THE BEATING HEART OF IT

ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

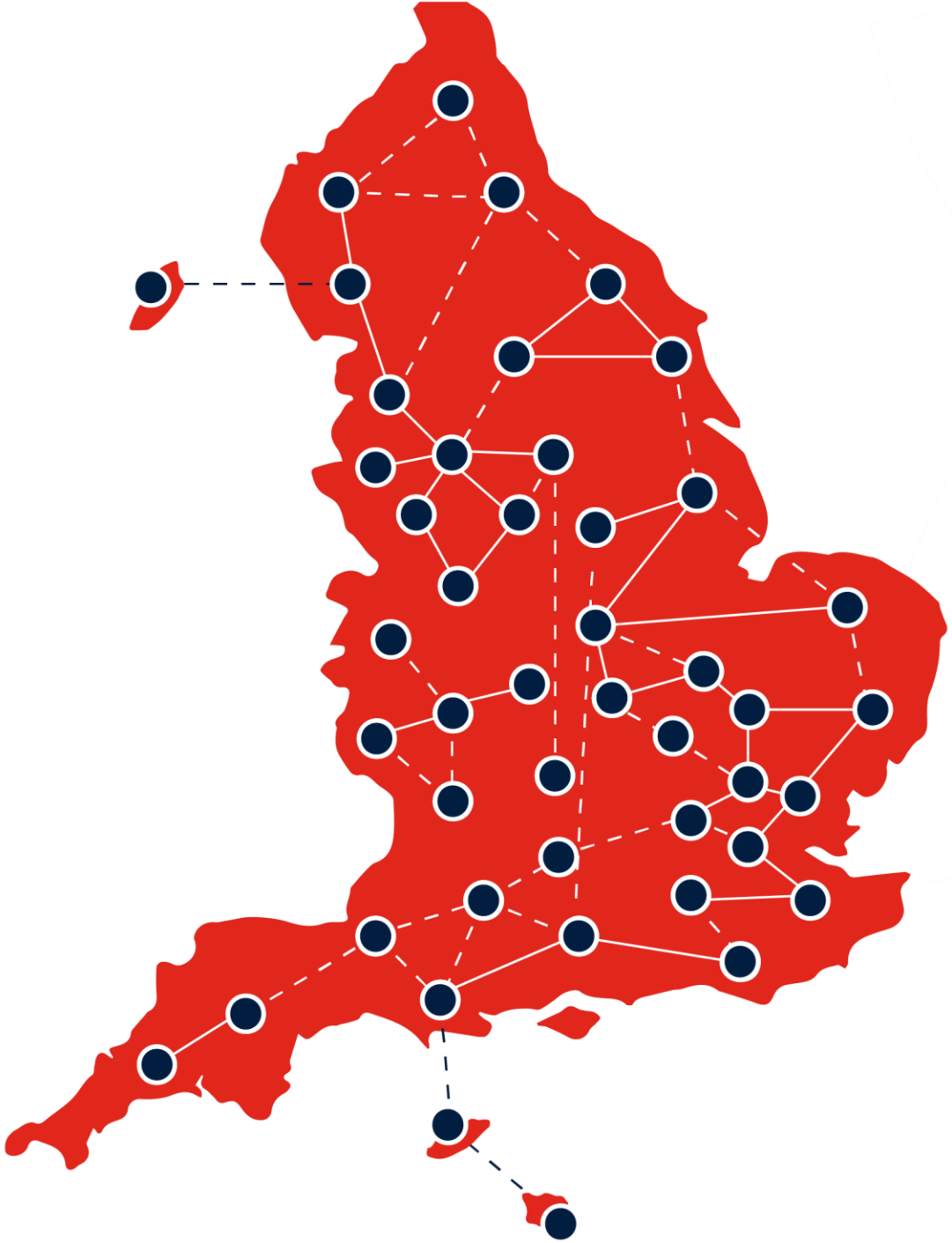
WHY ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED EXISTS

Leading by example. Raising the bar. Flying the flag for Respect and diversity.

Accredited Leagues and Clubs exist for the players and create opportunities for everyone to experience and enjoy the game we all love.

Every fan, parent and volunteer, how ever they support the game. Every player, referee, or coach, regardless of ability.

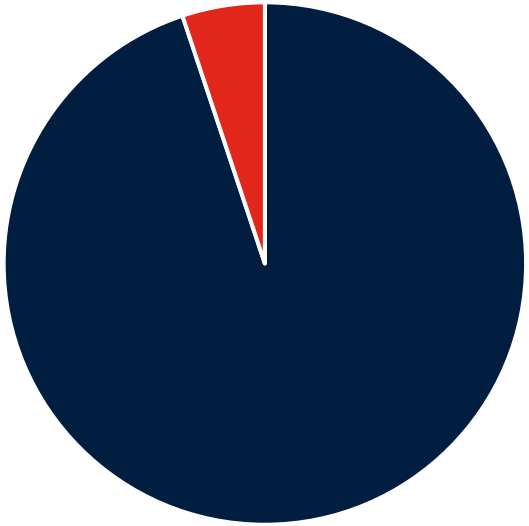
"A vibrant national League and Club network that delivers inclusive football for its local community"



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

YOUTH CLUBS

95% accredited teams
5% non accredited

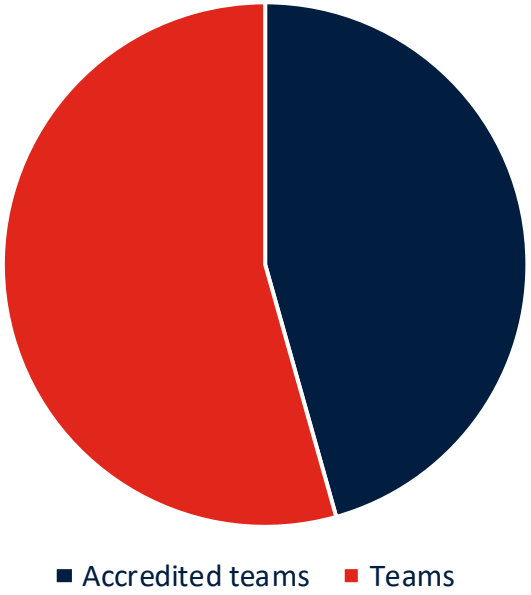


■ Accredited teams ■ Teams

Total teams: 763

Adult CLUBS

46% accredited teams
54% non accredited



Total teams: 263

CLUB PATHWAYS RAISE STARS

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ACCREDITED CLUBS RAISE STARS

England Football Accredited supports clubs to create more chances for more people to play football in approved leagues and competition.

More opportunities for male, female and disability players, from youth through to adult.

Whether you're a 1 star, 2 star or 3 star Accredited club that's ok because it takes a network of Accredited clubs to create more opportunities for players to be encouraged and supported on their journey.

All Accredited Clubs offer a consistent standard on- and off-pitch.

Stars are how England Football Accredited recognises you and the different support you need to grow your way, through the teams and pathways you offer.

What do the Accredited Player Pathways look like for 1star, 2star and 3star clubs?

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To be a one star Accredited Club, you must:

Offer a minimum of one affiliated male or female or disability team at any age group playing within an FA sanctioned league competition.

1 male team at any age

1 female team at any age

1 disability team at any age

ACCREDITED CLUB ★ ★
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

To be a two star Accredited Club, you must:

Offer a complete accredited player pathway for either male or female or disability football, all playing within FA sanctioned League competitions.

In addition, offer a minimum of one team at any age group from an alternative pathway.

Offer at least 1 team in at least 8 of these age groups

U7	U8	U9
U10	U11	U12
U13	U14	U15
U16	U18	

*Must have U21 or OA
** Max of 2 years between age groups

AND

1 female team at any age

OR

1 disability team at any age

Offer at least 1 team in at least 4 of these age groups

U10	U11	U12
U13	U14	U15
U16		

*Must have U10 or U16
** Max of 2 years between age groups

AND

1 male team at any age

OR

1 disability team at any age

Offer at least 1 team in at least 2 of these age groups

U8	U12	U16
OA		

AND

Female specific disability team at any age

OR

1 male team at any age

OR

1 female team at any age

ACCREDITED CLUB ★ ★ ★
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To be a three star Accredited Club, you must:

Offer the complete accredited player pathway for both male and female whilst offering a minimum of one disability team at any age group, all playing within FA sanctioned League competitions.

MALE

Must have at least 1 team in at least 8 of these age groups

U7	U8	U9
U10	U11	U12
U13	U14	U15
U16	U18	

*Must have U21 or OA
** Max of 2 years between age groups

FEMALE

Must have at least 1 team in at least 4 of these age groups

U10	U11	U12
U13	U14	U15
U16		

*Must have U10 or U16
** Max of 2 years between age groups

DISABILITY

Must have at least 1 disability team at any age

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THE TRANSITION

FROM THE FA CHARTER STANDARD TO ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED

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ACCREDITED CLUB ★
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

45

ACCREDITED CLUB ★ ★
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

27

ACCREDITED CLUB ★ ★ ★
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

10

ACCREDITED LEAGUE
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

4

Clubs that are within 2 teams of meeting the 2star Accredited player pathways will be recognised as a 2star Accredited Club.*

Clubs that are within 3 teams of meeting the 3star Accredited player pathways will be recognised as a 3star Accredited Club.*

*until at least November 2023

The timeline

November 2022 and Annually

Accredited clubs have from now until November 2022 to satisfy both on- and off-pitch criteria.

Accredited clubs will be validated against on- and off-pitch criteria November 2022 and then annually.

If you do not meet criteria, you will have a window of opportunity to add comment against any criteria not met for County FA approval.

*Accredited clubs will have the teams you offer validated against the Accredited player pathway logic for the Accredited star you hold.**

*If you do not meet the minimum number of teams for the Accredited player pathways for the star you are recognised for, the star will change.***

**2star and 3star clubs will be recognised as the star you have until November 2023. This is to give you the opportunity to develop the teams you have missing if it is within your club plans and ambitions.*

***If by November 2023 you do not have the minimum number of teams to meet the Accredited player pathways for the star you currently have then your star will change.*

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CRITERIA FOR CLUBS

Clubs must be affiliated to their local County FA

Through affiliation Clubs will achieve the following criteria:

Offer a minimum of one team at any age group for male or female or disability playing in an FA sanctioned competition.

Have an in-date FA Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Checks (DBS) for all relevant officials.

Have a Welfare Officer for Youth Clubs (male, female and disability).

Safeguarding Committee Members course completed by Club committee members.

Through the Clubs Portal, Clubs will achieve or evidence the following criteria:

Evidence or adopt a set of Club rules and be a constituted Club.

Evidence or adopt the relevant Club safeguarding policies.

Evidence or adopt an equality policy.

Adopt the Football Leadership Diversity Code.

Adopt the Nationwide Respect codes of conduct and implement The FA Respect activations relevant to your club.

Have a bank account in the Club's name recommended for all Clubs and mandatory for Clubs with three or more teams.

Provide evidence of last season's accounts if in existence for more than one season.

Have a good disciplinary record within the Nationwide Respect disciplinary code (if in existence for more than one season).

Through the Club Portal, Clubs will continue to adhere to the criteria and complete the relevant validation process to remain England Football Accredited.

England Football Accredited Clubs will achieve on pitch and off pitch criteria:

On pitch

Adult teams should have a named individual that has completed the **Introduction to First Aid in Football (IFAIF)**. If this person is a player, an additional person is required.

Youth teams to have at least one coach or manager with the **Introduction to Coaching Football (I2CF) per team, with in date Introduction to First Aid in Football (IFAIF) and Safeguarding Children Course (SCC)**. A qualified coach or manager must be present at training and fixtures.

Have a coach:player ratio of 1:16 or less.

Off pitch

Complete the relevant Club development plan to support club development and sustainability.

Confirm Club meetings that take place and make sure they are recorded. Copies of minutes are available upon request.

Demonstrate that decisions made by the Club are informed by, and communicated to, it's members.

Processes

Teams with people that need access to achieve qualification criteria can find the courses here: **www.thebootroom.thefa.com/learning** and will show against their records in the Club Portal for validation each season.

Clubs will evidence official criteria through the Club Portal processes or through The County FA Development Officers.

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CLUBS WORKING TOGETHER

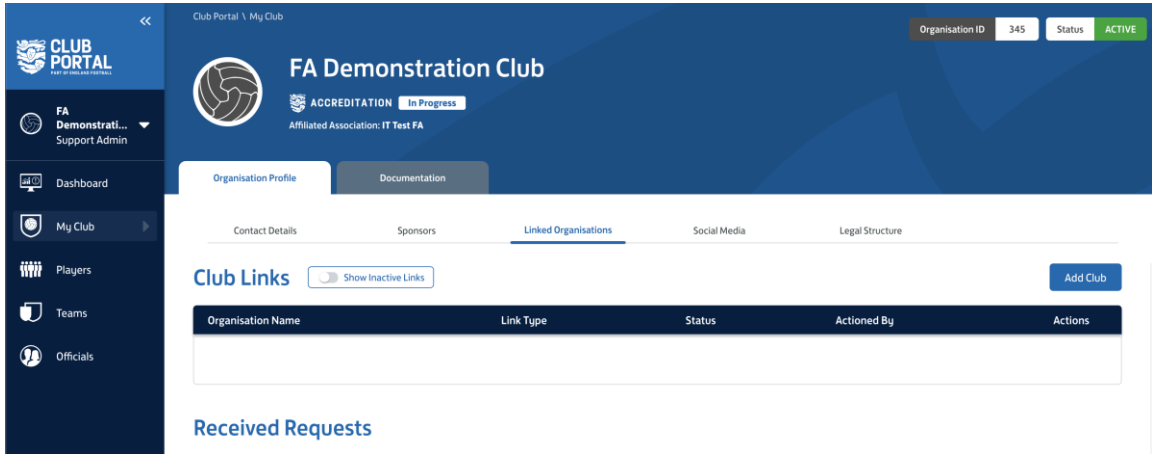
CLUB PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Clubs that want to work in partnership with each other can do so by following and achieving the club partnership agreement.

To formalize the link you can do so within Club Portal by visiting 'Linked Organisations' under 'My Club'.

More guidance and details can be found on the grassroots technology hub.

https://grassrootstechnology.thefa.com/support/solutions/folders/48000681178



England Football Accredited clubs can work in partnership to create and deliver more playing opportunities for male, female, and disability players within the game.

To demonstrate a partnership between two or more clubs please follow the club linking process available within the Club Portal. Clubs working in partnership should have in place a minimum of THREE from the seven recommendations below:

- A formal partnership agreement signed between all linked clubs
- Club constitution / rules amended to reflect partnership working between all linked clubs
- A joint development and / or business plan to demonstrate and coordinate the ambitions of the partnership between all linked clubs
- A joint vision to create more playing opportunities for male, female, and disability players within sanctioned competition between all linked clubs
- An agreed way of sharing resource, expertise, knowledge, and good practice between all linked clubs
- Joint club meetings take place and are recorded between all linked clubs
- Demonstrate that decisions made are informed by, and communicated to, all key officials, and where relevant club members, between all linked clubs.

OUR SUPPORT

Our commitment to you

We want to enable, educate, equip & empower you

We will: support your ambitions to grow teams against the accredited player pathways and the star you are recognised for

We will: help facilitate partnerships and encourage links with other clubs

We will: help you meet and adhere to on- and off-pitch criteria and be ready for re-validation each season

We will: support you with the re-validation process every season

We will: educate your understanding of the club portal and new accreditation dashboard

We will: help you with your club plans and align tailored and relevant support and services where possible

We will: support non-Accredited clubs to become England Football Accredited

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BENEFITS

The benefits to being Accredited

Environment

The environment you create and the experience you provide is supported by your league or club not only adhering to both on- and off-pitch criteria but by putting it into practice.

Being Accredited equips and empowers you to make sure at training and on a match day, at cup finals and at league fixtures, the environment that everyone, from players to coaches, officials to spectator's, experience is safe, fun and inclusive for everyone.

The environment is yours to create and supported through Accreditation.

People

The people are the lifeblood of Accredited leagues and clubs. The training and qualifications available and required of Accredited league and club volunteers, officials and coaches, gives them the confidence and education they need to lead their role.

Inclusive teams and player pathways provide the opportunity for more players to have more chances across the network whilst on their football journey, from youth through to adult.

The people are what make football happen and are supported through Accreditation.

Processes

The processes are more than a tick box exercise. Having in place rules, policies, codes of conduct and the football leadership diversity code ensures leagues and clubs are well structured and governed effectively, protecting your members along the way.

For Leagues a delivery plan or for clubs a season or development plan empowers you to grow your league or club your way, knowing and delivering on what your ambitions are on the journey to becoming the best versions of yourself.

The processes are to ensure you are built to last and are supported through Accreditation.

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INCENTIVES

Access to template league delivery and club season or development plans

Access to funded and discounted kit & equipment

Access to promotional resources, guidance and templates to effectively operate your league or club

The support to deliver positive environments and experiences

The support to be structured and governed effectively for the needs of your league or club & it's members

The support to raise standards across the game both on- and off-pitch

The support to get officials & coaches qualified through access to education and training

To receive tailored support from The FA and County FA's and get access to a community of league and club leaders

The support to offer pathway opportunities to male, female and disability players across a network of leagues and clubs

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Grow Your Way

England Football Accredited clubs are more resilient, more sustainable and built to last.

This is through good planning.

As part of criteria Accredited clubs are asked to upload a copy of their club plan into the club portal under 'other documents'.

There are two templates available for Accredited clubs, and depending on your size, you may want to utilise either the club season plan (recommended for 1star clubs) or the club development plan (recommended for 2star and 3star clubs).

These are available to download now at www.EnglandFootball.com/Accredited.

GROW

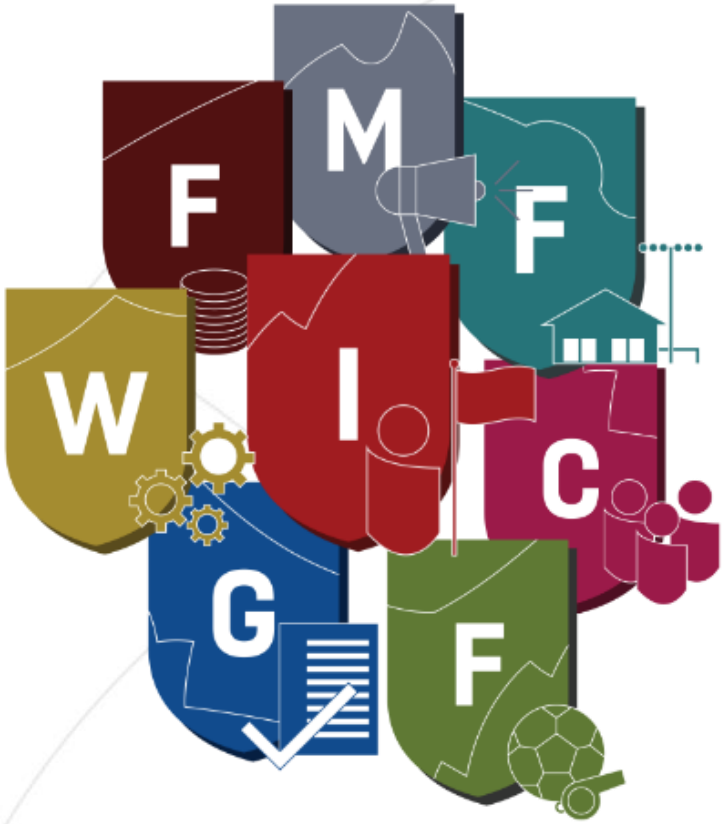
League and Club Services

We believe for true sustainability, and for leagues and clubs to be built to last, they need sound infrastructure, an offer of activity to meet the needs of their football community and to operate effectively.

We plan to support clubs, through tailored support dependent upon what number of Accredited stars you are recognised for, under eight key themes.

These themes make up the support and Services on offer from The FA Club Programme and underpin club season and development plans.

More information will be available from early 2022 on these themes and the support available.



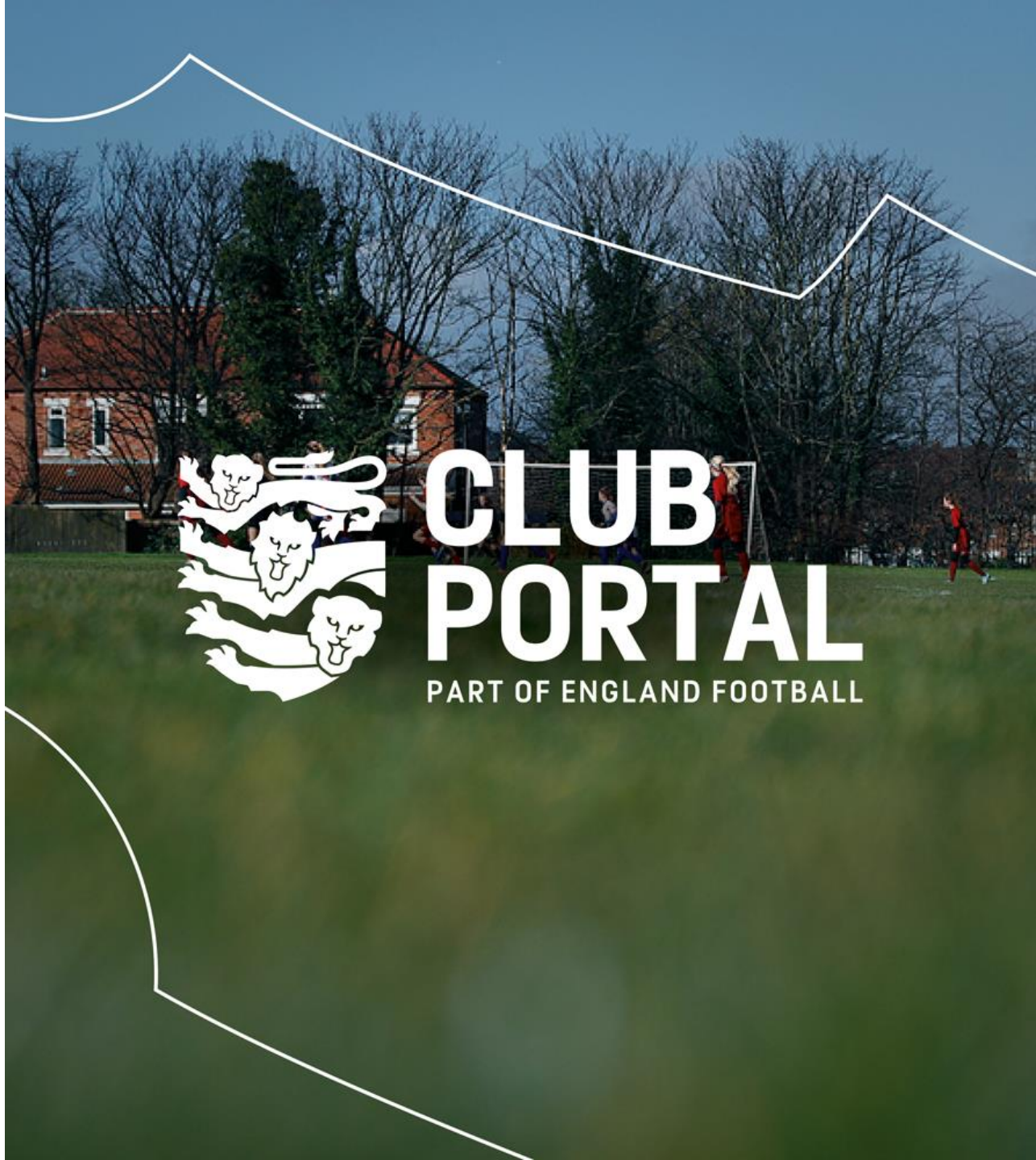
PROCESSES

A NEW HOME FOR ACCREDITATION

CLUB PORTAL IS THE NEW HOME FOR CLUBS TO BECOME OR REMAIN ENGLAND FOOTBALL ACCREDITED.

ITS ALSO THE PLACE FOR CLUBS TO FORM PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH LINKING WITH OTHER CLUBS TO DEMONSTRATE YOUR WORKING TOGETHER.

ITS WHERE CLUBS CAN SEE AND EVIDENCE YOU MEET CRITERIA TO BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR, AND TO BE ABLE TO RENEW YOUR, ACCREDITATION EACH SEASON.



Accredited Clubs and the Club Portal

Become

Non- Accredited clubs can apply to become England Football Accredited within the Club Portal.

In order to apply they must meet the eligibility and minimum criteria, all of which can be evidenced within their club portal.

Renew

Existing England Football Accredited Clubs will renew every November, and annually, with the opportunity to see any gaps in your criteria 365 days of the year.

Your 'live' Accreditation Dashboard continuously shows where you are meeting both on-pitch and off-pitch criteria all year round.

Visit the League and Club Hub on YouTube to watch the Accredited Clubs & the Clubs Portal webinar.

YouTube

THE LEAGUE AND CLUB HUB
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

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REWARDS

Rewards 2021/22 - EXISTING

ACCREDITED CLUB ★
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4x Nike Strike Footballs

£25 Kit & Equipment Voucher

Welcome to England Football Accredited Pack

England Football Accredited Digital Asset Pack

England Football Accredited Digital Certificate

ACCREDITED CLUB ★ ★
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

5x Nike Strike Footballs

£25 Kit & Equipment Voucher

Welcome to England Football Accredited Pack

England Football Accredited Digital Asset Pack

England Football Accredited Digital Certificate

ACCREDITED CLUB ★ ★ ★
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10x Nike Strike Footballs

2x Nike Match Footballs

£100 Kit & Equipment Voucher

Welcome to England Football Accredited Pack

England Football Accredited Digital Asset Pack

England Football Accredited Digital Certificate

England Football Accredited Plaque

England Football Accredited Banner

Rewards 2021/22 - EXISTING

ACCREDITED LEAGUE
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

£100 Kit & Equipment Voucher

Welcome to England Football Accredited Pack

England Football Accredited Digital Asset Pack

England Football Accredited Digital Certificate

England Football Accredited Banner

THE ACE OF CLUBS

When you're Accredited
you're not just part of it,
you're the beating heart of it.

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THANK YOU