

SPORT

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MAYNARD feeling positive despite Stockport loss



Stockport County celebrate taking the lead against Wealdstone Picture: Jon Taffel

New rules to prevent ESL repeat

LEAGUE MOVES TO PREVENT BREAKAWAY DIVISIONS



Fans protest the plans for the European Super League

THE Premier League has taken action to prevent its clubs threatening to break away again in response to the failed European Super League plans.

Six top-flight teams, including Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester City and Tottenham, announced on April 18 they were joining the newly-formed ESL, only for it to collapse amid intense pressure within 48 hours.

A new set of measures put in place by the Premier League on Monday includes additional rules and regulations and an owners' charter that all club owners will be required to sign up to – committing them to the core principles of the competition.

“The actions of a few clubs cannot be allowed to create such division and disruption,” a Premier League statement read.

“We are determined to establish the truth of what happened and hold those clubs accountable for their decisions and actions. We and The FA are pursuing these objectives quickly and appropriately, consulting with fans and Government.”

The Premier League insisted events during the last two weeks had “challenged the foundations and resolve of English football”.

Fan protests in the days that followed the ESL announcement, on top of widespread criticism from the footballing world, resulted in most of the 12 European clubs – including all six Premier League sides – involved in the proposed breakaway pulling out.

A statement continued: “The Premier League, supported by The FA, is taking actions to protect our game, our clubs and their fans from further disruption and uncertainty.”

Stones lose to Stockport

By Ryan Gray

ALEX Reid scored a second-half brace as Stockport climbed into third place in the National League after a dominant 4-0 win over struggling Wealdstone.

Stones boss Stuart Maynard was forced to make two alterations to the side that lost to Yeovil Town just 48 two days prior to this match, with Charlee Hughes and Sonny Lo-Everson coming in for Alex Dyer and Dennon Lewis who had to watch on from the bench with injuries.

It was Hughes who almost opened the scoring for the visitors when he acrobatically met a Michael Philipps cross but his effort was collected by the goalkeeper.

The home side took the lead just after half-time, when Ryan Croasdale picked out the bottom corner, after Wealdstone were unable to clear their lines.

Less than three minutes later, Stockport doubled their lead, this time first-half substitute Elliot Newby played in Reid, who scored from close range.

It was Reid who also scored his side's third of the game as he completed his double by controlling a long ball before

shooting towards the target, with the ball going in after a deflection off a Wealdstone defender.

Reid was involved yet again for his side's fourth after being brought down on the edge of the penalty area. John Rooney stepped up to take the resulting free-kick and fired the ball into the top corner to cap off his side's victory and strengthen their play-off push.

After the match Stones boss Stuart Maynard told the club website: “It's not a positive result but it's a positive performance. We had a brilliant first half where we stuck to the game plan and matched and frustrated Stockport. Then we concede two sloppy goals and give ourselves a mountain to climb and the two goals at the end we had the tired legs, we lost two members of our squad on Saturday with injury so the lads out there today gave their all.”

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