



The first conference of “Player’s Corner” cycle took place on May 18 th 2017, in the Multipurpose Pavilion in Odivelas. The chosen subject was “Dual Careers in Sport and in Portuguese Football”. Several personalities of the football world attended the event, among them Fernando Gomes (President of the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) and member of UEFA’s executive committee), Pedro Proença (President of the League of Clubs (LPFP-9 and member of EPFL’s board), Hugo Martins (President of Odivelas City Hall), and João Paulo Rebelo (State Secretary of Youth and Sport).

At the Round Tables debates attended Ricardo Bendi- to (representative of Portugal’s Olympic Committee), Pedro Dias (Portuguese Football Federation), Vítor Pardal (Education General Direction), Joaquim Evangelista (President of the Portuguese Player’s Union), Rui Jorge (current national under-21 selector), Vítor Baía (former international and European champion for Porto Football Club), João Benedito (former futsal goalkeeper of Sporting CP and national team), Abel Camará (Belenenses player), Moreira (Estoril player), Bruno Avelar Rosa (Coordinator of SJPF’s Education and Training Office), Duarte Lopes (specialist in the scope of dual careers in Lisbon’s Estádio Universitário), António Carapinha (Coach and investigator in the scope of career transition in professional football players) and Tarantini (player and mentor of “Tarantini: My cause” project).

Joaquim Evangelista, president of the Portuguese Player’s Union, opened the session by beginning to thank Odivelas City Hall, Hugo Martins and sport councilor Paulo César for supplying the sportive space and his team at the Union.

So that the player can be defended in the best possible conditions, it’s necessary to “create debate spaces”, in a way to not only defend the player’s rights and warranties, but offer them “the same training and qualification opportunities”.

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2017/2018

PLAYER’S CORNER

“PLAYER’S CORNER” IS A CONFERENCE CYCLE CREATED BY THE PORTUGUESE PLAYER’S UNION (SJPF).

It’s a reflection space in the player’s optic, in which the intention is to discuss the main issues regarding their activity, involving sport agents, specialized technicians in the approached issues and politic power representatives. By being a reflection space dedicated to the players, SJPF intends that these assume a leading role in each conference, giving them the opportunity to express their opinions and share experiences, looking to involve them in the discussion about the problems regarding their activity.

Through “Player’s Corner” SJPF wants to counteract the player’s spacing from discussing themes that affect them directly, reinforcing their “class conscience”, as well as mobilize sport agents and, in particular, the institutions that tutor football in Portugal, for the development of a sport politic that values the player’s activity.

“The real willingness to act and make a difference on behalf of the football player appreciation and therefore Portuguese football” and how the organ has worked “since a long time ago the problem of the football player’s depreciation between the agents that step in the phenomenon”.



Joaquim Evangelista,
SJPF’s President

#playerscorner
#dualcareer

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In this context the leader referred the remaining Union's concerns, namely "the labour field, health concerns, well-being and also social responsibility", always investing in the future of sport.

SJPF's main priority is education and, therefore, has been developing training and qualification programs focused in the player's needs, considering the different phases of their sport career. Evangelista reinforced the Union's role in this context, being its responsibility to "provide and foster models of academic and professional qualification that allow the player to face their sport path with bigger security and assure their professional future". However, neither of these goals could be fulfilled alone, giving the Union special emphasis to the partnership developed with the Portuguese Football Federation and Portugal League and their educational projects Anti Match-Fixing and Financial Education for

through Erasmus+ Program for sport, that SJPF integrates in a strategic way in the context of its support and promoting dual careers politic and that would be later presented by Bruno Avelar Rosa, responsible for SJPF's education office.

He also complemented the work carried out by Fernando Gomes, FPF's project "Portugal Football School", the League's work in diminishing the differences through a "social and effective dialogue", the work harmony with Pedro Proença and the importance also given to education, Record's help in boosting the project and giving it national projection and how team work helped the players to become "the best in their different dimensions". This way, Player's Corner can become a "reference space", leaving an invite for the next edition, being in the next Player's Corner agenda topics like "women's football and equality, integrity, good governance, mental health and financial stability".



The recent election of Joaquim Evangelista for FIFPro allows him a "follow-up of what's best is done in this area, reproduce it in Portugal and assure the direct access to international institutions and international agenda".

Taking this first conference into consideration, the president remembered the core of the debate, namely the investment in dual careers as the main instrument to assure the player real qualification opportunities and, consequently, a professional future. "It's important to demystify the prejudice that the player, during his sport career, earns enough incomes to assure their future. Big part of the active line is done beyond the four lines", he underlined.

After thanking all the speakers that associated themselves to this initiative, it was also refereed project GOAL (Gamification and Online Activities for Learning to Support Dual Career of Athletes), financed by the European Commission,

Pedro Proença, president of the Portuguese Football League, started by talking about his short career as a professional football player, remembering that "not everyone will be Cristianos Ronaldos or Messis, nor everyone earns dozens or hundreds of thousands euros like it happens in the biggest European teams. In fact, there are very few those who can in their 10 or 15 years of their short career save money that allows them to face future challenges. The good news is that there's professional life besides the lawns and that's why we're all here".

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He underlined that the great challenge that is placed to the players during their career is the end of it and that all the organs that attended Player's Corner are working together to help them. "I'm a strong supporter of training and I believe fundamentally in people's quality and I understand and have the belief that only with better and more qualification we can find solutions for the football players."

Referring briefly to the post-graduation in Management and Organization of Professional Football launched for the first time by Portugal League, he reinforced the importance of these kind of initiatives that "could allow other professional exits to current professional football players", that work together with SJPF, in a "healthy relationship", by defending values such as "talent, accuracy, exemption and professionalism". "Football will be better every time if the League, teams, players, coaches and referees, all together show that we are one team", he finished.

Fernando Gomes, president of the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF), had the floor next, stating that the FPF's presence in debate is "besides essential, irrefutable", complimenting Joaquim Evangelista (SJPF's president) work, and his recent election for the FIFPro board. He underlined the "selfless way he has defended the player in every aspect of their lives. In the sport life, fighting for the carrying on of the player profession, in fair and worthy conditions, at the same time that defends the game integrity facing the dangers that threaten it. In the professional lives, betting in areas such as academic and professional training, health or social responsibility."

Up next he addressed the FPF's concern in the scope of dual careers and how the recently launched "Portugal Football School" aims to "offer a training that prepares academic and professionally the players for other careers besides football or in football."

He said goodbye by offering a National Team t-shirt to Joaquim Evangelista, reinforcing that SJPF's president "has been clearly one of the great ambassadors of Portuguese football and for the national team".

Then Hugo Martins, president of Odivelas City Hall, gave a speech, welcoming people to Odivelas' Multipurpose Pavilion, where will be held "several projects not only in the sport scope, but also in a cultural, social and business level", transforming

Odivelas "in a center of sport and education training and social cohesion", referring the importance of dual careers in periods of professional football player's career completion and how this new project will be important for that same reason.

Lastly spoke João Paulo Rebelo, Youth and Sport State Secretary, equally reinforcing the importance of dual

careers, being "absolutely essential to reconcile sport career with academic career" and how should they be prepared "during the period when there's sport practice". He also recalled the time when he met Vítor Pardal as his teacher and how with his outstanding work and concern to gather school with sport practice contributed and inspired for the launch of this project. In the beginning, the pilot project was launched in four schools, "but in the next school year we will proceed to nine schools, which is very significative". He also reinforced that in order for this project to be successful, it's important to not only focus on dual careers, but also "be close to a high-performance center, where a considerable number of sport student that are enrolled in these same schools".

Then it took place the round-table debate. It was discussed reconciliatory politics between sport performance and the athletes' training, dual careers were approached in 1 st person and the transition process, as well as the role of the sport institutions in creating a more favorable system to promoting dual careers.

The First Round Table topic was "Reconciliatory politics between sport performance and the athletes' training", in which participated Ricardo Bendito, Portugal's Olympic Committee representative, Pedro Dias of the Portuguese Football Federation and Vítor Pardal from the Education Board and Joaquim Evangelista.

The debate started with Ricardo Bendito making a reference to the launch of a scholarship program for the athletes in Olympic preparation, that aims to support college and professional education and that eventually will be extended to "younger athletes, considered talented", being important to "monitor in a close way", know if the studies are going well and guide the athletes.

Pedro Dias of FPF, referred the assignment of academic and sportive merit-based grants, "idealizing the individual plan of every sport agent and the promotion of internal and external mechanisms of evaluation and the processes introduced for supporting dual career", the main goal right now being "turn college attendance more adjusted to students that intend to develop a dual career model" and "improve the internal and external communication mechanisms and agent support, creating direct articulation means between parts" for the high performance sport's practitioners and that attend national teams.

Next Joaquim Evangelista stepped in, again reinforcing education as a major factor for football players and underlining that Player's Corner settles in four big pillars: compulsory education, developed through Qualifica Program, higher qualification, through the player's access to higher education and protocols with Politécnica University all over the country, proper training and in partnership and the



financial pillar for players that don't have the opportunity to continue their training, where the Union can do it all or help them carry the burden.

During the debate, he talked about the strategic position and FPF's important support, answering questions about career duality, reinforcing the training importance and how the "retrograde vision" that for a player to concentrate himself in his career, he had to leave studies on the side.

Dual careers were discussed on 1 st person on Round Table Number 2, in which attended Rui Jorge (current under-21 national coach), Vítor Baia (former international and European champion for Porto Football Club), João Benedito (former futsal goalkeeper for Sporting CP and the national team), Abel Camará (Belenenses' player) and Moreira (Estoril's goalkeeper).

Rui Jorge confessed that he lived his "career always intensely and without worrying about the future" and that the familiar environment in which he grew up was extremely decisive for his future, because "they made me stay in school and don't give up. With 14 or 15 years old, if I had decided, I'd probably made things differently. For that I have to thank to whoever prepared me for the future." By becoming a coach, he reintroduced the same logic, which reflected in his work at Belenenses. He rejected the morning practices scenario to give the team the opportunity to not skip classes.

On the other hand, Vítor Baía, shared his experience of returning to college and how his new colleagues reacted to his fame. "People touched me and asked "Is it really you?", confessed. He also talked about under-16 European in 1986, when he realized that Scotland was a step ahead, where he remembers encountering a teacher, in the team's day off, teaching them the modules they would lose during the competition month and how that particular event sparked his curiosity for Sport Management.

João Benedito talked about the complexity of a career ending and how, all of the sudden, paychecks stopped coming. "I had no idea what was going to happen. I stopped playing in June and in July I stopped earning money. I started having my own saving and be my own employee", he remembered. "I heard that Rooney gathered 54 million in one morning and spent 500 thousand in the casino. It would be nice if players could gather 500 thousand in a lifetime! But how many can save that much?", he questioned. He also raised awareness for the need to "show athletes what can happen if they don't think this way".

Moreira explained his situation when he dropped school "because there wasn't a way to balance", and is now studying through Qualifica Program carried out by SJPF. He also left an advice to young players: don't do what he did and stay in school.

Abel Camará also shared the moment he realized he should make a difference in his life. "I didn't use to think like this, but I've changed. I used to see Ricardo Dias getting ready after practice [in Belenenses] to go to college. He used to tell me football wouldn't last forever".

After the break, SJPF's education leader, Bruno Avelar Rosa, presented Project GOAL (Gamification and Online Activities for Learning to Support Dual Career of Athletes), financed by the European Commission, through Erasmus+ Program for sport that SJPF integrates in a strategic way in the context of its support and promotion politic for dual careers.

"Project GOAL will promote the construction of an educational online program, based on a educational approach called 'gamification', that consists in the application of evolution principles, development and link that exist in computer games to other learning contexts", explained SJPF's Education and Training office coordinator.

Through this project, working and retired athletes will have the necessary support to promote their professional career outside the sport context. "This project will boost in athletes and former athletes the development and employment learning skills that allows them to organize, plan, foresee and face their future with bigger confidence and qualification", stated.

Project GOAL substantiates an online and free training program directed to athletes and former athletes from different sport modalities. Besides SJPF, there are other partners to this project, financed by the European Commission in the scope of Erasmus+ Program, Salónica Aristóteles University, Coventry University, Nicósia University Investigation Foundation, Spanish Association of Futsal Players, Spanish Assoiacion of Basketball Professional Players, V4 Sport Foundation and the European Confederation of Young Entrepreneurs National Associations.

Lastly the debate on Round Table 3 took place, where it was discussed, in the scope of dual careers, the transition process. It counted with the presence of Bruno Avelar Rosa, Duarte Lopes (specialist in the scope of dual careers in Lisbon's Academic Stadium), António Carapinheira (coach and investigator in the scope of professional football player's career transition) and Tarantini (player and mentor of "Tarantini: My cause" project).

"If there are players that have financial issues and earn lots of millions, what will the ones who don't earn that do?", started by questioning Duarte Lopes. Tarantini, on the other hand, confessed to be an example not only to his teammates, but to other players as well, stating that he could go through serious struggles in the end of his career. In a way to prevent that, he concluded a master's degree in Sport in 2014.

"More than 90% of the players will have to continue to work in order to provide for their families. It's important to invest in this. I believe I'm a better player by the training I had, by the game knowledge I acquired, by the coaches I had".

António Carapinheira reinforced the importance of sharing between all the organs that defend the player and football, in a way to reach specific conclusions and solutions. "Post-career is everything that comes next, is a process that comes from the bottom. It's important to safeguard all positions, it's important that the clubs are ready", he said at last. He gave as an example the kind of questions he used to ask to different players that were ending their careers and how all of them reached the conclusion that football was their life and passion and how "they didn't know how to do anything else." In that moment, he remembers that it's important to invest in education again.

Lastly, Paulo César, of Odivelas' Council and José Carlos Ferreira (SJPF's Vice- President) closed Player's Corner 1 st Conference Cycle.

It's also important to outline, on a final note, that all the conference cycle's participants enrolled free of charge and received a certificate with 0,8 credits (specific component) for the purpose of continuous education of football coaches.

