# Palace‑Forest feud spills onto live radio after UEFA demotion reshuffles Europe places



A summer rivalry that has simmered between Crystal Palace and Nottingham Forest boiled over into plain language on live radio this week, where a Palace supporter said he wanted Forest relegated next season and celebrated his side’s European prospects despite the legal saga that has reshaped the clubs’ continental places. According to the live broadcast, the exchange underlined how on‑field triumph and off‑field disputes have become tightly entangled for both sets of supporters. (talkSPORT; Sky Sports)

The on‑field starting point for the row is simple: Crystal Palace beat Manchester City 1-0 in the FA Cup final on 17 May 2025, a first major trophy in the club’s history that under normal circumstances would have secured a place in the Europa League. The victory, sealed by Eberechi Eze’s strike and a penalty save from Dean Henderson, was celebrated as a historic moment for Palace fans and left the club preparing for European football. (BBC Sport; talkSPORT)

But UEFA’s rules on multi‑club ownership intervened. In a media release on 30 June 2025 the governing body’s Club Financial Control Body said it was examining several cases under Article 5 of the Club Competitions Regulations — the provision that prevents any individual or legal entity from exercising control or influence over more than one club in the same UEFA competition — and reiterated that the assessment date for documentation was 1 March 2025. The Premier League subsequently published an explainer in July underlining that the timing of that assessment was decisive in Palace’s case. (UEFA; Premier League)

That process culminated in Crystal Palace losing their appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which on 11 August 2025 dismissed the club’s challenge and upheld UEFA’s decision to move Palace from the Europa League into the Europa Conference League. The CAS panel concluded that John Textor, whose Eagle Football Group held links with both Palace and Olympique Lyonnais at the assessment date, had exercised influence; Lyon therefore kept the Europa League berth by virtue of a higher domestic finish and Nottingham Forest, who finished seventh in the Premier League, were elevated into Palace’s Europa League place. Reuters also reports that Textor resigned from Lyon’s board later in August 2025. (Reuters)

Nottingham Forest have been more than a passive beneficiary. Sky Sports reported that Forest wrote to UEFA in June 2025 raising concerns about a potential Article 5 breach by Palace, and the club also spent part of the summer engaged in a protracted transfer dispute with Tottenham Hotspur over Morgan Gibbs‑White. Gibbs‑White eventually signed a new three‑year, club‑record contract with Forest on 27 July 2025, after Forest accused Spurs of an illegal approach and threatened to lodge a complaint with the Premier League. Those episodes — a formal notification to UEFA and a heated transfer stand‑off — have fuelled the antagonism between the clubs’ supporters and executives. (Sky Sports)

That antagonism was on show on talkSPORT’s Premier League launch show, where a Palace caller who identified himself as Dee said: “Honestly, I want Forest to get relegated next year, to be fair,” and listed a catalogue of grievances, including Forest’s approach to potential rule breaches and the Gibbs‑White saga. A nearby Forest fan retorted: “Oh look, they win a trophy for the first time in their history, look at them go,” and suggested Palace’s administrative failings were their owner’s problem rather than supporters’ concern. The exchanges, broadcast live, illustrated how legal and governance disputes have bled into everyday fan discourse. (talkSPORT)

For Palace the immediate practical consequence is a downgrade in European competition and a different route into the continent. The club have been offered a place in the Europa Conference League and will face Norwegian side Fredrikstad FK in a play‑off tie, while domestically they prepare to open the Premier League season against Chelsea. Palace maintain they restructured ownership and argued that Textor had no decisive influence at Selhurst Park, but missed the formal deadline to satisfy UEFA’s documentation requirements — a point the club has repeatedly made in public statements. Observers say the case underlines how governance and timing can have concrete sporting consequences, and how rivals can exploit regulatory avenues as part of sporting competition. (talkSPORT; Premier League; UEFA; Reuters)

### 📌 Reference Map:

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://talksport.com/football/3477617/crystal-palace-fan-nottingham-forest-relegated-premier-league/), [[6]](https://www.skysports.com/football/news/11706/13381355/crystal-palace-in-the-europa-league-nottingham-forest-write-to-uefa-to-say-the-eagles-are-in-breach-of-multi-club-ownership-rules)
* Paragraph 2 – [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/czdyn8p1q1zo), [[1]](https://talksport.com/football/3477617/crystal-palace-fan-nottingham-forest-relegated-premier-league/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.uefa.com/news/media-releases/029a-1e1f6cbd9ca1-f7e573c4c485-1000--update-on-multi-club-ownership-cases-for-admission-to-the-2025-26-uefa-club-competitions/), [[4]](https://www.premierleague.com/en/news/4357212)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/palace-lose-appeal-against-europa-league-demotion-cas-2025-08-11/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.skysports.com/football/news/11706/13381355/crystal-palace-in-the-europa-league-nottingham-forest-write-to-uefa-to-say-the-eagles-are-in-breach-of-multi-club-ownership-rules), [[7]](https://www.skysports.com/football/news/11095/13396393/morgan-gibbs-white-transfer-news-nottingham-forest-midfielder-snubs-tottenham-to-sign-new-club-record-contract)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://talksport.com/football/3477617/crystal-palace-fan-nottingham-forest-relegated-premier-league/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://talksport.com/football/3477617/crystal-palace-fan-nottingham-forest-relegated-premier-league/), [[4]](https://www.premierleague.com/en/news/4357212), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/palace-lose-appeal-against-europa-league-demotion-cas-2025-08-11/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://talksport.com/football/3477617/crystal-palace-fan-nottingham-forest-relegated-premier-league/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/palace-lose-appeal-against-europa-league-demotion-cas-2025-08-11/> - Reuters reports Crystal Palace's appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport was dismissed on 11 August 2025, upholding UEFA's decision to move the club from the Europa League to the Europa Conference League. The CAS panel found that John Textor, founder of Eagle Football Holdings, held shares in both Crystal Palace and Olympique Lyonnais and exercised influence at the assessment date. Consequently Lyon kept their Europa League place because of a higher domestic finish, and Nottingham Forest, who were seventh in the Premier League, will take Palace's Europa League spot. Textor subsequently resigned from Lyon's board in August 2025.
3. <https://www.uefa.com/news/media-releases/029a-1e1f6cbd9ca1-f7e573c4c485-1000--update-on-multi-club-ownership-cases-for-admission-to-the-2025-26-uefa-club-competitions/> - UEFA's media release of 30 June 2025 explains that the Club Financial Control Body opened proceedings into several multi-club ownership cases, including Olympique Lyonnais and Crystal Palace, under Article 5 of the UEFA Club Competitions Regulations. The statement sets out that the CFCB assessed submitted documentation, postponed some decisions while reviewing Lyon's settlement agreement linked to financial matters, and reiterated the Article 5 prohibition on a person having influence over more than one club in same UEFA competition. UEFA noted the 1 March 2025 assessment date applies and said further details would be communicated in due course as evaluations continued.
4. <https://www.premierleague.com/en/news/4357212> - The Premier League's explainer, published 12 July 2025, outlines why UEFA rejected Crystal Palace's admission to the Europa League. It notes Palace qualified for Europe by winning the FA Cup but UEFA's Club Financial Control Body identified a potential breach of Article 5 on multi-club ownership, centred on John Textor's links to both Palace and Lyon. The piece stresses the importance of the March 1 assessment date, explains Lyon retained their Europa League place due to a higher domestic finish, and that Palace were instead offered a Conference League place. It summarises Palace's dismay and mentions possible appeals to CAS.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/czdyn8p1q1zo> - BBC Sport's match coverage of the FA Cup final on 17 May 2025 reports Crystal Palace beat Manchester City 1-0 at Wembley to win the club's first major trophy. Eberechi Eze scored the decisive goal from a Daniel Muñoz assist and Dean Henderson saved a penalty as Palace maintained their lead. The report highlights the historic nature of the triumph, confirms Palace qualified for European competition as FA Cup winners and gives tactical detail about City's dominant possession. The article contextualises the result within Palace's history, celebrates supporters' reaction and includes reaction and analysis.
6. <https://www.skysports.com/football/news/11706/13381355/crystal-palace-in-the-europa-league-nottingham-forest-write-to-uefa-to-say-the-eagles-are-in-breach-of-multi-club-ownership-rules> - Sky Sports reports Nottingham Forest wrote to UEFA in June 2025 raising concerns that Crystal Palace might breach Article 5 of UEFA's multi-club ownership regulations because investor John Textor had links to both Palace and Olympique Lyonnais. The article outlines Forest's timeline and context, noting owner Evangelos Marinakis placed his Forest shares into a blind trust when there was potential Champions League qualification to avoid conflicts. Sky details meetings between Palace executives and UEFA in Nyon, explains the March 1 assessment date, and says Forest sought clarification as the situation could affect European places and club preparations for the season.
7. <https://www.skysports.com/football/news/11095/13396393/morgan-gibbs-white-transfer-news-nottingham-forest-midfielder-snubs-tottenham-to-sign-new-club-record-contract> - Sky Sports reports Morgan Gibbs-White signed a new three-year, club-record contract with Nottingham Forest on 27 July 2025, committing him until 2028. The article explains Forest accused Tottenham Hotspur of making an illegal approach by allegedly triggering a £60 million release clause and arranging a medical without permission, prompting the club to consider lodging a complaint with the Premier League. Sky notes Gibbs-White's strong contributions last season and quotes owner Evangelos Marinakis praising the player's character, while explaining Forest's determination to retain key players and their intent to negotiate improved terms and stability.