executive, **Richard Scudamore**, said: "The Premier League and our member clubs recognise the importance of the continued health of the professional game at all levels.

"This solidarity payment means that Football League clubs will have the ability to increase investment in critical areas such as Youth Development and community programmes, as well as receiving an extra payment virtually equivalent to the one a Championship club receives from their own basic award.

"We feel this is a great deal for The Football League and one that we are pleased to have been able to do at this time."

Football League Chairman, **Lord Mawhinney**, added: "This is a generous gesture by the Premier League and, on behalf of our clubs, I offer my thanks.

Premier League
30 Gloucester Place
London W1U 8PL
premierleague.com

T +44 (0) 20 7864 9190
F +44 (0) 20 7864 9072
E press@premierleague.com

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“In part, the need for a payment of this kind stems from the significant financial gap that exists between their league and ours - largely due to the financial success of the Premier League. This positive initiative will help to address this issue.”

Sports Minister, **Gerry Sutcliffe MP**, welcomed the move: "I welcome this redistribution and in particular the new funding for community and youth player development. The Football League is one of the most watched and most competitive of any in the world. It is the foundation on which the success of the Premier League depends. So it is right that some of the financial rewards from the Premier League's success are re invested back through the Football League structure."

For further information please contact the Premier League Press Office on 020 7864 9190 or visit www.premierleague.com

Notes to Editors:

- The 2007/08 season solidarity payment of £24.2m means that, based on season the 2006/07 Championship finishing places, payments to clubs range from £775,909 up to £1,383,602 – an average of £912,640 per club.
- League 1 clubs will receive £103,480 each, with £68,987 per League 2 club.
- The £5.4m Youth Development funding has more than doubled from the Premier League's previous deal of £2.5m per season and will be equally split amongst all Football League clubs who qualify.
- Current Football League basic award payments are: Championship clubs £1m, League 1 clubs £375,000 and League 2 clubs £265,000

Premier League
30 Gloucester Place
London W1U 8PL
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The Football Association Premier League Limited
Registered Office: 30 Gloucester Place, London, W1U 8PL. No. 2719699 England

