



DOSSIER  
LaLiga vs. Racism

LaLiga has within its remit been fighting and leading the battle against violence, racism, xenophobia, and intolerance in sport for years, as evidenced by the many initiatives that have been put in place in recent years, especially the cases brought before the courts and before the State Commission against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance in Sport.

LaLiga's Legal, and Integrity and Security departments strongly condemn all kinds of violence that have occurred inside or outside professional football stadiums over the last few seasons. LaLiga's objective is zero violence in sport and in order to achieve this, various prevention, detection and reporting practices are put into action every matchday, which are then reported to the State Commission against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Sport, as well as to the RFEF's (Royal Spanish Football Federation) Competition Committee. In the same way, LaLiga condemns and takes legal action in any criminal proceedings related to violent acts occurring in the sphere of football.

In order to speed up the identification of any person or group of people who engage in racist behaviour inside or outside any stadium, LaLiga has set up the email address [StopRacismo@laliga.es](mailto:StopRacismo@laliga.es) and the Telegram channel @StopRacismoLaLiga, so that fans can contact LaLiga and provide the necessary information to help file the relevant reports. In addition, a [dedicated reporting system](#) has been set up on the LaLiga website so that any fan can report racist behaviour they observe inside or outside a stadium.



The individual who filmed the video in the following tweet contacted us through this STOP RACISMO channel to report the fan he saw aiming racial insults:  
[https://twitter.com/hbackup\\_rm/status/1627319129446223872](https://twitter.com/hbackup_rm/status/1627319129446223872)

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### LaLiga's powers and remit

In Spain, the applicable regulation for the punishment of racist behaviour is provided for in Law 19/2007, of July 11, against violence, racism, xenophobia and intolerance in sport.

Article 28 attributes the power to impose sanctions to the Government Delegation, the Secretary of State for Security, the Ministry of the Interior and the Council of Ministers, without prejudice to the possible powers of the Autonomous Communities. Therefore, legally LaLiga is limited to reporting the facts and events, which is what it does.

In the case of possible sporting disciplinary measures, these are set out in the RFEF Disciplinary Code which incorporates the offences set out in Article 34 and following of Law 19/2007, of 11 July, with the Competition Committee being responsible for imposing sanctions. Therefore, LaLiga can once again only report the facts, which is what it does.

With regard to the actions of the referees during the match in relation to behaviour of this kind, LaLiga has no jurisdiction over such acts. This is the responsibility of the RFEF, who are responsible for refereeing.

Racist behaviour can be reported by clubs, by the RFEF (which sends a delegate to all matches) and by LaLiga (which sends one or two Match Directors to all matches). As is well known, every week LaLiga reports all possible acts of violence, racism, xenophobia and intolerance that occur in LaLiga Santander and LaLiga SmartBank, the full extent of its remit under the current situation.

### LaLiga reporting of racist insults

Since the creation of LaLiga's Integrity and Security Department (2015/16 season), more than a dozen racist incidents/actions linked to LaLiga matches have been reported. All cases have been investigated and/or reported to the relevant bodies and authorities.

Some of these episodes took place on the pitch, between players/coaching staff. On these occasions, and with due respect to the actions of the referee on the pitch, LaLiga analyses the audio and digital files, as well as commissioning external expert reports with lip-reading analysis, in order to provide all this information to the bodies to which we present our reports.

In the case of racist insults by fans against players, in addition to reporting the facts to the aforementioned State Commission, since the 2018/19 season LaLiga has also taken these cases to the Hate Prosecutor's Office. Recently, in view of the fact that some of LaLiga's complaints have been shelved by the Public Prosecutor's Office, and due to the lack of uniformity in the grounds, LaLiga has decided to file complaints directly with the Courts of Instruction.

### Summary of the cases and the current judicial status

**Iñaki Williams in Barcelona:** January 25, 2020, during the RCD Espanyol de Barcelona vs Athletic Club match, held at the RCDE Stadium. In the 69th minute of the match, while Iñaki Williams was leaving the pitch, several fans shouted racist abuse.

Currently, both LaLiga and the Public Prosecutor's Office have already filed their indictments against the individual responsible, with LaLiga requesting a two-year prison sentence, a 12-

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month fine, special disqualification from engaging in any profession related to sport for more than 10 years, and a stadium ban for a period of more than five years in addition to the prison sentence imposed, with Court of Instruction No.2 of Cornellá de Llobregat having already issued an order for the opening of the oral trial.

We are now waiting for the trial date to be set.

**Vinicius Jr. in Barcelona, January 25, 2020:** In the case of Real Madrid player Vinicius Jr., LaLiga filed a report with the Hate Prosecutor's Office in Barcelona for the abuse he received during El Clasico at Camp Nou on October 24, 2021. LaLiga was notified by the Public Prosecutor's Office that the complaint had been dismissed "given that the authorities were unable to identify the perpetrators of the acts".

**Vinicius Jr. in Mallorca, March 14, 2022:** LaLiga filed a complaint with the Balearic Islands Hate Prosecutor's Office for racist abuse against the player during the RCD Mallorca vs Real Madrid match on March 14, 2022 at the Estadio de Son Moix. In this case, the reason for the Prosecutor's Office's dismissal of the case was because "the expression and sounds uttered, undoubtedly typical of foul and despicable attitudes, as well as being offensive and absolutely reprehensible, do not initially appear to have, in this case, the public criminal dimension that is being claimed."

**Nico Williams in Seville, March 13, 2022:** Meanwhile, Nico Williams, brother of Iñaki Williams and also an Athletic Club player, received racist abuse on March 13, 2022 at the Estadio Benito Villamarín, during the Real Betis vs Athletic Club match, which was also reported by LaLiga. This case was also closed by the Seville Hate Prosecutor's Office because "despite not having made a statement, from an examination of the defendant's social media accounts, it appears that the defendant is not a person who intends to incite racism, or that the gestures made were intended to achieve this end. The consideration of criminal justice as a last resort leads us to consider that, despite their incorrectness, they do not go beyond the line of criminal offence."

**Carlos Akapo in Granada, February 28, 2022:** LaLiga acted in the same way in the case of Carlos Akapo, then a Cádiz CF player, who also suffered racist abuse at the Estadio de los Cármenes during the match against Granada CF on February 28, 2022. On this occasion, it should be noted that Granada CF identified the fan, who also voluntarily turned himself in to the police.

As a result of LaLiga's report, the Hate Crime Prosecutor's Office filed a complaint with the Granada Court of Instruction. At present, the person responsible for the insults has already testified before the Court of Instruction No.2 of Granada, and Carlos Akapo will also testify in the near future.

**Vinicius Jr in Madrid, September 18, 2022:** Racist abuse was also reported against Vinicius Jr on September 18, 2022 inside and outside the Estadio Cívitas Metropolitano, before and during the Atlético de Madrid vs Real Madrid match. The case was closed by the Hate Prosecutor's Office because "there is no concrete act to be attributed to a specific person and once the insults of a racist nature have been contextualised, they do not constitute a crime against the dignity of the person concerned under Article 510.2 a) of the Criminal Code. And this on the basis that they are unpleasant, inappropriate, and disrespectful, since they were made in the context of an extremely heated football match, with other derogatory or insulting references to the sporting competition, together with the fact that they were not repeated beyond the two acts described above and lasted only a few seconds."

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**Vinicius Jr in Valladolid, December 30, 2022:** In the case of insults directed at Vinicius Jr. at Real Valladolid's home stadium, LaLiga filed a complaint with the Anti-Violence Commission, the RFEF's Competition Committee and before the Court of Instruction No.4 of Valladolid. Criminal proceedings have been opened after a number of perpetrators were identified. Real Valladolid opened proceedings against the 11 identified individuals in line with its internal rules and announced, on March 9, 2023, that it had deemed the events to be very serious and that it had sanctioned the guilty parties with a three-and-a-half-year suspension of their season tickets. At a legal level, LaLiga is a party to the proceedings as a prosecutor, and various court orders have currently been issued.

**Vinicius Jr in Madrid, January 26, 2023.** LaLiga filed a complaint with the Court of Instruction No.28 of Madrid after a banner and effigy of Vinicius Jr appeared on the Valdebebas bridge prior to the Real Madrid v Atlético de Madrid Copa del Rey match. On May 23, 2023, police authorities, at the request of the legal proceedings initiated by LaLiga, arrested four people who allegedly hung the dummy and the banner.

**Vinicius Jr in Mallorca, February 5, 2023:** Complaint filed after Vinicius Jr was abused by a fan in the stands at Estadi Mallorca Son Moix. The case has been admitted for processing and opening of proceedings by the Court of Instruction No.3 of Palma de Mallorca.

The proposed sanction of the State Anti-Violence Commission is a fine of 4,000 euros and a 12-month ban on access to sports venues.

After LaLiga and RCD Mallorca identified the perpetrator of the racist insults against Vinicius Jr in Mallorca (the same person responsible for racist abuse during the RCD Mallorca vs Villarreal CF match against Samuel Chukwueze on February 18), a new report has been filed in the Courts of Instruction of Palma de Mallorca. RCD Mallorca banned the fan who shouted racist abuse at Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr and Villarreal CF's Samuel Chukwueze for three years.

On April 4, 2023 Vinicius Jr. testified in court, following a report by LaLiga.

**Vinicius Jr in Pamplona, February 18, 2023:** LaLiga reports racist chants against Vinicius Jr in the stands of CA Osasuna's home stadium to the Courts of Instruction of Pamplona in order to identify the perpetrator. The complaint was brought before the Court of Instruction No.4, which has ordered various investigative measures.

**Samuel Chukwueze in Mallorca, February 18, 2023:** LaLiga filed a report after identifying the perpetrator of racist insults against Samuel Chukweze ( Feb 18, 2023) and Vinicius Jr ( Feb 5, 2023). At the request of LaLiga, the Court has deferred to the Court of Instruction No.3 of Mallorca, which is investigating the facts relating to Vinicius Jr.

**Vinicius Jr in Seville, March 5, 2023:** Real Betis vs Real Madrid. LaLiga filed a report with the Courts of Instruction in Seville following the detection of racist abuse against Vinicius Jr in one of the stands of the stadium. The report has been lodged with the Court of Instruction No.15 of Seville.

**Vinicius Jr in Barcelona, March 19, 2023:** FC Barcelona vs Real Madrid. LaLiga filed a report with the Courts of Instruction of Barcelona for racist insults against Vinicius Jr. at Camp Nou. The report was lodged with the Court of Instruction No.13 of Barcelona. At the court's request, LaLiga has since filed a further report and lodged bail in order to be able to prosecute the case.

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**Vinicius Jr in Valencia, May 21, 2023:** LaLiga filed a legal complaint with the Courts of Instruction of Valencia for racist insults aimed at Vinicius Jr at Mestalla during Valencia CF vs Real Madrid. Police authorities arrested three alleged perpetrators.

### Other Actions by LaLiga and the Clubs in the fight against violence and racism

Player Handbook: is delivered every start of the season to all players, both in physical format and via the exclusive Players App. It makes players aware of violence and racism and encourages them not only to follow the values of respect, but also to report violent or racist behaviour.

Training days together with the General Direction of Police: aimed at security guards at football stadiums, which includes a presentation on hate crimes.

Fan handbook: in collaboration with the 'Aficiones Unidas' Federation of Supporter Clubs, highlighting the practices that should represent the values of sport. They are distributed in the stadiums at the start of each season.

Collaboration with Aficiones Unidas: actions carried out by the Federation of Supporter Clubs aimed at combating violence and racism in football, promoting peaceful coexistence and respect both inside and outside stadiums.

Projects in collaboration with clubs: messages against racism and xenophobia on stadium public address systems and video scoreboards and on their social media channels.

As members of the State Commission against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Sport, LaLiga participates, promotes and supports all initiatives proposed to combat racist behaviour in sport.

In the fight against violent groups, LaLiga has obtained notable convictions handed down by various Provincial Courts, such as those of Asturias (no. 18/2022 of April 18, 2022 and no. 6/2020 of February 11, 2020), Madrid (no. 324/2019 of May 6, 2019 and no. 194/2019 of March 6, 2019) and Pontevedra (no. 248/2021 of June 6, 2021), resulting in the same convictions, Madrid (no. 324/2019 of May 6, 2019 and no. 194/2019 of March 25, 2019) and Pontevedra (no. 248/2021 of June 21, 2021), with the result that, in addition to the imposition of prison sentences, fines, and stadium banning orders for the perpetrators, in several of the cases the convicted persons were sentenced to prison.

Finally, it should be noted that on December 30, 2022, the 23rd Criminal Court of Madrid sentenced 75 of the 82 defendants for the brawl in which Francisco Javier Romero Taboada "Jimmy" died. Those prosecuted were done so thanks to the fact that LaLiga repeatedly appealed the successive previous rulings that limited the prosecution to little more than a dozen defendants.

### LaLiga Institutional Collaboration

LaLiga holds meetings with the Ministry of Equality and with the Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030, whose cabinets are promptly informed of the actions that LaLiga carries out in terms of reporting and fighting against racism. In fact, they were recently presented with a campaign to raise awareness of racism in sport, to be carried out together.

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United Against Racism campaign: LaLiga, RFEF and the National Sports Council (CSD) come together in May 2023 with a joint campaign with the message “TOGETHER AGAINST RACISM.”

The campaign will be implemented through:

- Social Media (#UnitedAgainstRacism)
- Logos on TV broadcasts
- Advertising boards
- Toblerone signs alongside pre-match starting XIs
- Armbands
- Flyers to be handed out by clubs at stadiums across LaLiga

Clubs have also been invited to participate in these initiatives.

## LaLiga & Vinicius

### 1. JT statements on Vinicius

-[Diario Marca \(05/05/2023\)](#)

*“As long as the teams are competitive in Europe, it doesn't worry me. The Ballon d'Or winner is playing in Spain, the breakthrough player Vinicius is playing in Spain, Griezmann is playing in Spain”.*

-[Diario Marca \(11/05/2023\)](#)

*“Two years ago I was criticised when I said that Vinicius was the top player; well, now look”.*

-[AS \(11/05/2023\)](#)

*“Vinicius to win the Ballon d'Or”.*

-[El Español \(15/09/2021\)](#)

*“This is the 'King' of LaLiga: Vinicius, who is going to blow up, and now that he's found the scoring touch, even more so. His celebration didn't look good to me, but okay. Ansu Fati, and then Llorente of Atlético de Madrid. I think between Ansu Fati and Vinicius we're going to enjoy ourselves a lot”.*

-[Europa Press \(28/02/2019\)](#)

*On the match at the Bernabéu, he praised Vinicius' performance. “I think he is a star. The goals will come, Messi didn't get them when he made his debut, before averaging more than 40 a season. Maybe we are asking too much of him, but he has things that can be seen and if his head is with him, I think he is among those who should be classified as a star because he has something different”.*

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*Status of filed reports concerning insults against Vinicius*

|                                    |                 |                          |   |   |   |   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Real Valladolid-Real Madrid</b> | X               | Practicing due diligence | Various spectators: "Monkey, fucking monkey, black shit, etc."  | X | Filed. No fault detected in club monitoring. Isolated from a small number of fans, collaborated in identification, matter communicated, internal punishment, etc.)  | "Son of a bitch," "black bastard," "uh uh uh"   |
| <b>Athletic Club-Real Madrid</b>   |                 |                          |   | X | €1,503 fine for all incidents (against Vinicius and others)   | <b>No racist incidents.</b> "Vinicius, you're subnormal, the idiot of Spain, idiot idiot"   |
| <b>RCD Mallorca-Real Madrid</b>    | X               | Practicing due diligence | One person: "Vinicius, monkey, you're a fucking monkey"   | X | Filed. No fault detected in club monitoring. There was a communique condemning the events, the club collaborated in identifying the spectator who was then sanctioned by anti-violence commission. Isolated incident. | A home spectator: "Vinicius, monkey, you're a fucking monkey"                               |
| <b>CA Osasuna-Real Madrid</b>      | X               | Practicing due diligence | A video on social media in which "at least the fucking black didn't score" can be heard being said to another fan. Complaint received via the Stop Racismo email. | X | €12,000 for all incidents (against Vinicius and others)   | <b>No racist incidents.</b> "Die, Vinicius," "Vinicius, son of a bitch"                     |
| <b>Real Betis-Real Madrid</b>      | X               | Practicing due diligence | Integrity report: "Uh, uh, uh, monkey, you're a monkey, you're a monkey"  |   |   |   |
| <b>FC Barcelona-Real Madrid</b>    | X               | Practicing due diligence | Integrity report: Various fans say "Black, monkey, son of a bitch, uh uh uh"  | X | Restarted.  | <b>No racist incidents.</b> "Die, Vinicius"   |
| <b>Girona FC-Real Madrid</b>       |                 |                          |   | X | Unresolved  | <b>No racist insults.</b> "Idiot, idiot, Vinicius son of a bitch, step on him, step on him" |
| <b>Valencia CF-Real Madrid</b>     | X               | Report filed             | "Fucking black, fucking black son of a bitch, monkey, you're a fucking monkey, uh uh uh"  | X | Unresolved  | Some spectators: "Monkey, monkey, uh uh uh, fucking black son of a bitch"                   |
| <b>Report Dummy/Bridge</b>         | X               | Practicing due diligence | Dummy wearing a Vinicius jersey was hung from a bridge.   |   |   |   |
|                                    | <b>8 Courts</b> |                          |   |   | <b>8 Competitions Committee (4 racist y 4 offensive)</b>  |   |
|                                    |                 |                          |   |   |   |   |
|                                    |                 |                          |   |   |   |   |
|                                    |                 |                          |   |   |   |   |

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### 3. Tweets in support of Vinicius

#### Report filed for abuse against Vinicius in Valladolid



#### Report filed for abuse against Vinicius at Mestalla



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### Tweet 16/5/2023 LaLiga fights against racism



### Tweet in support of Vinicius when he says that LaLiga fights against racism (23/3/2023)



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Telegram 8th report against racist abuse of Vinicius



8th Tweet reporting racism against Vini (March 23, 2023)



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Tweet sporting rivalry Vini (Jan 22, 2023)



Tweet praising Vini the Galactico (Dec 4, 2021)



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