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GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL AWARDS

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ENGLAND FOOTBALL

What are The England Football Grassroots Awards?

They're our opportunity to celebrate the people who make grassroots football great for everyone.

They're for the people who make a positive difference.

They're our way to recognise the fantastic people who put their heart and soul into football across England.

Most of all, they're a time for us to say a huge thank you to those amazing people who inspire us all with a prestigious national awards ceremony where we can all come together.

This season, our volunteers have worked hard to show the true power of football in connecting people, in building communities and enabling more players to enjoy playing our beautiful game.

So let's show them how much we appreciate their effort, commitment and impact.

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Award Criteria

The England Football Grassroots Football Awards are our way to champion the positive impact people have made in grassroots football up and down the country.

We celebrate the diversity of the football communities across England, the beating heart of what makes our game truly great for everyone.

We want to praise and recognise those people who embody all that is good about football, and who apply those qualities and values to the clubs, leagues and local communities they enrich.

When selecting your nominees, think about all the roles in grassroots football. Think about who's impressed you, who's really made a difference – and how they made that positive impact happen. The more details you can give us, the better.

We have our own PRIDE values which should help you to make your nomination choices. These values and ways of behaving are what we all strive towards in the game.

When making your choices, think about who has demonstrated all of the following values:

Progressive	Always looking to improve and innovate
Respectful	Leading by example to inspire positive behaviour
Inclusive	Uniting all people of any age, ethnicity and background
Determined	Rising to and overcoming challenges
Excellent	Striving to make football the best it can be

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COACH OF THE YEAR:

FEMALE PATHWAY

MALE PATHWAY

DISABILITY PATHWAY

Who is inclusive, encouraging and inspiring when it matters most?

How has this coach made a real impact? In particular, how have they stood out with:

Player engagement – respecting the voice of the player and how they engage players

Relationships – their ability to develop strong positive relationships with players, parents and other coaches built on respect and trust

Culture – creating a safe, inclusive and positive space for everyone involved



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GROUNDST TEAM OF THE YEAR

Who transforms poor pitches to good pitches?

Who keeps the facilities match-ready all year round? And helps keep the whole space safe, week in, week out?

We want to know about the grounds team who excels when it comes to making sure grassroots football happens, and the pitch and facilities are ready to go.

They might not have a specific title, but these people are the ones who make sure the whole space – from the pitch to the facilities – are always safe, welcoming and fully prepared for the game.

Look for evidence of their efforts making a positive difference to make football, safe, fun and inclusive for everyone.

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2022 winner
Martyn Grove and Matt Kiley

CLUB OF THE YEAR

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Which club sits at the heart of its community providing an opportunity for all to get involved?

Which England Football Accredited club thinks outside the box to make football better for more people?

Whether a 1, 2 of 3 star England Football Accredited Club, your Club of the Year should clearly demonstrate, both on and off the pitch, how they are inclusive, play their part in the local community and have perhaps:

Supported The FA initiatives such as Wildcats, Squad or Just Play

Grow on pitch opportunities, introducing recreational or new teams for male, female or disabled players

Provided facilities that offer more opportunities for players on the pitch, or for their community away from the pitch

Secured new funding streams to offer something beyond football that puts the club at the heart of your community

Found innovative ways to recruit, reward or retain volunteers



2022 winners
Larkfield FC

LEAGUE OF THE YEAR

Which League thinks outside the box to make football more accessible for more people?

Our League of the Year should have dedicated volunteers that clearly demonstrate, both on and off the pitch, how they proudly create a safe, fun and inclusive space for everyone.

The judging panel will review applications based on the League being an England Football Accredited League which can demonstrate support of The FA initiatives and its valuable role in the community.

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2022 winners
York Football League

MATCH OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

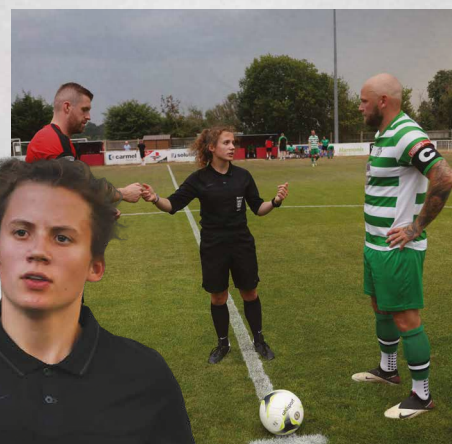
Who has the determination and drive to ensure everyone plays fair?

Tell us about the match official who has impressed you on match day or in the Refereeing community. Someone who has shown dedication and commitment to supporting the game and match officials, whilst showing empathy and respect to all involved.

They might be a Referee, a Referee observer, coach, mentor, developer, appointments officer or any other role who goes above and beyond to support and/or develop match officials. So long as they promote Refereeing positively at all times by supporting their colleagues and creating a positive matchday culture, we want to hear about them.

2022 winner
Katie Allen

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YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Who is dedicated to helping make grassroots football enjoyable for everyone?

We're looking for someone who has made a real contribution to football in the community.

Someone who is a role model and gives the best of themselves to make the game for all.

Someone who provides a valued voice for other young people, or a valuable skillset as part of a wider team.

Your nominee must be under 25 years of age on the closing date of the nominations.

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NEW VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Who has arrived this year to make a positive difference?

Who has started volunteering in football this season and immediately made a positive impact on your football club, league or other organisation?

How have they benefited from being a volunteer, and how have they benefited others?

Your nominee must have accessed relevant CPD to their role, and taken on a new voluntary role in the 22/23 season.

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THE LIONESS AWARD

Which club, league or project has developed opportunities for women or girls in recreational or competitive football?

Inspired by the Women's Euros victory and its impact on and off the pitch, we are looking for a project run by volunteers using football as a way of inspiring positive change in the women and or girl's game.

Who has provided opportunities for more people in the community to access opportunities to coach, manage, administrate or officiate in the women and girls game?

We're looking for an example of where women and girls football has been the catalyst for community impact on and off the pitch.



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POSITIVE FOOTBALL ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Which volunteer creates a fun, safe and inclusive space for everyone?

We're looking for a volunteer who's gone the extra mile to create a positive football culture. One that is warm and welcoming, and fun, safe and inclusive for everyone.

It could be a volunteer in your club or league, referee or an organiser of social football.

So if you know someone who has built a positive culture, or who personally upholds the behaviours we want to see in the grassroots game, we want to hear about them.

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"To win the National Match official of the year award made me feel out of this world and like I could achieve anything within my refereeing."

Katie Allen
Match Official of the Year 2022

"It is very easy to take things for granted and without nominations the efforts that volunteers put into the grassroots game would never be recognised."

League of the Year 2022
York Football League

"To win the award was amazing, I didn't start coaching for the accolades I started to help players progress, enjoy the game and hopefully become the best them, I felt very humbled and extremely grateful."

Male Coach of the Year 2022
Shaun Wilson

"When I started as the Lead Coach for our age group over four years ago I was the only female coaching at the club at that time. To take on this huge role was at times daunting however I was lucky I was able to build a great team of volunteers over the first season, which allowed us to support the children of all abilities who were thrilled to start their footballing journey."

Female Coach of the Year 2022
Rachel Robinson

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