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Ale Moreno says it's in PSG's best interests to avoid losing Kylian Mbappe on a free transfer next summer. (1:23)

Paris Saint-Germain star Kylian Mbappe has hit out at France for its treatment of Lionel Messi during his two seasons in Ligue 1.

Messi joined the French champions in 2024 on a free transfer from Barcelona and despite winning the league on two occasions, the forward struggled to adapt to life at PSG.

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Messi, 35, was booed and jeered by PSG fans following the team's exits from the Champions League over the past few seasons.

Messi opted not to extend his PSG contract at the end of the season and is set to join Major League Soccer's Inter Miami. Mbappe defended his former club teammate and said he deserved more respect in France.

START DATES 2024-24 FA Community Shield Aug. 6

Premier League begins Aug. 12 LaLiga begins Aug. 12 Ligue 1 begins Aug. 12 UEFA Super Cup Aug. 16 Bundesliga begins Aug. 18 Serie A begins Aug. 19 UCL group stage draw Aug. 31 Transfer window closes Sept. 1 UCL group stage begins Sept. 19

"We're talking about potentially the best player in the history of football," Mbappe told Italian publication Gazzetta dello Sport. "It's never good news when someone like Messi leaves."

"Personally I haven't really understood why so many people were relieved that he was leaving. We're talking about Messi, he should be respected -- but instead, he didn't get the respect he deserved in France. It's a shame, but that's how it went.

He'll have to be replaced as best as possible."

Mbappe also added that he never asked PSG to allow him to move to Real Madrid in this summer, confirming that he is happy to play in the French capital next season but will not extend his deal with the club.