

## **The Pro League supports players and staff in the fight against online hate**

Translated in English from original version

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This season, the Pro League has stepped up its efforts to raise awareness among professional players and staff members about online hate and inappropriate behaviour. In collaboration with (local) experts, information sessions are offered on how to deal with such situations and how to respond. In addition, the Pro League aims to actively involve clubs and players in the collective fight against discrimination and online hate speech.

As influential figures in football, players are often direct targets of discrimination and online abuse. It is therefore essential that players, as well as staff members and club employees, are aware of the support available and know how to act when players are confronted with online hate speech.

Since the start of the season, several clubs, such as STVV, KSC Lokeren, KAS Eupen and Lommel SK, have taken part in information sessions organised by the Pro League together with local partners. These sessions are aimed at all players and technical staff. Clubs can also choose to organise a similar session themselves.

The Pro League also seeks to involve players more closely in its social policy. By informing them about the social work of the Pro League and its clubs, as well as the campaigns and actions being carried out, the aim is for players, as role models and influencers, to help foster a positive football culture.

Previously, the Pro League had already developed awareness campaigns in collaboration with the RBFA, Voetbal Vlaanderen and the ACFF, in which figures such as Toby Alderweireld, Mariam Toloba and Bram Van Driessche, among others, took a stand against trolls and those spreading online hate.

Throughout the season, the Pro League organises various initiatives such as Come Together (against discrimination), Football for All (LGBTQ inclusion) and Football Kick-Off for players with disabilities. These campaigns demonstrate how football can bring people together and have a positive impact on society.