

# The FA Student Research Resource 2006-07



# STUDENT RESEARCH RESOURCE

This resource contains a wealth of football related information and was developed in order to cater for students and researchers.

**The aim of the information included in the Student Resource section is to complement the main website content - so don't forget to have a good look through all our web pages for facts and figures that may be useful.**

Every effort has been made to include as much information as we possibly can. On some subjects we have included references to publications or other websites you may wish to reference, so be prepared to visit your local library or search the web for more information.

We would like to keep this information database as up-to-date as possible. If you know of or have recently discovered a useful source of football related information that you would like to share with fellow students or researchers please contact our Customer Relations Unit on 020 7745 4545.

Please note that many of these sections overlap and complement each other so be sure to investigate all related subjects.

The FA is committed to meeting your needs. Therefore this publication may be available in Large Print, Braille or audio. For more information, please contact The FA's Customer Relations Unit on 0207 745 4545.

N.B. Unfortunately due to the number of requests we receive we are not in a position to complete individual student questionnaires.



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# 1. BACKGROUND

The FA is a member association and comes under the control of the World and the European governing bodies - International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

Formed in 1954 and based in Nyon, Switzerland, UEFA works and acts on behalf of the member associations to promote football and ensure its well-being on the continent. The organisation is responsible for high-profile competitions; some involving national teams such as the prestigious European Championship with the next tournament taking place in Austria & Switzerland in 2008. UEFA's premier club competitions are the European Champions League and the UEFA Cup, in which English clubs aspire to compete on a yearly basis.

The FA and 50 other national associations of UEFA are all affiliated to the world's governing body, FIFA based in Zurich.

The scope of FIFA's roles and duties has vastly expanded in recent years, and the body is supported in its task of organising, promoting and developing football by the six confederations across the globe. The AFC in Asia, CAF in Africa, CONCACAF in North and Central America and the Caribbean, CONMEBOL in South America, the OFC in Oceania and UEFA comprise 204 member associations in total.

FIFA, formed in 1904, now one of the world's biggest sporting organisations, strives to safeguard the image of the game and is primarily responsible for the Laws of the Game, which are based upon the rules first ratified in by the International Football Association Board in 1886.

FIFA also boasts the World Cup, the ultimate stage on which a professional footballer can perform and a tournament which captures the imagination of the entire planet.

The International Football Association Board (IFAB)

Four representatives from FIFA and one each from England, N. Ireland, Scotland and Wales (in recognition of the significance of the British Associations in the history of the game) meet annually to discuss possible alterations to the Laws.

Four weeks before the AGM, which usually takes place in either February or March, associations must send their written proposals to the secretary of the host association. FIFA then prints a list of suggestions that are distributed to all other associations for examination. For a motion to be accepted, a three-quarters majority is needed.

A second annual meeting between the bodies, the Annual Economic Meeting, is held between September and October and touches on issues that concern the Board outside of the Laws of the Game.

The IFAB is generally considered to be a conservative organisation with relatively few changes being made to the Laws of the Game over the years. This is simply because the attraction of the game of football resides in its simplicity. As guardian to its Laws, the IFAB seeks to preserve the original foundations on which the game was built.

For more information on The IFAB please visit [FIFA.com](http://FIFA.com)

## 1.2 A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Football as we know it (well, almost) dates back to 1863, when the chief clubs and schools playing their own versions of the game met to form 'The FA' to act as the governing body for the game in England. The aim was to frame a set of official rules under which they could all play. The FA Cup, international football, professionalism and league competition followed. From there, football has spread worldwide.

The FA's influence increased significantly after a 'Challenge Cup' was established in 1871. Within a decade the original membership of 12 clubs had increased to 128. Wanderers, a team formed by ex-public school and university players, won the first 'Cup Final' 1-0 against Royal Engineers at Kennington Oval. From 1923 to 2000 the match was played at Wembley and The FA Cup has become established as one of England's great sporting institutions. Its history and tradition, and especially the pageantry of the Final, is familiar to millions at home and abroad.

The first international matches were those played between England and Scotland in the 1870s. The series owed its beginning to the enterprise of Charles Alcock, Honorary Secretary of The FA, who advertised in a sporting newspaper that a match would be played between 'the leading representatives of the Scottish and English sections'. A crowd of 4,000 watched the first official international in Glasgow in 1872. It was not until 1908, when an England side toured central Europe, that matches were played against countries outside Britain.

The FA rejoined FIFA, the world football authority, after the Second World War and an England team competed for the World Cup for the first time in Brazil in 1950. England's re-emerged as a world power in the 1960s. With players of the calibre of Banks, Moore and Peters and ably managed by Alf (later Sir Alf) Ramsey, England won the World Cup in 1966. Since that great day at Wembley, there have been two appearances in European Championship semi-finals (1968 and 1996) and one in a World Cup semi-final (1990).

The FA has been a Limited Company since 1903 and, as such, holds an AGM at which amendments to its rules are agreed by shareholders. It has built on its reputation as the world's senior football administration, adding greatly to its activities over the years. It remains English football's governing body, promoting and protecting the game and is supported by the leagues and affiliated associations up and down the country.

Whilst national Football Associations have been established all across the globe, The FA, as the first Football Association created, is the only FA that is not required to carry a country prefix.



### 1.3 THE STRUCTURE OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The FA is an association of member clubs ranging from the top of the football pyramid down to the bottom. The 231 Full Member Clubs are shareholders in their own right with the great majority of these represented indirectly by the County FAs.

#### SHAREHOLDERS

The FA is a 'not for profit' company limited by 'non tradable' shares. Under the present constitution shares can only be allotted to the FA Premier League, the Football League, a Member of the Council, a Full Member Club, an Affiliated Association or The Company Secretary.

All of the above are entitled to one share except the County FAs (who are allotted one share for every 50 affiliated clubs) and The Company Secretary. The Company Secretary holds excess shares but has no voting rights.

Clubs in the FA Premier League, the Football League, the Football Conference, or the top divisions in the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League or the Southern Football League are eligible to apply for Full Membership. These applications are considered against certain criteria, including playing facilities, disciplinary record and the club's financial position.

The FA Premier League and the Football League jointly own a £1 Special Share giving the Leagues the power of veto over changes to certain Articles of Association of The FA.

#### THE FA BOARD

The FA Board was set up in December 1999 to streamline decision-making. Its principal focus is on important commercial and financial decisions. It has four sub-committees reporting into it directly. These are Finance, Audit, Remuneration and the Professional Game Board. The Professional Game Board is involved with The FA's commercial and financial matters where they relate to the professional game. All other committees report directly to The FA Council.

The FA Board is limited to fourteen members. The six representatives of the National Game are appointed by the National Game representatives of the Council. The six representatives of the Professional Game are nominated by the FA Premier League (four) and the Football League (two). The Board is completed with the addition of the Chair of The FA Council and the Chief Executive of The FA.

The Chair and Chief Executive are non-voting. Directors may not serve beyond the AGM following their 70th birthday.

#### THE FA COUNCIL

The FA is governed by a 91-strong Council. The role of the Council is to regulate football matters including disciplinary matters, referees and match and competition sanctioning. The Council delegates a number of these matters to a committee structure.

The composition of The FA Council is as follows:

- The Chair
- No more than 6 elected Vice-Presidents
- All Life Vice-Presidents

- 10 Divisional representatives (elected from Full Member Clubs on a regional basis)
- County and other affiliated associations – 52 representatives (1 representative each provided that they have had at least 50 clubs in membership for more than a year).
- The FAPL have 5 representatives
- The Football League also have 5 representatives
- The Chief Executive

A Council Member becomes a Life Member on completing 20 years' service provided they have also reached the age of 72. After completing two years as a Life Member they then become a Life Vice-President. An elected Vice-President becomes a Life Vice-President on fulfilling the criteria for Life Membership. A past Chair may be appointed a Life Vice-President on relinquishing the Chair.

No one can be first appointed to the Council who is over 70, and those reaching 75 have to retire as Members unless they were appointed in or before 1990.

#### **THE FA COMMITTEES**

There are 20 standing committees of the Council, with each Councillor serving on at least two committees. The present list of committees is shown below. In addition, there are currently some 17 sub-committees and working groups. With the exception of the National Game Board, the membership of committees is determined by the Board, which also has the power to co-opt onto committees not more than four persons. The latter may not serve for more than three years consecutively (except The Referees Association's nominated representative on the Referee's Committee).

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Board & General Purposes

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Challenge Cup                | • Youth                   |
| • Challenge Trophy             | • Women's                 |
| • Challenge Vase               | • Technical Control Board |
| • Crowd Control & Safety       | • Sunday Cup              |
| • Disciplinary                 | • Sanctions & Regulations |
| • Financial Advisory Committee | • Rules                   |
| • International                | • Representative Matches  |
| • Leagues                      | • Referees                |
| • Membership                   | • Protocol                |
| • National Game Board          |                           |

#### **THE FA CHAIR OF COUNCIL**

At its summer meeting The FA Council elects one of its members to serve as Chair for a term of four years. The Chair may not serve more than two terms. In addition to chairing the FA Board and the FA Council, the Chair represents The FA in discussions with international bodies and acts as the organisation's figurehead.

#### **THE FA VICE-CHAIRS**

The National and Professional Game representatives annually elect one of their number at the summer meeting of Council to be Vice-Chairs.

A full breakdown of the structure of The FA is available on [TheFA.com](http://TheFA.com).

## 1.4 THE ROLE OF THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

The FA is the governing body for the game in England and is primarily responsible for all regulatory aspects of the game, running the England teams and organising The FA Cup and other domestic competitions.

However, the organisations' remit stretches further to include commercial activities such as selling broadcasting rights and building the new Wembley Stadium, developing the game at a grassroots level and setting standards in areas such as coaching, financial management and anti-discrimination.

A summary of the organisations roles and activities can be found here:

- The FA regulates the game on and off the field of play through the "Laws of the Game" and the "Rules of The Association".
- We sanction, either directly or indirectly, all matches, leagues and competitions played in England.
- We are responsible for overseeing the administration of the disciplinary system, which is applicable to all participants in the game (each club, player, competition, match official and any other person involved in the game in England is bound by the Rules) and the administration of refereeing throughout the game.
- The FA is also responsible for organising a number of senior men's, youth and women's national competitions (including most notably The FA Challenge Cup) and the participation of England national representative teams (again, senior men's, youth and women's teams) in international matches, most notably the men's senior team in the FIFA World Cup and the UEFA European Championship and friendly fixtures.
- The FA's other key role is promoting the development of the game amongst all ages, most notably children, in terms of participation and quality. This involves promoting the availability of the sport to the greatest possible number of people.

### THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE

The FA Premier League administers the top 20 clubs in the country. The FAPL was established in 1992 in order to '...improve standards of football at the highest level and take the game into the 21st century'. Aided by its position at the top of the English footballing pyramid, The FA Premier League can boast a global audience of over 450 million spanning 150 countries.

<http://www.premierleague.com>

### THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Founded in 1888 with just twelve members, The Football League has undergone a process of evolution and expansion ever since. At the Football League AGM in 2003, The Football League Chairman Sir Brian Mawhinney announced a 're-branding' of The Football League. According to The Football League itself the re-brand aimed to '... challenge the football public and commercial marketplace to re-think their perceptions of The Football League'.

Responsible for the administration of 72 clubs across the Championship, League One and League Two, The Football League is the largest, most successful and watched 'second' league in Europe.

<http://www.football-league.premiumtv.co.uk/>

## **THE FOOTBALL CONFERENCE**

The Football Conference sits at the top of "non-League" football in England and Wales.

According to The Football Conference 'The 2004/05 season marks the beginning of a new era for the Football Conference, which has been extended to incorporate two new sub-divisions that feed into the Nationwide Conference - the final stepping-stone to the Football League.

There are 66 clubs now competing in the Football Conference, 22 clubs in the Nationwide Conference, with the sub-divisions split geographically, 22 in Nationwide North and 22 in Nationwide South'.

<http://www.footballconference.co.uk>

## **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FA AND THE LEAGUES**

The relationship between The FA and the Leagues is an important one. All have different responsibilities but a shared commitment to protecting and promoting the English game.

The Football Association has daily contact with the Leagues at several different levels. By providing the teams and players involved, the leagues clearly have an important role to play in assisting The FA with The FA Cup and England team.

In addition, there is also the constantly ongoing work of player registrations, the disciplinary system and refereeing where we are required to work closely together.

The Leagues are also represented at FA Board level - of the twelve board members The FAPL has four and the Football League two. The remaining six board members are all from the 'National' game, allowing for a good balance to discussions.

## **COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS**

County FAs run the game at a local level. The 43 County Football Associations are the administrative backbone of grassroots football throughout the country. The Counties are independent bodies, affiliated to The FA, but responsible for running all aspects of the game at the local level. Around 37,500 football clubs in total are affiliated to County FAs.

Many of the County FAs have been in existence from more than a century. Sheffield FA (now Sheffield & Hallamshire) was the first to be formed, in 1867, and was followed by Birmingham (1875), Surrey and Shropshire, both in 1877, Berks and Bucks, Cheshire and Lancashire (all 1878). The key administrative functions of County FAs revolve around the affiliation of local competitions and leagues, registration of players, organisation of match officials and administering of discipline.

Over recent years, Counties have expanded their activities and are now involved in developing the game at the local level, through initiatives such as coaching, Mini-Soccer, Girls' and Women's football, running training programmes for referees and First Aid courses.

Each County is working towards implementing a Development Plan, in conjunction with local partners. In each area, the County FA co-ordinates a Local Football Partnership, which brings together football and other partners to create and prioritise football facility and development plans for the region.

<http://www.thefa.com/Grassroots/County+FAs/>

### THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM

The League structure in England is the most comprehensive and competitive in the world, with around 37,500 affiliated clubs playing in 2000 leagues.

Working with leagues and clubs, The FA aims to improve the National League System, making it an exciting, fun and effective league structure with quality competitions.

The National League System operates as a pyramid. For more information on the League structure you can visit - <http://www.thefa.com/Grassroots/Leaguesystem/>

