The Impact of Brexit on Football Players
Shining the Spotlight on Children

Did You Know...?
- There are more foreign footballers playing in the Premier League than anywhere else in the world.
- There were twice as many players at Euro 2016 from the Premier League than any other league in Europe.
- Over 300 players in the top two divisions of English and Scottish football can only work in this country because of EU membership.

What will happen when the UK leaves the EU?
When the UK leaves the EU, the future of these players will be very uncertain. They may be able to apply for permission to work in the UK, but the rules are strict. Currently, if you are a non-EU footballer, you can only play in the UK if you are an established international for your own country. This means that some very high profile European players would fail the test if the UK left the EU, for example David de Gea, Juan Mata, Simon Mignolet, Samir Nasri and Jesús Navas.

Will the rules change?
Most experts predict that the rules would need to be changed to ensure that these players don’t leave. It is the Government – not the Premier League or the FA – who would need to decide on any changes to the rules as they are part of the country’s immigration laws.

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Leaving the EU makes the futures of many professional footballers playing in the English and Scottish leagues uncertain...

European footballers have a right to work in the UK...
Many non-British people are employed as professional footballers in the UK. Generally speaking, foreign people need permission to work in the UK, but current EU rules make an exception for anyone who has a European passport. This means that footballers working in the UK who are from other European countries have a right to work for their club without any restrictions.

Are there a lot of European footballers playing in the UK?
It is believed that there are currently 332 European players in the top two divisions of English and Scottish football who are allowed to play in the UK because it is a member of the EU.

football teams as it would allow more space for homegrown players to develop. Others point out that a drop in talent is never a good thing.