

THEMATIC TITLE	LEGAL PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WELFARE OF PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES : CASE STUDY OF FOOTBALL PLAYERS
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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research was to study legal standards and problems concerning the contract related to the protection of the welfare of professional footballers. In order to study, law of Thailand was compared with law of England. Due to professional football league competitions in Thailand which are similar to England's, professional footballers in Thailand were required to sign a contract with their clubs so that they will be more professional footballers. The study methods used in this research were documentary research and information from electronic media in both Thailand and England, as well as the interviews of professional Thai footballers.

The research result revealed that, according to the current signing contract between clubs and professional footballers, it has led to the study of legal status of the contract between the clubs and the footballers; whether it was labor contract, contract for work, or in nominate contract. The result exposed that the contract of professional footballers was in nominate contract. The parties can freely determine an agreement without any conflict with peace and good morals of people, and it was applied in accordance with the basis of general legal contract. This research therefore aimed to study the welfare of professional footballers under the applicable law; Professional Sports Promotion Act, B.E. 2556, so that it will be used to promote professional

sport of Thailand with its international standards. This included contract standard of professional footballers and other benefits deserved by the footballers.

As a result, the researchers recommended that there should be determination of professional footballer contract in Thailand with its contract standard in the regulation concerning the professional football league competitions for their welfare as following; insurance and payment for medical fee should protect the professional footballers as their equally deserved benefits. Dismissal causing by unfair incident, such as injury of the professional footballers, should be determined in the contract. Moreover, there should be a fund supporting professional footballers from unfair dismissal. The contract determination with its standardization in question targeted to protect the professional footballers equally.