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Sandro Tonali: Premier league midfielder faces a lengthy ban from football for breaching betting rules.



Sandro Tonali recently joined Newcastle United from AC Milan.

On Tuesday in a hearing at the Italian Federation in Turin the Newcastle midfielder admitted to betting on AC Milan games while he played for the Serie A club.

Newcastle confirmed that Tonali was still under investigation and cooperating with the Italian prosecutor's office and the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) in relation to "Illegal betting activity".

Newcastle United finished their statement by reaffirming that their record summer signing would "receive the club's full support and that there would be "no further comment at this time"

World Football Organisation FIFA's code 26 suggests that Tonali's conduct could result in a three-year worldwide ban from football.

However, Tonali is likely to face a lesser but still lengthy ban, after he had helped in the investigation and admitted his guilt.

The Italian midfielder had been set to play against England at Wembley Stadium in his nation's crucial Euro 2024 Qualifier game. However, after being named in the Italian football betting probe, he was removed from the squad. The Italian national team went on to lose the game 3-1.

Tonali is just one player named in the probe into illegal betting in Italian football. Juventus player Nicolo Fagiolo was the first player to be named in the probe. On Tuesday he received a seven-month ban for betting on football.

However, the two players' bans are likely to be different due to a variety of reasons. Both players committed a different number of betting offences. In contrast, Fagiolo self-admitted to his offences while Tonali did not.

Fagiolo's self-admittance to betting offences contributed to the reduction of the ban on football. Fagiolo had 5 months of his one-year suspension removed. The Italian player was fined 12500 Euros (£10,848). As part of the deal, the forward agreed to a therapy plan of six months in order to help with his gambling addiction.

Nicola Zaniola who is on loan at Aston Villa was also named in a betting probe and swiftly removed from the Italian squad this week.

Unlike Newcastle Aston Villa are yet to provide a statement on their player being named in the betting probe. Reports have suggested that if there are no changes to the situation by the weekend Aston Villa will assume he is available to play in their fixture against West Ham.

Despite the investigation into illegal betting involving bets made on Serie A games by Serie A players at the time, the potential ban of Premier League players over gambling violations marks the second consecutive year in which players in the Premier League face long-term bans from football.

This comes after the highly publicised 8-month ban of England and Brentford striker Ivan Toney for 232 gambling violations.

Tonali's agent Giuseppe Riso claimed earlier this week that his client was an addict.

"He is playing his most important game – against betting addiction. He's in shock, he's very sad. He has to face this situation."