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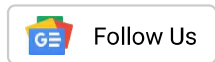
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Hardik Pandya's return to Mumbai Indians explained: Is there a transfer fee involved? How do trades work in IPL?

Hardik Pandya's return to Mumbai Indians will perhaps go down as the biggest off-season move in the brief history of IPL.

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The long-term
pre-poll 'rev

Hardik Pandya will return to the Mumbai Indians after being traded by the Gujarat Titans on Sunday. (PHOTO: Gujarat Titans on X)

Hardik Pandya was traded from Gujarat Titans to Mumbai Indian on Sunday.

What are the kinds of player trades possible and how much does a player gain from a transfer fee?

What are the types of trade one IPL franchise can do?

There are two types of trade. A one-way trade is when a franchise buys one or more players from **another** IPL team. Then there is a two-way trade in which teams swap players. Player consent is required for both a one-way trade and a two-way trade.

The example of a one-way trade is of all-rounder and Gujarat Titans captain Hardik Pandya moving to Mumbai Indians. Similarly, Romario Shepherd moved from Lucknow Super Giants to Mumbai Indians. Mumbai's Cameron Green too moved to RCB in a one-way trade. The other trade is the one where we saw Rajasthan Royals swapping their top-order batsman Devdutt Padikkal with Lucknow Super Giants pacer Avesh Khan. Like in this case, a swap is not a like-for-like player trade.

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How does the one-way trade of players work?

If a player is getting an offer from another IPL team, then he can inform his existing team that he is interested in being traded. The decision to sell a player of theirs can come from a franchise too after taking consent from the cricketer. In both situations, a transfer fee is discussed between the player and his current IPL team. For example, when Hardik Pandya moved from Gujarat Titans to Mumbai Indians, a transfer fee would have been decided by the player and Gujarat Titans.

Does a player earn from the transfer fees?

Yes. A player can earn a certain percentage from the transfer fees. The BCCI has no cap on transfer fees. Players have a right to ask for a percentage of the transfer fees. For example, if a player's transfer fee is Rs 30 crore, the player can ask for 20 percent or six crores from the team he is moving out from. This will be a one-time payment. Once a transfer agreement is signed, it is sent to the BCCI. The team to which the player is moving, pays the transfer fee to the team which is releasing the player. So far Hardik's transfer fee has not been disclosed.

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Can teams release players and retain players?

Yes, teams can release players and they will be part of the auction pool. They can also retain players. For example, Kolkata Knight Riders have retained all-rounders Andre Russell and Sunil Narine. At the same time, KKR have released player Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan, India all-rounder Shardul Thakur, and Zealand fast bowler Tim Southee. Rajasthan Royals have released England's cricket batting star Joe Root, who opted out from IPL 2024.



Who pays a player who moves from one team to another?

For example in Hardik's case, Mumbai Indians will have to pay his Rs 15 crore annual fees, the same amount which Gujarat Titans had paid for his services before the mega auction.

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So from where does a team source the money to buy a player who has been traded to them?

Each team had a purse of Rs 95 crores for last year's mega auction. This year is a mini-auction, with an increase of Rs 5 crore to the overall budget. Mumbai Indians spent Rs 94.5 crores last year. So they had only Rs 5.50 crore in their kitty for the upcoming auction. But since MI have released fast bowler Jofra Archer and all-rounder Cameron Green among others, they will have money in hand to get Hardik on board and bolster the squad in the auction.