we do

LET'S DISCUSS...

Give 5 facts about the European Super League from the texts this week.



LO: to locate evidence from two texts to support a viewpoint.

you do

3rd Read: Authors choice

Skim read both texts again.

European Super League: All six English teams drop out of competition

All six English teams involved in the European Super League (ESL) have now formally dropped out of the competition. Manchester City were the first club to quit, after Chelsea had said it would look to prepare plans to withdraw, other four sides - Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham - have all now done the same. The Super League said it would reconsider "the most appropriate steps" to reshape the project. Keep reading to find out more.

What's been going on?

The six English clubs were part of a group, also containing Spain's Atletico Madrid, Barcelona and Real Madrid and Italy's AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus. They announced plans on Sunday to form a breakaway league, which they hoped to create as a new midweek competition to rival Uefa's Champions League. Fans, football authorities and government ministers in the UK, and across Europe, expressed anger at what they said would be an unfair competition that would keep many teams out of top European football. Critics also said the move was motivated by greed and making more money for the already biggest clubs. Real Madrid president, Lorenzo Perez, who was named as the ESL's chairman, said the competition was set up "to save football" because young people are "no longer interested" in the game because of "a lot of poor quality games". None of the Spanish and Italian sides have yet released a statement after the six Premier League teams pulled out.



Leeds players wore T-shirts opposed to the Super League ahead of their match with Liverpool on Monday

What did each club say?

Manchester City confirmed they have "formally enacted the procedures to withdraw" from the Super League.

Chelsea said that after having had "time to consider the matter fully" they had decided that their "continued participation in these plans would not be in the best interests of the club, our supporters or the wider football community".

Liverpool said their involvement in the proposed breakaway league "has been discontinued".

Arsenal apologised in an open letter to their fans and said they did not mean to "cause such distress". The club added that they joined the Super League because they "did not want to be left behind" and wanted to ensure the club's future but that they had "made a mistake".

Manchester United said they had "listened carefully to the reaction from our fans, the UK government and other key stakeholders" in making their decision to not take part.

Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy said the club regretted the "anxiety and upset" caused by the plans. He added: "We should like to thank all those supporters who presented their considered opinions."





Banners against the Super League outside Liverpool's ground

'We don't want it to happen'

Leading players at some of the six clubs showed their disapproval of the planned breakaway league. Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson said on social media his side's "collective position" is they do not want the Super League to take place. "We don't like it and we don't want it to happen," read a message that was shared by many fellow Liverpool players. After City confirmed their withdrawal, England winger Raheem Sterling tweeted: "Ok then." Uefa president Aleksander Ceferin, who runs the organisation in charge of European football, said: "There are back in the fold now and I know they have a lot to offer not just to our competitions but to the whole of the European game." In a statement, the European Super League said: "Given the current circumstances we shall reconsider the most appropriate steps to reshape the project, always having in mind our goals of offering fans the best experience possible while enhancing solidarity payments for the entire football community."



'A spit in the face of fans' says UEFA chief

Should supporters own 51% of every football team? As fans mutiny and political leaders rage over a cash grab by wealthy bosses, the case for major legal reform is growing.

Rebel alliance: The 12 teams between them represent just seven cities in three countries.

"It's pure greed… it's a criminal act against football fans". That was Gary Neville's angry verdict yesterday on the shock plan by 12 of Europe's biggest clubs to form a new entity: the European Super League. If the idea becomes reality, the new group will include 20 clubs, and will run alongside existing European and domestic leagues.

Football authorities immediately hit back. The European football body, Uefa, is threatening to ban the breakaway clubs from other tournaments. Fifa, the international governing body for the sport, said players would be barred from the World Cup. This would mean England without Harry Kane, Marcus Rashford, Raheem Sterling or Harry Maguire.

Teams for the current top club competition in Europe, the Champions' League, are currently chosen by merit and win big financial rewards in TV revenues and sponsorship. But the new league would not be merit-based: it would guarantee all 12 founder members a place in every future tournament. Critics say this amounts to a kind of cartel that shuts out smaller clubs. For many, this is a killer blow to the sport. It would be like watching the top 12 tennis players simply play each other over and over again for, say, an entire year.

For the billionaire owners of the clubs it makes sense. Fans can not get enough of elite football. And this guarantees massive extra money for the clubs to spend on snapping up the world's top players.

Many experts think there is a conflict between the interests of billionaire owners, who see their clubs as businesses, and the fans, for whom a club is a community. One major European country claims to have solved the problem already. German clubs in the top leagues have to be 51% owned by fans, so supporters can outvote private investors. Partly as a result, a ticket to a Bayern Munich match can cost as little as £7.65. In contrast, a cheap seat for an English Premier League match will cost around £33. However, ticket prices are not just set by the club: they are also affected by supply and demand. That is why some think fan ownership really does very little to bring football back to supporters. Football teams are businesses, and their decisions are dictated by market forces.

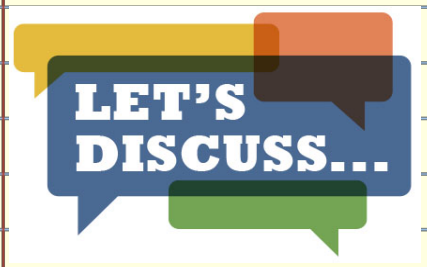
Should the same law apply in every country?

Yes, say some. "Here, football is one of the last activities which really brings people together, across all ages and all classes of income," says one German club boss. "Most chief executives have decided to take less money and enable people whose families have supported the club for generations to keep coming. We want to have our whole society as part of our football, in our stadiums."

Nonsense, say others. There is one reason why the Premier League still has the most exciting clubs, great coaches and the most thrilling players: money. This money dwarfs the amount in German football and comes largely from the pockets of the super-rich owners that Britain rightly welcomes to the party.

LO: to order the key facts from the text.

we do



Would the European Super League be positive for football?

Let's find evidence to support our response to this from the reading texts.

LO: to locate evidence from two texts to support a viewpoint.

I do

Highlight positives/negatives

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Positives of the ESL	Negatives of the ESL

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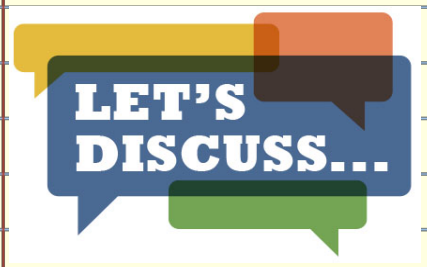
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Positives of the ESL	Negatives of the ESL

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Would the European Super League be positive for football?

In my opinion,...

I think that.....

From my reading, I believe.....

Although some may argue the ESL would be ....., I think that.....

Evidence suggests that.....