

**This House believes that footballers are paid too much money and their pay needs to be reduced.**

#### FACT SHEET TIPS

- Both the judges and your opposing team will also have access to this fact sheet. Therefore, repeating or simply reading these arguments as stated will not win you the debate.
- Read between the lines: we have suggested some possible arguments for each side, but the impacts, justifications and conclusions for the arguments are up for discussion - and questioning by you!
- You are not limited to the facts on this sheet. You may wish to do some research of your own.
- Considering the 'Questions' section may lead to important issues or ambiguities being raised - this could turn the debate.

#### QUESTIONS

- Should all footballers be paid the same, or should it depend on how good they are? How much should it differ?
- What would happen to the money if it were not paid to footballers?
- Will it make people admire the footballers more or less if their pay were to be reduced?
- What are the responsibilities and pressures on footballers?
- How do footballers' salaries compare with those of the fans who pay to support them?
- How do footballers' salaries compare with celebrities and film stars?
- What happens when footballers are not able to play professionally anymore?
- What do footballers have to sacrifice (if anything) for the game?
- What service (if any) does football provide for society?
- Who manages footballers and/or monitors their behaviour?
- What do footballers spend their money on?
- How does football compare with other sports?
- What attracts people to want to play football?
- Where does footballers' money come from?

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#### BACKGROUND FACTS AND INFORMATION

- Britain's average salary is £26,500, but there is a huge pay gap between 'rich' and 'poor'
- Four in five new jobs are in sectors averaging under £16,640 for a 40-hour week.
- The Prime Minister's income was recorded as £142,500 per year, compared to £15,600,000 per year for Wayne Rooney. The average salary for doctors is £70,646
- The most expensive ticket in English football remains at Arsenal, where a category A adult match-day ticket can cost up to £126. Their cheapest ticket is £26.
- The cheapest adult match-day ticket in men's football is £7 at Albion Rovers - the only men's club to charge less than £10.
- The most expensive pies in British football are at Crystal Palace and Kidderminster, with both charging £4.
- The most expensive cup of tea is £2.50 at Manchester United - the same as in 2012.
- Although football match ticket prices dropped in 2013, the Premier League saw a 4.3% rise in the average price of the cheapest season tickets
- Last year's television deal between BT, BSKYB and the Premier League brought in an extra £600 million across the division
- Last season there were record season ticket sales of 476,77 and the average Premier League match attendance was 35,975 - an increase on the previous year
- This year England shirts could be pre-ordered for £90. That's almost twice the price of the last world cup shirt release price in 2010, and 50% more than Nike's anniversary shirt last year.
- Only two out of Forbes Top Ten richest athletes are footballers - Cristian Ronaldo (\$80 million) and Lionel Messi (\$64.7 million)
- Average basic annual salary for a Premier League player was £676,000 in 2006 (2006 figures; can double when performance-related bonuses are added)
- £195,750 Average basic annual salary for a Championship footballer was £195,750 in 2006
- There are 92 Premier League and Football League clubs in UK
- There are 41 Premier and Football League Academies, recruiting boys between 9-18. Many clubs run separate programmes for girls.
- The earliest age that a player can sign a professional contract is 16 years old
- The average footballer's playing career lasts eight years
- Professional golfers compete well into their forties; Tom Watson won the 2009 Open Championship aged 59!
- James Anderson continues to represent England in international cricket after 11 years, aged 31.
- "You give your life to football and then it often forgets you. Football clubs have a bad habit of taking players in, making the most of them, and then vomiting them up once they're too old or injured [...] - Malcolm Macdonald
- A footballer's career is extremely short compared to the average worker, and dependent as it is upon his body, it is both constantly exposed to risk
- Many footballers are forced to neglect their education to focus on the game
- By the age of 21, 75% of professional footballers have given up the game.

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- At the end of the 2002-3 season, a record number of some 595 footballers were released from their clubs, around 20% of the total number employed in the industry.
- High-profile footballers work short hours and are left to their own devices for most of the day. However, they may feel like they can't do anything too "normal", because they may be harassed in public. They have every action analysed by the intrusive media.
- "I want to caution the perception that footballers are overly fortunate, too highly paid and arrogant. I believe footballers are some of the most vulnerable people in society. [...] Footballers certainly get hangers-on. They need to be careful as they are targets for newspaper stings and people wanting celebrity status [...] They are never as confident as they appear to be. When I meet footballers off the pitch, even the Joey Barton's and Roy Keanes of this world, who have a reputation for being aggressive, are in-fact very mild mannered." - Gordon Taylor, Chief Executive of the Professional Footballers' Association
- The Professional Footballers' Association exists to support and represent footballers; it is the longest established professional sports association in the world.
- The Professional Footballers' Association started out being responsible for fighting the players' cause uniquely in terms of wages and working hours. The PFA were crucial in the struggle to demonstrate the precarious nature of a career in football and remove the wage cap, then set at £4 a week, moved to £12, before eventually being abolished in 1961.
- Culture, Media and Sport committee says the system of licensing, the way fans are treated and the finances of the game are not satisfactory.
- Peter Coates, chairman of Stoke City says: "The Premier League is a massive success, it is the International League and it contributes massively to the British economy and it's one of our success stories."
- VisitBritain announced in October 2012 that 900,000 foreign football tourists visiting the UK spent a substantial £706million – or £785 per fan - around £200 more than the average spend for a visitor to the UK. And this is on top of the £1billion plus that the Premier League and its clubs pay in tax each season.
- Over the years, football has increased in popularity, with an estimated 25 million people in England watching football on a regular basis. From young ages children are able to decipher their John Terry's from their Wayne Rooney's and their interest in football grows as they get older.
- Despite football being a highly skilled and entertaining sport, players have been criticised numerous times for their behaviour on and off pitch. In 2013, several footballers have been involved in all sorts of controversy; from Mario Balotelli smoking in train toilets to Liverpool's Luis Suarez having a bite of Branislav Ivanovic's arm.
- According to GIVEMEFootball David Beckham was voted as the number one football role model, with Pele coming in second and Bobby Charlton third.
- The PFA supports a number of good causes: Keep Your Eye on the Ball campaign (to raise awareness of testicular cancer); the Kick into Reading scheme; Kick it Out and Show Racism the Red Card; the Prince's Trust and Kids' Taskforce.

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David Beckham - Retired Soccer player Paris Saint-Germain - Born: 1975 United Kingdom - Married - Children: 4



Annual: GBP 22,036,765.00

Monthly: GBP 1,836,397.00

Weekly: GBP 440,735.00

Daily: GBP 88,147.00

Forbes February 2014: \$37 million

Forbes June 2013: \$47.2 million

Forbes April 2013: \$50.6 million

Francefootball March 2013: 36 million euro

Forbes February 1, 2013: Beckham confirmed that he would earn an estimated \$1 million a month at Paris Saint-Germain, nearly double his salary at his previous club, Los Angeles Galaxy, but it all will be donated to a yet to be named Parisien children's charity. It is in line with Beckham's philanthropic efforts. He campaigns as UNICEF ambassador since 1999. Beckham still makes \$37 million per year from endorsements of Adidas, Samsung, H&M, Burger King and Sainsbury.

Cristiano Ronaldo - Footballer Real Madrid - Born: 1985 Portugal



Annual: GBP 47,647,059.00

Monthly: GBP 3,970,588.00

Weekly: GBP 952,941.00

Daily: GBP 190,588.00

Simon Cowell - Judge X Factor/former American Idol, English Artist and Repertoire Exec, TV producer - Born: 1959 UK



Annual: GBP 56,580,882.00

Monthly: GBP 4,715,074.00

Weekly: GBP 1,131,618.00

Daily: GBP 226,324.00

Prince William - Duke of Cambridge, Flight Lieutenant RAF - Born: 1982 UK - Married - Children: 1

Annual: GBP 37,170.00

Monthly: GBP 3,097.00

Weekly: GBP 743.00

Daily: GBP 148.00