

South Korea football fans' anger at Ronaldo no-show

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Football fans in South Korea are planning to sue Italian soccer giants Juventus and its star player Cristiano Ronaldo. Over 2,000 fans want compensation after Ronaldo failed to play in a pre-season

friendly against an all-star K League team. Juventus signed a contract to play Ronaldo for 45 minutes of the game, but he stayed on the subs bench and did not even lace up his soccer boots. Many fans at the game switched from chanting Ronaldo's name to chanting the name of his great rival Lionel Messi. There were also boos around the stadium. The fans have also been voicing their anger at Ronaldo on social media. One wrote: "He betrayed the 60,000 audience and belittled us. I'm no longer a Ronaldo fan."

The angry fans are now seeking compensation. They have gone to a law firm in South Korea's capital city, Seoul. They want Juventus to return their \$60 ticket price and pay compensation of \$850 to each fan for the "mental anguish" they suffered because of Ronaldo's no-show. A lawyer told the Reuters news agency that normally in such cases, fans would get their money back for their tickets, but this was "a special case since the company, through false advertising, took advantage of the football star's fans". The lawyer added: "As for the mental anguish part, I'd like to say some of the fans are very passionate. They are real, avid fans, so for them it is very painful because they love Ronaldo."

Sources: bbc.com / irishtimes.com / koreatimes.co.kr

Writing

Star football players must always act like role models. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

football fans / sue / soccer / giants / bench / boots / chanting / boo / anger / audience / compensation / law / ticket / mental anguish / no-show / star / passionate / painful

True / False

- a) Over 2,000 fans want compensation from Italian club Juventus. T / F
- b) Cristiano Ronaldo only played for less than five minutes. T / F
- c) Fans were singing the name of Lionel Messi. T / F
- d) A social media user said he would no longer be a fan of Ronaldo. T / F
- e) The fans want over \$1,000 each in compensation. T / F
- f) A lawyer said fans would normally get their money back. T / F
- g) A lawyer said the compensation claim was not a special case. T / F
- h) A lawyer said the fans were not real, passionate fans. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. planning | a. trying to get |
| 2. star | b. changed |
| 3. contract | c. instances |
| 4. switched | d. top |
| 5. voicing | e. adore |
| 6. seeking | f. expressing |
| 7. anguish | g. aiming |
| 8. cases | h. enthusiastic |
| 9. passionate | i. pain |
| 10. love | j. agreement |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of football?
- b) What do you know about Juventus?
- c) Should the club or player be sued?
- d) Should the football fans get compensation?
- e) Did Ronaldo have a duty to play for people who paid to see him?
- f) Who is better, Ronaldo or Messi?
- g) Why do you think Ronaldo didn't play?
- h) Have you ever been angry because of a sports game?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Football fans in South Korea are | a. their anger |
| 2. Over 2,000 fans want | b. up his soccer boots |
| 3. play in a pre- | c. anguish |
| 4. lace | d. compensation |
| 5. The fans have also been voicing | e. of the football star's fans |
| 6. in South Korea's capital | f. are very passionate |
| 7. mental | g. planning to sue |
| 8. this was a special | h. city |
| 9. took advantage | i. season friendly |
| 10. some of the fans | j. case |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Cristiano Ronaldo?
- What do you think of the compensation amount?
- Do you think fans really suffered 'mental anguish'?
- What sports are you passionate about?
- Why do we get passionate about sport?
- What advice do you have for Ronaldo?
- What questions would you like to ask Ronaldo?

Spelling

- Italian soccer inagts Juventus
- play in a pre-aesson friendly
- the name of his great ivrla
- ciovng their anger
- the 60,000 uianedce
- I'm no noiger a Ronaldo fan
- They have gone to a law ifrm
- mental nugaish
- A lawyer told the Reuters news ngcaey
- through alfse advertising
- took vnadtagae of the football star's fans
- the fans are very ssoipnatae

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. g
6. a	7. i	8. c	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Football

You think football is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Formula 1, cycling or swimming.

Role B – Formula 1

You think Formula 1 is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): football, cycling or swimming.

Role C – Cycling

You think cycling is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Formula 1, football or swimming.

Role D – Swimming

You think swimming is the best sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sports. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Formula 1, cycling or football.

Speaking – Sports

Rank these with your partner. Put the best sports at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| • swimming | • football |
| • cycling | • tennis |
| • sailing | • skiing |
| • Formula 1 | • basketball |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.