



**The FA National Game
THE STATE OF THE GAME – IN NUMBERS**

2015 **REPORT**
(FIGURES VALID UNTIL JANUARY 2016)





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INTRODUCTION

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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide the latest headline figures on grassroots football participation in the National Game*, including the number of teams, clubs, leagues, and an estimated number of players, as well as some information on the football workforce (coaches, referees, volunteers), and football facilities.

This document also aims to answer the most frequently asked questions we receive on a regular basis from internal FA departments, external partners and the media.

Football has the highest participation of any team sport in the country. The Football Association's traditional remit has covered the structured game – or 'affiliated' football – which comprises over 119,000 teams (approximately 1.8m children and adults) playing in over 1,200 leagues.

The National Game Strategy (NGS) is The FA's plan for grassroots football and over the coming years aims to sustain and increase participation, develop grassroots players, provide better training and playing facilities and support the football workforce (paid staff and volunteers). Since 2008, working with our County FAs we have grown by over 13,000 affiliated teams.

We report on affiliated team numbers in January each year, and for the latest figures relating to the delivery of The FA National Game Strategy, please refer to the latest NGS progress report which is available upon request.

The FA is interested in supporting other forms of the game which have not traditionally fallen under the affiliated umbrella, and this document outlines the scale of the wider recreational game.

Using this document

It is imperative that the figures in this document are used when preparing press releases and communicating with partners to ensure consistency across The FA Group.

County FAs can also use this document and as a basis upon which to develop their own reports if required, alongside other resources provided e.g. infographics. This 'State of the Game' report will be updated regularly and each season to include the latest figures from affiliated football and findings from the Active People Survey and The FA's own research into participation.

* The National Game refers to all football from the Football Conference and below i.e. the National League System and the grassroots game including youth football.

** Not including Small Sided leagues of which there are approximately 500 affiliated through County FAs and others through national providers such as Powerleague and Goals.



PARTICIPATION

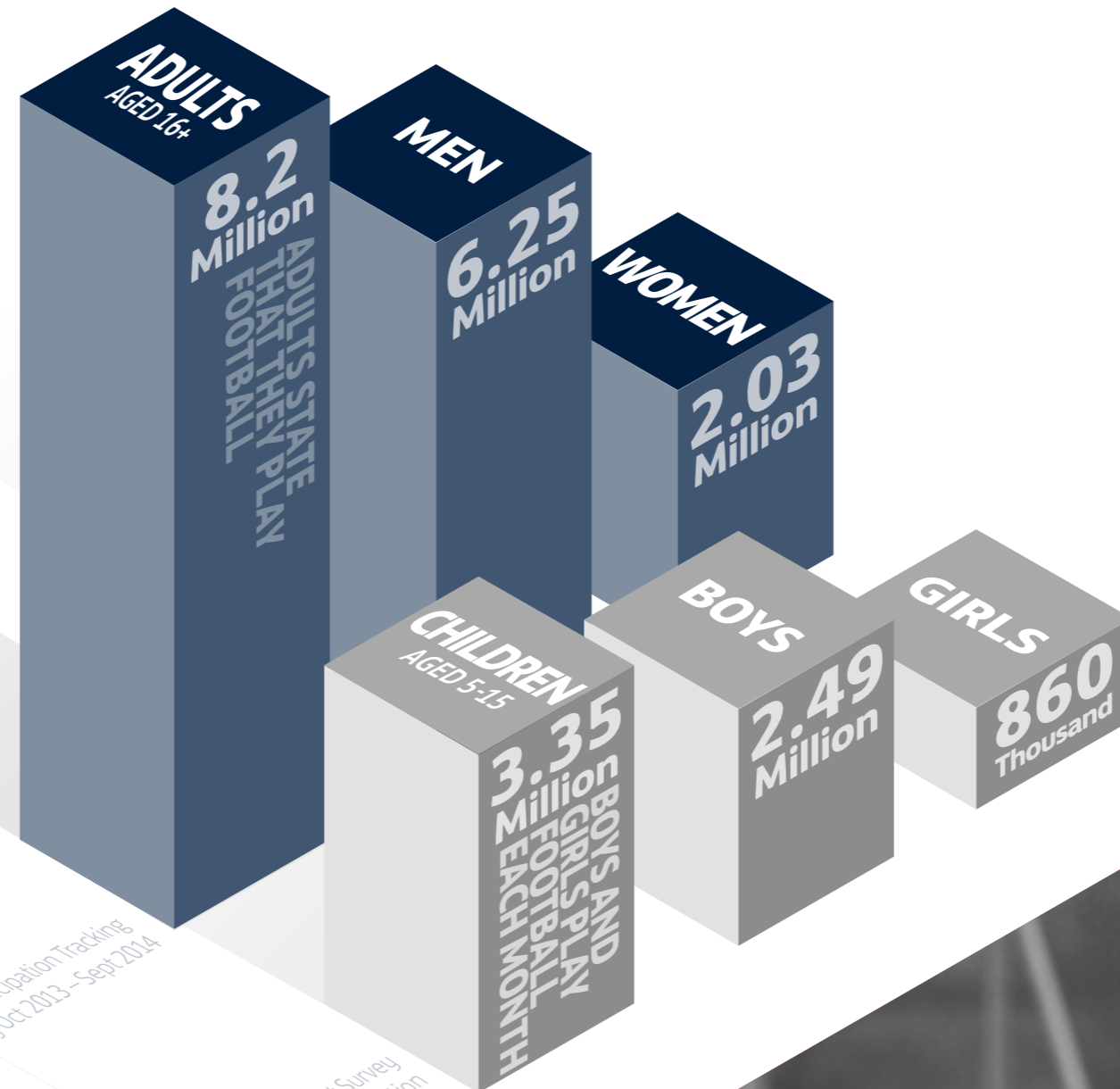
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The Football Universe

In terms of overall participation, in total there are currently just over 11m people aged 5+ who say they play some form of football in England.

This breaks down as follows:

Participation



Source - FA Participation Tracking Study Oct 2013 - Sept 2014

Sources - DCMS Taking Part Survey (2013) and FA Youth Transition Research (August 2014)





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Participation

8.2m adults participate in football. Their level of participation varies in terms of the frequency and formality - ranging from traditional weekly 11v11 affiliated league football, to casual 'kickabouts' in the park, and everything in between.

By quantifying overall participation in the game using our own research The FA has defined what we have termed the 'Football Universe'. This has been undertaken in order to more effectively implement initiatives, communicate opportunities and ensure that football participation levels are sustained and increased in the future.

The Football Universe has been split by gender and segmented into different player typologies based on age, frequency, format and lifestyle of the participants. This has allowed The FA to move away from the traditional 'one size fits all' approach in terms of what is offered; recognising that whilst previous generations have fitted their lives around football, current (and future ones) will require football to fit around their lives.

In addition to FA figures, Sport England's Active People Survey (APS) provides us with weekly and monthly participation rates of all football activity (including recreational players) of those aged 16+.





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Affiliated Football


The breakdown of the 119,000 teams playing in affiliated football in England is outlined in the next slide. In terms of player numbers, we do not currently have a system to measure and track individual players (the Whole Game System is currently in development).


Participation



Therefore we use a multiplier per team (squad) to estimate player numbers:

10 PLAYERS IN A **MINI SOCCER TEAM**


18 PLAYERS IN A **YOUTH & ADULT FEMALE** 11-A-SIDE TEAM


24 PLAYERS IN AN **ADULT MALE** 11-A-SIDE TEAM


10 PLAYERS IN A **DISABILITY FOOTBALL TEAM**


8 PLAYERS IN A **SMALL SIDED TEAM**

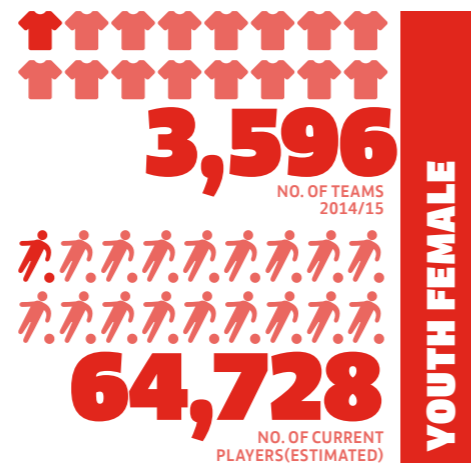
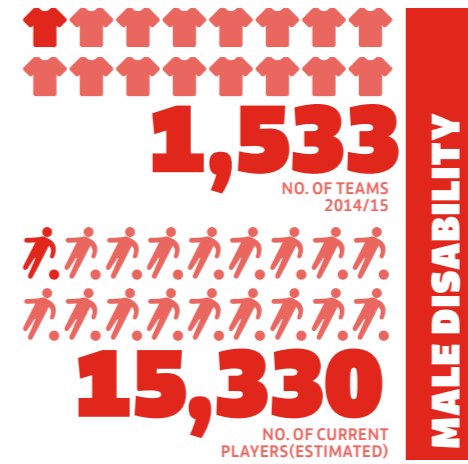
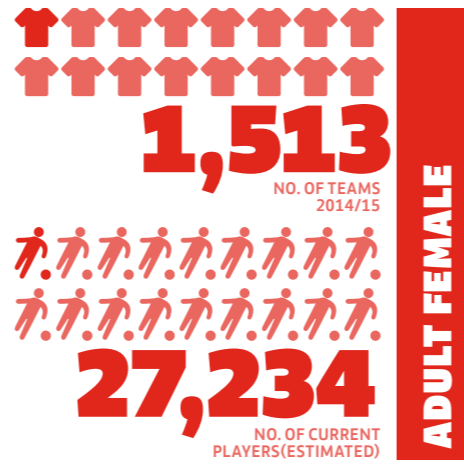
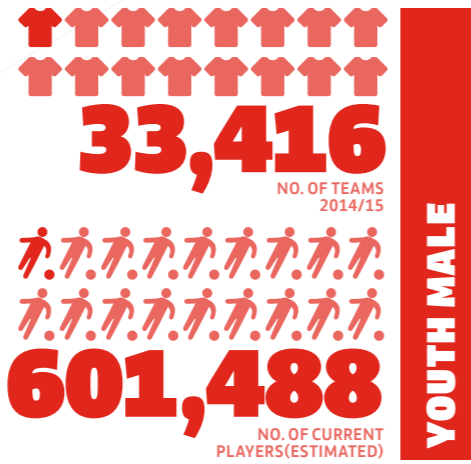



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Affiliated Football

Participation





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Participation

Affiliated Football – format breakdown detail and analysis

Youth Football

- In Mini Soccer, there has been a 17.9% increase in the number of teams since the 10/11 season.
- Youth Male teams have increased by 6.96% since the 10/11 season.
- The number of Youth Female teams has started to increase once more following a peak in 09/10 season.
- Please note that the figures above do not include school teams. There were 17,795 school teams playing in national competitions in 13/14 season, broken down as follows:
 - Mini Soccer – 7,267
 - Boys – 7,976
 - Girls – 2,552
- These school teams are affiliated to either the English Schools Football Association (ESFA) or Independent Schools FA (ISFA).
- 2014/15 figures for school teams will be available in July 2015.





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Affiliated Football – format breakdown detail and analysis

Adult Male

- The number of affiliated adult male teams has been declining steadily for the last 5 seasons (from 30,701 in 2009/10 to 27,770 now).
- The estimated number of players in affiliated adult male football is 666,480 compared to the Active People Survey figure of 1,777,800 playing weekly.
 - This suggests that 38% of all adult male players are involved in affiliated football, with the vast majority (62%) playing recreationally.
 - There are an additional 1,200 adult male teams playing in Further and Higher Education. These teams are either affiliated to the Association of Colleges (AoC) or British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS).





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Affiliated Football – format breakdown detail and analysis

Adult Female

- The number of adult female teams has grown by 5.29% since the 10/11 season.
- The estimated number of players in affiliated adult female football is 27,234 compared to the Active People Survey figure of 119,600 playing weekly.
 - This suggests that 23% of all adult female players are involved in affiliated football, with the remainder playing recreationally.
 - There are 335 adult female teams playing in Further and Higher Education.
 - 2.89m women and girls play and 211,700 play on a monthly basis.

Participation





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Affiliated Football – format breakdown detail and analysis

Disability Football

- There has been an increase in the number of disability football teams from 1,100 to over 1,700 over the last five seasons.
- The estimated number of players in affiliated disability football is 17,210.
- When compared to the Active People Survey figure of 100,300, this suggests that 17% of all players in disability football are involved in affiliated provision.

Participation





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Affiliated Football – format breakdown detail and analysis

Small Sided Football (including 5-a-side, 6-a-side, Futsal and commercial providers)

- The majority of SSF activity takes place at purpose-built facilities such as Powerleague and Goals, or run at existing facilities by companies such as Champion Soccer, Soccer Sixes or Pitch Invasion. There are also a large number of smaller providers across the country.
- The latest Active People Survey figures from Sport England suggest that there are currently just over 1m adults aged 16+ playing small sided football at least once a week. Of these, we know through our own affiliated team data that an estimated 218,000 players are taking part in affiliated activity, so this suggests a large proportion of those 1m are playing on a recreational basis.
- It is estimated from APS that over 200,000 adults play both small sided and 11-a-side football on a weekly basis.

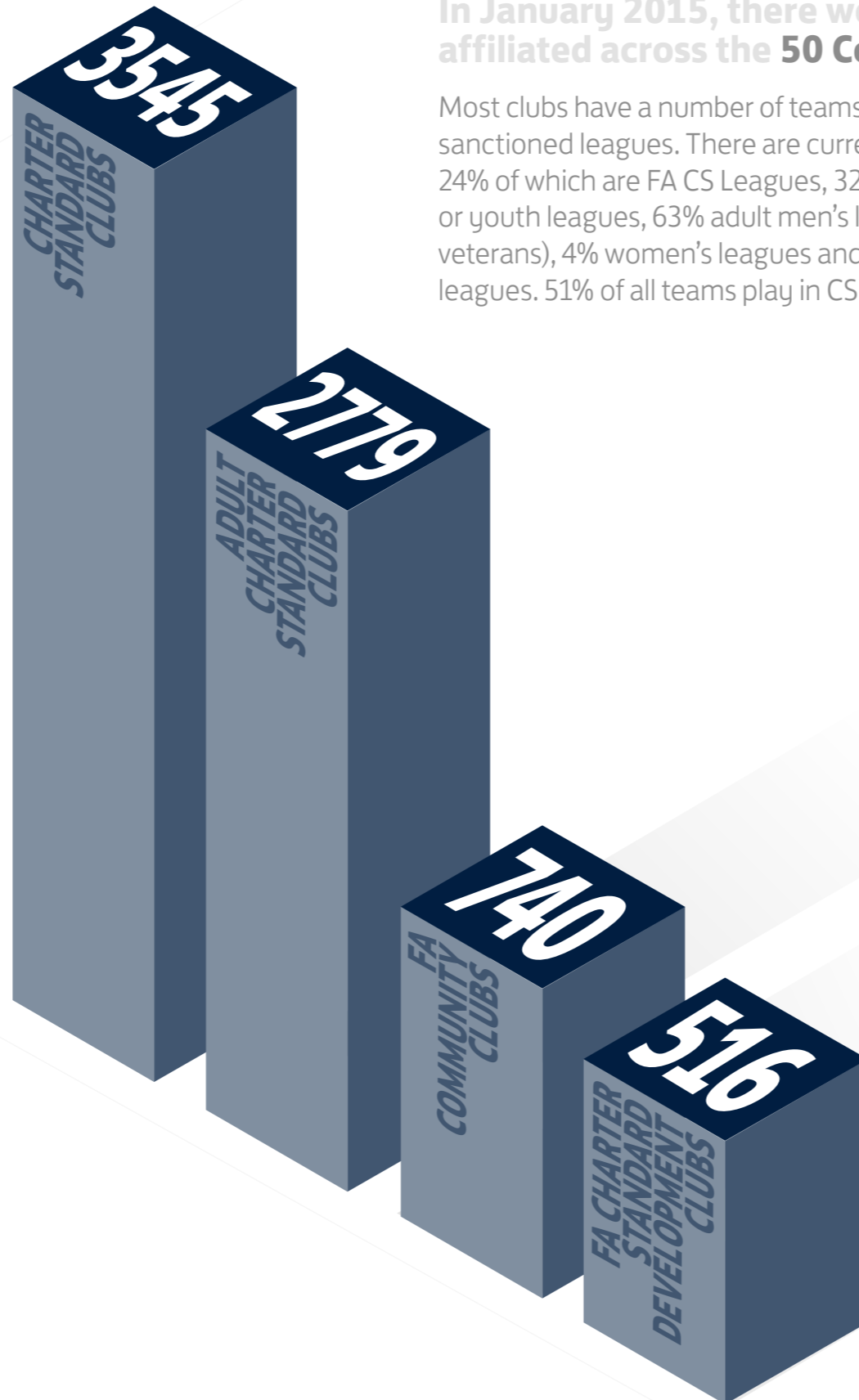




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Participation



Clubs and Leagues

In January 2015, there were **25,556 clubs** affiliated across the **50 County FAs**

Most clubs have a number of teams that play in FA sanctioned leagues. There are currently 1,288 leagues, 24% of which are FA CS Leagues, 32% are mini soccer or youth leagues, 63% adult men's leagues (including veterans), 4% women's leagues and 1% disability football leagues. 51% of all teams play in CS Leagues.



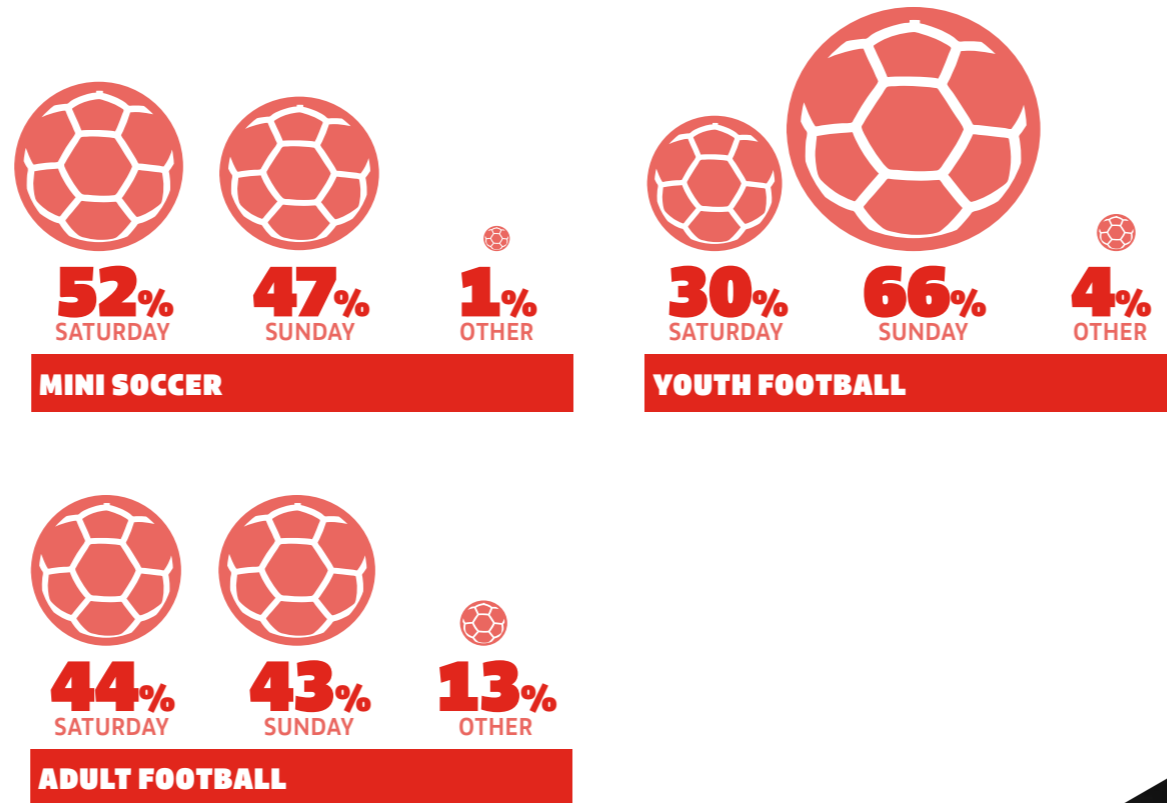


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Participation

We have recently completed some national analysis of when football is played. The results showed that overall, 52% of games were played on a Sunday and 36% on Saturdays. However, there are differences within the youth and adult game as outlined below, and also variations within different areas of the country and within County FAs.





WORKFORCE

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Workforce

Coaches

The FA is committed to developing the quality of the coaching workforce in order to meet the needs of the modern game. The FA Chairman's England Commission report identified coaching and coach development in England as a key issue and it will continue to be a priority in the future, building on the progress made in recent years.

The following statistics provide an overview of the current number of FA qualified coaches in England as at March 2015. It must be stressed that The FA's aim is not simply to provide more coaches, but to develop a greater number of quality coaches. In total since 1998, The FA have awarded more than 83,000 coaching qualifications with UEFA accreditation.

The FA also runs specialist courses in Goalkeeping, Futsal, disability football, Developing Defenders, Developing Midfielders and Developing Forwards. Details are available on request or via <http://www.TheFA.com/FALearning>

NUMBER OF QUALIFIED FOOTBALL COACHES SINCE 1998 - AS AT 31ST MARCH 2015'

QUALIFICATION	TOTAL NUMBER	MALE	FEMALE
FA LEVEL 1 AWARD IN COACHING FOOTBALL	316,160	285,025	31,135
UEFA C LICENCE (FA LEVEL 2)	72,583	68,290	4,293
UEFA B LICENCE (FA LEVEL 3)	9,742	9,419	323
UEFA A LICENCE (FA LEVEL 4)	1,333	1,308	25
UEFA PRO LICENCE (FA LEVEL 5)	223	219	4
YOUTH AWARD MODULE 1 'DEVELOPING THE ENVIRONMENT'	16,787	15,492	1,295
YOUTH AWARD MODULE 2 'DEVELOPING THE PRACTICE'	9,190	8,544	646
YOUTH AWARD MODULE 3 'DEVELOPING THE PLAYER'	1,350	1,292	58
FA YOUTH AWARD	1,213	1,163	50
ADVANCED FA YOUTH AWARD	158	157	1



WORKFORCE

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To support qualified coaches we are proud that we have over 37,000 members of the FA Licensed Coaches' Club – 'the largest coaches club in the World'. Collectively during the last season, the Licensed Coaches' Club membership undertook over 570,000 hours of Continued Professional Development, and we are on track in 2015 to exceed 1 million hours of further education. Continued coach engagement and support is absolutely fundamental to developing better coaches, and the FA Licensed Coaches' Club is a free benefit and true commitment from The FA to support coaches above and beyond that of merely qualifying as a coach at different levels.

This year following a successful pilot, we have 289 coach mentors supporting 589 Charter Standard Clubs as well as targeted support to develop more women coaches and Black and Minority Ethnic coaches.

Further information on all FA education and coach support can be found at <http://www.TheFA.com/FALearning> and www.thefa.com/licensedcoachesclub





WORKFORCE

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Referees

- It is an aspiration of the National Game Strategy for there to be a registered and competent referee appointed for every game.
- There are 10 levels of refereeing. We measure the number of referees at Levels 0-8 as only referees at this level are active and qualified. Level 9 referees are trainees, and Level 10 are inactive.
- The FA Referee Development Programme forms a major part of The FA's initiative to recruit, retain and develop referees involved in 11-a-side football.
- Since the 2008/09 season the total number of active referees has grown by 15%, and there has been a 40% rise in the number of female referees.

The current 14/15 figures are as follows:

NO. OF REGISTERED
AND ACTIVE MALE
REFEREES (LEVEL 0-8)

25080

NO. OF REGISTERED
AND ACTIVE FEMALE
REFEREES (LEVEL 0-8)

908

For more information visit <http://www.thefa.com/my-football/referee>

Workforce



WORKFORCE

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Volunteers

- There are many volunteers in football in the form of coaches, referees, club and league officials and also those undertaking less formal volunteering roles within the game such as putting the nets up, catering or fundraising. These individuals make grassroots football happen week in, week out.
- It is estimated that there are currently 500,000 volunteers involved in grassroots football - (source: FA Participation Tracking Study February 2015).
- This is the number of people who state they are generally helping out to support participation in the game (source: FA Participation Tracking Study).
- Sport England research undertaken in 2002 estimated that there were 430,000 club-based volunteers involved in football.
- For more information, visit <http://www.thefa.com/yourgame>

Workforce





FACILITIES

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Facilities



In order to grow the game as well as retain existing participants, it is essential that we can provide new places to play and continue to improve existing facilities wherever possible.

Since 2001, The FA along with its funding partners (the Premier League and Government via Sport England) has invested into and delivered over £800m of facility improvements across over 1,600 projects.

Since the start of the National Game Strategy in 2008, alongside our national and local funding partners, we have grant assisted over £463m total investment into facilities through the Football Foundation.

The locally accessible football facility stock in England comprises:

- 33,500 grass pitches, some with changing facilities
- 639 Third Generation (3G) Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)

The FA estimates that more than 83% of grassroots football is played on publicly owned and managed facilities (52% Education and 31% local authority), source – Sport England Active Places 2012.

In 2013 The FA launched a National Facilities Strategy outlining our key investment priorities up to 2015, mapping out how we are building, protecting and enhancing facilities

<http://www.thefa.com/News/my-football/facilities/2013/feb/national-facilities-strategy-announcement.aspx>

During 2014, the FA Chairman's England Commission prioritised the area of grassroots football facilities with the aim to 1) reduce football's reliance on local authority subsidies, 2) build significantly more AGPs and improve the quality of grass pitches/the built environment 3) build a sustainable model to make this change happen.

For more information, visit **<http://www.thefa.com/my-football/more/facilities-home>** and **<http://footballfoundation.org.uk/funding-schemes/premier-league-the-fa-facilities-fund/>**



FURTHER INFORMATION

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Further information

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